



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Manuscript Collections

# FARM CHILDREN: DAWN TO DUSK ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: An Inventory of the Oral History Interviews

## OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

- Creator:** Farm Children: Dawn to Dusk Oral History Project.
- Title:** Oral history interviews of the Farm Children: Dawn to Dusk Oral History Project.
- Date:** 1999-2000.
- Abstract:** Audiocassettes and transcripts of 30 oral history interviews documenting the lives and attitudes of children growing up at various times during the twentieth century on family dairy farms located in Stearns and Meeker counties. Fifteen contemporary farm children (all girls) and, for comparison with earlier generations, fourteen women and one child from five three-generation farm families were interviewed in 1999-2000 by Marilyn Salzl Brinkman under the auspices of a project partially funded by a grant from the Minnesota Historical Society.
- Quantity:** 0.75 cu. ft. (2 boxes).
- Location:** See Detailed Description section for box locations.

The oral history interviews are organized into the following sections:

- Contemporary Farm Children
- Three-Generation Farm Families

## RELATED MATERIALS

Publications by Marilyn Salzl Brinkman on family dairy farming in Stearns County, 1853-1986, and Stearns County women farmers are individually cataloged in the print collection of the Minnesota Historical Society.

## CATALOG HEADINGS

*This collection is indexed under the following headings in the catalog of the Minnesota Historical Society. Researchers desiring materials about related topics, persons or places should search the catalog using these headings.*

### Topics:

Dairy farms – Minnesota – Stearns County.  
Dairy farms – Minnesota – Meeker County.  
Farm life – Minnesota – Stearns County.  
Farm life – Minnesota – Meeker County.  
Rural children – Minnesota – Stearns County.  
Rural children – Minnesota – Meeker County.  
Rural families – Minnesota – Stearns County.  
Rural families – Minnesota – Meeker County.  
Rural girls – Minnesota – Stearns County.  
Rural girls – Minnesota – Meeker County.  
Rural youth – Minnesota – Stearns County.  
Rural youth – Minnesota – Meeker County.

### Places:

Stearns County (Minn.).  
Meeker County (Minn.).

### Persons:

Blenker, Philomena, interviewee.  
Christen, Karla, interviewee.  
Garding, Magdalene, interviewee.  
Groetsch, Alice, interviewee.  
Groetsch, Amy, interviewee.  
Lange, Lynn, interviewee.  
Lensing, Ashley, interviewee.  
Lensing, Heidi, interviewee.  
Libbesmeier, Jeanette, interviewee.  
Libbesmeier, Jill, interviewee.  
Libbesmeier, Mandy, interviewee.  
Libbesmeier, Mary, interviewee.  
Loxtercamp, Kimberly, interviewee.  
Mayers, Alda Mae, interviewee.  
Mellesmoen, Nancy, interviewee.  
Mergen, Marilyn, interviewee.  
Middendorf, Rita, interviewee.  
Molitor, Melanie, interviewee.  
Salzl, Molly, interviewee.  
Schaefer, Maureen, interviewee.  
Stangler, Melissa, interviewee.  
Stommes, Megan, interviewee.  
Traut, Paula, interviewee.

Van Drehle, Helen, interviewee.  
Warga, Arlene, interviewee.  
Warga, Elizabeth, interviewee.  
Willenbring, Bonnie, interviewee.  
Winter, Hedwig, interviewee.  
Zenzen, Amanda, interviewee.  
Zenzen, Kristal, interviewee.  
Brinkman, Marilyn Salzl, interviewer.

**Types of Documentation:**

Oral histories.  
Interviews.  
Audiocassettes.  
Transcripts.  
Photographs.

**Occupations:**

Women farmers – Minnesota – Stearns County.  
Women farmers – Minnesota – Meeker County.

**ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

**Preferred Citation:**

*[Indicate the cited item and/or series here].* Oral history interviews of the Farm Children: Dawn to Dusk Oral History Project. Minnesota Historical Society.  
*See the Chicago Manual of Style for additional examples.*

**Accession Information:**

Accession number: 15,773

**Processing Information:**

Processed by: Deborah Kahn, April 2005  
Catalog ID number: 3653871

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION**

*Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the location and box numbers shown below.*

**Contemporary Farm Children**

Interviews of 15 girls aged eight to 14 years. The interviews are arranged in alphabetical order by surname and given name of the interviewee. The file for each interview consists of an audiocassette and a typed transcript whose title page reproduces a color photograph of the interviewee.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
151.C.8.1B	1	Christen, Karla. Lensing, Ashley. Lensing, Heidi. Libbesmeier, Mandy.

Loxtercamp, Kimberly.  
 Molitor, Melanie.  
 Salzl, Molly.  
 Stangler, Melissa.  
 Stommes, Megan.  
 Traut, Paula.  
 Warga, Arlene.  
 Warga, Elizabeth.  
 Willenbring, Bonnie.  
 Zenzen, Amanda.  
 Zenzen, Kristal.

### Three-Generation Farm Families

Interviews of 14 women and one girl (grandmothers, daughters, and granddaughters) representing three generations of five farm families. The interviews are arranged by family, in alphabetical order by the surname and given name of the grandmother. The interview for each grandmother is followed by the interviews for her daughter and granddaughter, in that order. The file for each interview contains an audiocassette and a typed transcript whose title page reproduces a color photograph of the interviewee, gives her position in the family, and identifies the other family members who were interviewed.

<b>Location</b>	<b>Box</b>	
151.C.8.2F	2	Blenker, Philomena (Minnie), grandmother. Middendorf, Rita. Lange, Lynn. Garding, Magdalene, grandmother. Includes several family photographs.  Van Drehle, Helen. Mellesmoen, Nancy. Libbesmeier, Jeanette, grandmother. Libbesmeier, Mary. Libbesmeier, Jill. Mayers, Alda Mae, grandmother. Groetsch, Alice. Groetsch, Amy. Winter, Hedwig, grandmother. Mergen, Marilyn. Schaefer, Maureen.