

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Bettie Staton

Date 2022 November 10

Primary Maker Bettie Staton

Medium born digital audio file

Description Interview with Bettie Staton. Interviewed by Samariya Smith on November 10, 2022 at Case Memorial Library in Orange, Connecticut. She was interviewed as part of the Connecticut Historical Society's Community History Project discussing her experience during the COVID-19 Pandemic. At the time of the interview, Bettie Staton was 78 years old and a retired nurse living in Orange, Connecticut. She described the pandemic as a “dark cloud” and “devastating.” She felt that the biggest disruption to her life was her inability to go outside. She recalled feeling as though the virus was everywhere around her, and that she could catch it in the air. She took many precautions to keep herself safe, such as cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, and making sure she washed her hands thoroughly. She found reliable information from Dr. Fauci and Governor Ned Lamont. Bettie recalled a good friend who caught Covid-19 and had to be put on a ventilator. Her friend had to relearn to walk and talk, but she eventually recovered. Bettie remembered feeling relieved when she heard about a vaccine, and supported vaccine mandates. When asked how her community changed during the pandemic, Bettie’s response was that she simply didn’t see anyone. Many of her friends and neighbors whom she used to see regularly have since moved to assisted living. She recalled feeling really sad during the

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pandemic. Bettie noted that she spent more time praying during the pandemic and recalled how her church offered sermons remotely and delivered meals to her. She used this service until she received her vaccine, at which time she felt comfortable leaving the house. When asked what she lost during the pandemic, Bettie responded, “my independence.”

Dimensions Duration: 22 Minutes, 22 Seconds