



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the I'm From Driftwood Records

NMAH.AC.1503

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., archivist

2021

Archives Center, National Museum of American History
P.O. Box 37012
Suite 1100, MRC 601
Washington, D.C. 20013-7012
Business Number: Phone: 202-633-3270
Fax Number: Fax: 202-786-2453
archivescenter@si.edu
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Biographical / Historical	2
Content Description	2
Arrangement	2
Names and Subjects	
Container Listing	
Series 1: Oral Histories Transcriptions and Notes, 2010-09-02-2011-01-09	4
Series 2: Project Records and Ephemera, 2010-2019, undated	8
Series 3: Photographs and Hand Drawn Postcards, 2010-2011, undated	9

Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	<i>I'm From Driftwood</i> Records
Date:	2009-2019, undated
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.1503
Creator:	Manske, Nathan
Extent:	2 Cubic feet (5 boxes)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Oral histories (transcripts) taken from LGBTQ identifying persons over a fifty state <i>I'm From Driftwood</i> story tour. Records include oral histories, photographs, tour records, correspondence, and ephemera from the tour crew and tour interviewees.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated by *I'm From Driftwood* organization through Nathan Manske, Executive Director, February 2020.

Separated Materials

The story tour's pair of pink cowboy boots was collected by the Division of Work and Industry, NMAH, accession number: 2020.0090.

Processing Information

Processed by Franklin A. Robinson, Jr., archivist, 2020.

Preferred Citation

I'm From Driftwood Records, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use. Researchers must handle unprotected photographs with gloves.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Archives Center cost-recovery and use fees may apply when requesting reproductions. Releases for interviews are housed in the Archives Center's control file for this collection.

Biographical / Historical

From the book jacket, *i'm from driftwood; True Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Stories from All Over the World*, edited by Nathan Manske. "Since March 2009, ImFromDriftwood.com has collected true lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender stories from every corner of the globe to help LGBT youth realize they're not alone. The hundreds of written stories range from the furtive life of a gay man living in Indiana during the ultra conservative and unforgiving 1950s, to clandestine underground gay-straight alliance in present day Indonesia. While some stories recount bitter memories of violence, hatred, and intolerance, most are a testament to the most common of human emotions-optimism, love, honesty and hope. Together, these stories offer rare insight and lend an indisputable humanity to the lives of LGBT people everywhere, giving people young and old the world over a sense of community and a reassurance that they are not alone."

The crew for the story tour consisted of: Nathan Manske, founder of I'm From Driftwood organization; Marquise Lee, creator of the video stories, videographer and editor; Nicholas "Nick" Manske, brother of Nathan and driver for the tour; Desiree Vester, "Mistress of Logistics"; Santiago Garza, video intern; and Troy Chatterton, logistics volunteer. These records concentrate solely on the experiences and oral histories gathered by Manske and his crew on their tour of the United States during 2009-2010.

Content Description

Records documenting the I'm From Driftwood project, transcripts of oral histories collected from persons identifying as LGBTQ. Histories were taken from persons in all fifty U.S. states over the course of a five month (September 2010-January 2011) story tour. Oral histories are arranged in the order in which the state was visited. The records include transcripts of interviews with the Driftwood story crew focusing on their memories of the joys and challenges of the tour state by state. There are photographs taken in each state of the tour of persons, places, and the story tour's signature pink cowboy boots. These boots were used for donation receptacles during fundraising visits to local LGBTQ community centers, bars, and student unions.

The records document an amazing odyssey of the Driftwood crew. Not only do the transcripts of persons interviewed include the sometimes poignant history of that particular person, but interviews with the Driftwood crew themselves illustrate the sometimes emotional, frustrating, yet rewarding, journey they were taking to capture these interviews. The records include pen and ink, hand drawn postcards by artist Nicholas Manske, driver for the tour, to his then fiancée, Summer Dinh. The postcards feature Manske's drawing of a signature site within any given state. The postcards give yet one more human story to the many documented in these records.

Files from some states only include the crew transcripts, there were either no stories gathered in that state or for privacy various reasons they are not included in these records.

Arrangement

These records are arranged in three series.

Series 1, Oral Histories, Transcriptions, and Notes, 2010 September 11-2011 January 9

Series 2, Project Records and Ephemera, 2010-2011, undated

Series 3, Photographs and Hand Drawn Postcards, 2010-2011, undated

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Gay and lesbian studies
- Gay bars
- Gay rights
- Gay youth
- LGBTQ+
- Lesbian and gay experience
- Postcards -- United States
- Social history
- Tourist trade -- Postcards
- Travel -- Photographs
- United States

Types of Materials:

- Love letters
- Oral history -- 2010-2020
- Sketches
- Transcripts -- 20th century

Names:

- Chatterton, Troy
- Dinh, Summer Z.
- Garza, Santiago
- I'm From Driftwood
- Lee, Marquise
- Manske, Nicholas
- Vester, Desiree

Container Listing

Series 1: Oral Histories Transcriptions and Notes, 2010-09-02-2011-01-09

Scope and Contents: This series contains oral history transcriptions of interviews conducted by Nathan Manske and the I'm From Driftwood story crew. These files also contain transcribed interviews of the crew focusing on their experience and memory of the project. Information includes location visited, the hosts, storytellers and "Discussion Highlights."

The series is arranged in chronological order of travel beginning in September 2010 in Texas and ending January 2011 in Texas. The tour traveled to all fifty states and files include the dates spent in each state. Interviews of the story crew are located at the end of the series. Not all states have transcribed stories due to various reasons, either no one came forth to be interviewed or if the interviewee agreed to be interviewed but for privacy reasons did not agree that the interview could be made public. Interviews were conducted using digital technology. The digital files were retained by the donor.

Box 1, Folder 1	Texas (1), 2010-09-02-2010-09-08
Box 1, Folder 2	Oklahoma, 2010-09-08-2010-09-09
Box 1, Folder 3	Kansas, 2010-09-09-2010-09-11
Box 1, Folder 4	Missouri, 2010-09-11-2010-09-13
Box 1, Folder 5	Iowa, 2010-09-13-2010-09-15
Box 1, Folder 6	Wisconsin, 2010-09-15-2010-09-16
Box 1, Folder 7	Minnesota, 2010-09-16-2010-09-18
Box 1, Folder 8	North Dakota, 2010-09-18-2010-09-20
Box 1, Folder 9	South Dakota, 2010-09-20-2010-09-22
Box 1, Folder 10	Nebraska, 2010-09-22-2010-09-24
Box 1, Folder 11	Colorado, 2010-09-24-2010-09-27
Box 1, Folder 12	Wyoming (1), 2010-09-27-2010-09-28
Box 1, Folder 13	Utah, 2010-09-28-2010-09-30
Box 1, Folder 14	Idaho, 2010-09-30-2010-10-02
Box 1, Folder 15	Wyoming (2), 2010-10-02-2010-10-03

Box 1, Folder 16	Montana, 2010-01-03-2010-10-04
Box 1, Folder 17	Washington, 2010-10-04-2010-10-09
Box 1, Folder 18	Oregon, 2010-10-09-2010-10-13
Box 1, Folder 19	California, 2010-10-13-2010-10-20
Box 1, Folder 20	Nevada, 2010-10-20-2010-10-22
Box 1, Folder 21	Arizona, 2010-10-22-2010-10-24
Box 1, Folder 22	New Mexico, 2010-10-24-2010-10-26
Box 1, Folder 23	Texas (2), 2010-10-27-2010-11-01
Box 1, Folder 24	California (2), 2010-11-02-2010-11-06
Box 1, Folder 25	Hawaii, 2010-11-06-2010-11-09
Box 1, Folder 26	Alaska, 2010-11-10-2010-11-12
Box 1, Folder 27	Arkansas, 2010-11-14-2010-11-16
Box 1, Folder 28	Tennessee, 2010-11-16-2010-11-18
Box 1, Folder 29	Kentucky, 2010-11-18-2010-11-19
Box 1, Folder 30	Indiana, 2010-11-19-2010-11-21
Box 1, Folder 31	Illinois, 2010-11-21-2010-11-24
Box 1, Folder 32	Michigan, 2010-11-24-2010-11-26
Box 1, Folder 33	Ohio, 2010-11-26-2010-11-28
Box 1, Folder 34	New York, 2010-11-28-2010-11-30
Box 1, Folder 35	Vermont, 2010-11-30-2010-12-02
Box 1, Folder 36	New Hampshire, 2010-12-02-2010-12-03
Box 1, Folder 55	Maine, 2010-12-03-2010-12-05
Box 1, Folder 37	Massachusetts, 2010-12-05-2010-12-07
Box 1, Folder 38	Rhode Island, 2010-12-07-2010-12-08

Box 1, Folder 56	Connecticut, 2010-12-08-2010-12-09
Box 1, Folder 39	New York City (New York), 2010-12-09-2010-12-13
Box 1, Folder 40	New Jersey, 2010-12-13-2010-12-14
Box 1, Folder 41	Pennsylvania, 2010-12-14-2010-12-16
Box 1, Folder 42	Delaware, 2010-12-16-2010-12-17
Box 1, Folder 43	Maryland, 2010-12-17-2010-12-18
Box 1, Folder 44	Washington, District of Columbia, 2010-12-18-2010-12-20
Box 1, Folder 45	West Virginia, 2010-12-20-2010-12-22
Box 1, Folder 46	Virginia, 2010-12-22-2010-12-24
Box 1, Folder 47	North Carolina, 2010-12-24-2010-12-26
Box 1, Folder 48	South Carolina, 2010-12-26-2010-12-28
Box 1, Folder 49	Georgia, 2010-12-28-2010-12-30
Box 1, Folder 50	Florida, 2010-12-30-2011-01-03
Box 1, Folder 51	Alabama, 2011-01-03-2011-01-05
Box 1, Folder 52	Mississippi, 2011-01-05-2011-01-07
Box 1, Folder 53	Louisiana, 2011-01-07-2011-01-09
Box 1, Folder 54	Texas (3), 2011-01-09-2011-01-10
Box 2, Folder 2	Chatterton, Troy (logistics volunteer), 2017-11-21
Box 2, Folder 3	Garza, Santiago (video intern), undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Lee, Marquise (creator of <i>I'm From Driftwood</i> video stories, videographer, editor), undated
Box 2, Folder 5	Manske, Nathan (founder of) <i>I'm From Driftwood</i> , undated
Box 2, Folder 6	Manske, Nick (driver), undated

Box 2, Folder 7

Vester, Desiree (mistress of logistics), 2017-12-09

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Project Records and Ephemera, 2010-2019, undated

Scope and Contents: This series contains records associated with the story tour and a copy of the publication, *I'm From Driftwood*.

Box 2, Folder 1	Biographies, 2017-11
Box 2, Folder 8	Notes and contacts notebook, 2010-08-2010-11
Box 2, Folder 9	Notes and contacts notebook, 2010-11-2011-01
Box 2, Folder 10	At-A-Glance, planner, 2010-2011
Box 2, Folder 11	Spreadsheets, housing, resources and public relations events, 2010-2011
Box 2, Folder 12	<i>I'm From Driftwood</i> , Fifty State Story Tour, Host Book, 2019-05
Box 2, Folder 13	"Cross-country trip collects LGBT stories," Philadelphia Gay News (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), 2010-08-13
Box 2, Folder 14	<i>i'm from driftwood</i> , True Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Stories From All Over The World, Manske, Nathan, editor, 2010

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Photographs and Hand Drawn Postcards, 2010-2011, undated

Scope and Contents: This series includes photographs taken in all fifty states, candid, gatherings, individuals interviewed, as well as the signature pink boots. The series include the pen and ink, hand drawn postcards by artist Nicholas Manske, driver for the tour, to his then fiance, Summer Dinh. The postcards feature Manske's drawing of a signature site within any given state.

Box 3	Texas (1) to Nevada, photographs, 2010-09-02-2010-10-22
Box 4	Arizona to South Carolina, photographs, 2010-10-22-2010-12-28
Box 5	Georgia to Texas (3), photographs, 2010-12-28-2011-01-10
Box 5	Hand drawn, pen and ink, postcards from Manske, Nicholas (artist) to Dinh, Summer Z., 2010 September 10-2011 February 2011, undated

[Return to Table of Contents](#)