

# Basic Detail Report

## Title Interview with David H. Cooke

Date 2001 February 8

Medium digitized audio cassette tape

Description Audio cassette tape of an interview with David H. Cooke, who was interviewed by Fiona Vernal on February 8, 2001. Topics discussed include Cooke growing up on Chatham Farm, a 300-acre estate in Jamaica; a 1951 hurricane that destroyed Chatham Farm leaving the Cooke family financially strapped; banana farming; education; sugar boiling at the Hamden Sugar Estate; discovering a talent for chemistry; getting fired from the Hamden Sugar Estate; taking a job with the census; migrating to the United States; cutting sugar cane in Florida; working at the commissary; discrimination, prejudice, and segregation; marriage; his occupational history; moving to Connecticut in 1961; networking with other Jamaicans in Hartford; working at Heublein Research Laboratories as a bench chemist; the West Indian Social Club; becoming president of the West Indian Social Club; the clique of power, known as The Electoral College, at the Social Club in the 1970s; buying and renovating a building on Main Street in Hartford for the Social Club; dealing with the issue of resentment in the Social Club - rivalries amongst Jamaicans, rivalry between Jamaicans and other Islanders, and resentments about playing cricket; women's roles and full membership in the Social Club; diaspora and culture; working at Ensign-Bickford; going into business for himself; resettling and retiring in Jamaica; and challenges for retirees in Jamaica. Tape 1: 2013.26.21.1a-d

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consists of two sides, the tape, and a J-card. Tape 2: 2013.26.21.2a-d consists of

two sides, the tape, and a J-card.

Dimensions Duration (tape 1, side 1): 46 Minutes, 12 Seconds Duration (tape 1,

side 2): 46 Minutes, 29 Seconds Duration (tape 2, side 1): 47 Minutes, 9 Seconds

Duration (tape 2, side 2): 47 Minutes, 9 Seconds Duration (total runtime): 3

Hours, 7 Minutes, 1 Seconds