

Supplemental Materials

Title: *The Lives of Albanian-Americans in Worcester in the First Half of the 20th Century*

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Appendix A: Brief Overview of Project/ Opening to Group Interviews

Hello everyone and thank you for your time, it is greatly appreciated! First, we wanted to give you a brief overview of the project we are working on. The project we are working on is part of a larger exhibition that will be created in the coming years. The Worcester Albanian Committee has been working with the Worcester Historical Museum to create this exhibit of Albanian life in Worcester. The focus of our project is the Albanian community in the Beacon Street area in the first half of the 20th century. We want to hear about your memories of Worcester and your connections to the Beacon Street neighborhood. Over the next seven weeks we will aim to tell the story of the Beacon Street neighborhood through interviews, photographs, and maps. This exhibition will tell the stories of what life was like. In addition, we were hoping that you would all have some photographs, newspaper clippings, etc. that you would be willing to share with us. If you do have anything like that and could bring them to our upcoming conversations that would be great. Again, thank you for taking the time to talk with us. We are so excited to talk with all of you and hear what you have to say. For now we would love to hear a little bit of background from each of you:

- Were you born here or in Albania?
- What part of Albania did you/your parents migrate from?
- How old were you/your parents when you first came here?
- Do you have any siblings, if so where were they born?
- What street did you grow up on? What was your specific address if you feel comfortable sharing?
- What was the most memorable invention of your childhood?

Appendix B: Consent Agreement

Hello _____. We are a group of American students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute doing a research project on the Albanian community in Worcester during the early 20th century. We are working with The Albanian Festival Committee, specifically Greg Steffon and Frank Zdruli to create a digital exhibition that will be a part of a much larger future exhibition. We would like to interview you on (topic of that interview). We expect this interview to be around an hour to an hour and a half. Would it be okay to record this interview with the zoom software or with our phones to make sure we capture your responses? If you would rather not, it's perfectly fine, we can just take notes instead. Do we have your permission to quote you in our report and the exhibition? For clarification, this means that the information, including quotes, transcripts and recordings, audio profiles, and any photographs, may be used in the future for the larger exhibition. After this interview, we will be sending the transcript for you to comment out. You will have the option to omit certain stories or phrases from transcripts at any time and decide what you don't want released. We will not identify you by name in any of our writing to make sure the information you share with us is confidential, unless you would like to be quoted.

Our project will explore the different life experiences of the Worcester Albanian community, focusing particularly on residents of the Beacon Street community. Our digital exhibition aims to recreate what the area surrounding Beacon Street looked like and share the experiences of the early Albanian community through a story map during that time, and add pictures, stories, transcripts of interviews, audio profiles, and possibly short videos to the map. It will be available online after we finish writing the report and making the exhibition, and we can also email it to you if you wish. If we ask a question that you do not want to answer, just let us know and we will move to the next one. If you don't understand our question, let us know and we can try to rephrase. Do you have any questions for us before we begin?



Appendix C: One-on-One Interview Questions

Religion:

- Can you reconstruct any experiences that you had at church or during church events?
- What were your attitudes toward going to church like?
- What impact did church/religion have on you and your family?
- What family/cultural celebrations, traditions, or rituals were important in your life?
- What meaningful connections did you make through the church?
- What were the roles of other institutions in your life, if any, such as the AANO, VATRA, New England Albanian Relief Organization, etc.

Work/Employment:

- What job(s) did you have?
 - Where did you work?
- Can you reconstruct what a day at work was like?
- Where did your parents/other family members work?
- Can you recall what work was like for your parents?
 - Were they happy with where they worked? Tired?

Childhood:

- How would you describe your childhood and growing up in the neighborhood?
- Thinking back now, is there anything you wonder about regarding life back then in that neighborhood?
- What did you do for fun as a kid?
- If you had siblings, what were their childhood like experiences like compared to yours?

Family:

- How would you describe your parents?
- What other family did you have here in Worcester?
 - Did you have family back in Albania?
- Can you describe any hardships your parents faced at the time?
- Did you and your family speak English or Albanian at home?
 - How did you and your family learn English?
- Did you have any siblings and if so, what were experiences like with your siblings?

Social Life:

- Can you describe what life was like after school?
- Can you describe what life was like after work?
- Was there any discrimination/prejudice towards the Albanian community?
 - Do you recall any stories or memories where you felt judged or othered because you had an Albanian background?
- Were there any tensions between other immigrant groups?
- Were there any places in Worcester that you would love going to?
 - Where did you hang out with friends?
- What were experiences like with neighbors and people in the neighborhood?
- Can you reconstruct any memories you have with your friends and family?
- Would you and your family visit “The Monastery” in Oxford, MA and if so what was that like?
- What clubs or organizations did you belong to? Do you remember your parents/relatives being involved with any local organizations?



School:

- What school did you attend?
 - What was going to that school like and what do you know about the other school?
- Can you reconstruct what a day at school was like?
- Was Albanian school something you attended? If so, what was your experience like?
- What were experiences like with non-Albanian children?
- Were there other Albanian kids that went to school with you, what was your relationship with them like?

Housing/Neighborhood:

- Can you describe what the house you grew up in was like?
- Can you describe what the neighborhood you grew up in was like?
 - How would you describe the sense of security in the neighborhood?
- Do you recall any small shops or grocery stores/stands in your neighborhood?
 - Do you have any memorable experiences regarding those/going to those?

Historical Events:

- Do you recall if anyone in your family served in the armed forces?
 - Did you serve in the armed forces?
 - If so, can you describe what that experience was like?
- Can you describe any stories or memories you have/have been told about the wars?
- Can you recall any stories or memories you have/have been told about life during the Great Depression?
 - How was life different during this time?

Appendix D: Link to Story Map

<https://arcg.is/0SaiuO>

Appendix E: Authorship Table

Section	Author
Preserving History: The Life of Early Albanian-Americans in Worcester	All
Museums and Effective Digital Design	Jane
The Immigrant Neighborhoods of Worcester in the Early 20th Century	Rylee
The Arrival of Albanian Immigrants	Maddison
Reimagining the Albanian Beacon Street Neighborhood	Stefano
Methods Chapter	All
The Development of the Beacon Street Neighborhood	Rylee
Widowed Mothers Balancing Two Roles	Stefano
Growing Up in the Neighborhood	Maddison
Culture and Community	Jane
Conclusion	All