



THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM AT DEALEY PLAZA

Dealey Plaza Eyewitnesses

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Books

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- [Online: <http://www.maryferrell.org/mffweb/archive/docset/getList.do?docSetId=1001>]
- United States. House of Representatives. *Report of the Select Committee on Assassinations, U.S. House of Representatives, Ninety-fifth Congress, Second Session: Findings and Recommendations*. 95th Congress, 2nd sess. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1979.
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- [Online: <http://www.maryferrell.org/mffweb/archive/docset/getList.do?docSetId=1000>]
- United States. The President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. *Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1964.
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Articles

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Videos

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- Image of an Assassination: A New Look at the Zapruder Film.* MPI Home Video, 1998.
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Collections

The Museum's Collection provides audio, visual, documentary resources, and artifacts related to eyewitnesses who were in Dealey Plaza during the time of the assassination. Audio and video recordings include oral history interviews, home movies and archival news footage.

Please visit our [online collections database](#) for more information. For research assistance, please contact the Reading Room at readingroom@jfk.org or (214) 741-6660 ext. 6646.

Oral Histories

For more information about the [Oral History Collection](#)

Gordon Arnold

An admitted eyewitness to the assassination, Arnold did not come forward until 1978. He was reportedly standing on the grassy knoll and fell to the ground when shots were fired. He also claimed to have encountered a man wearing a Dallas police officer uniform. Recorded June 5, 1989.

Mary and Les Arnold

The widow and son of controversial assassination eyewitness Gordon Arnold, the Arnolds share their thoughts and memories of his life and experiences, including his reluctance to share his story of the president's shooting. Recorded January 13, 2006.

Ann Atterberry

A reporter for the Dallas Morning News in 1963, Atterberry was standing along Elm Street and witnessed the assassination. She can be seen in the Zapruder film. Recorded November 10, 2003.

Hugh Aynesworth

A science and aviation reporter for the Dallas Morning News, Aynesworth was the only reporter to be present at all of the major moments that occurred during the weekend of November 22, 1963: the president's assassination, the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald, and the shooting of Oswald by Jack Ruby. In the years since, he has become a recognized authority on the assassination. Recorded July 28, 1994, November 19, 1998, and April 18 and November 19, 2007.

Mark Bell

Bell was an eyewitness to the assassination. His memories were briefly recorded as part of a group interview with Dealey Plaza eyewitnesses. Recorded November 22, 1996.

Mary Sue Bennett

A twenty-two-year employee with Allyn and Bacon publishing company, Bennett was working on the third floor of the Texas School Book Depository in 1963. Standing on Elm Street, she witnessed the assassination. Recorded July 29, 2010.

Ernest Brandt

An assassination eyewitness who did not come forward until the 1990s, Brandt was standing on Elm Street and can be seen in the Abraham Zapruder film. Since his first public interview in 1993, Brandt has been a regular fixture in Dealey Plaza on the annual assassination anniversary. Recorded May 12, 1994, and July 3, 2008.

Frances Bronson

Interviewed with her daughter, Barbara Young, Bronson was an eyewitness to the Kennedy assassination. Her late husband, Charles Bronson, was filming in Dealey Plaza and caught the fatal headshot on film from a distance. Recorded August 14 and November 22, 1996.

Phill Brown

A teenager in 1963, Brown saw the presidential motorcade on Houston Street and ran toward the Triple Underpass after shots were fired. He then lingered for hours in the Dealey Plaza area. His

father, the late Dallas County deputy sheriff Richard Brown, served as Jack Ruby's dietician during his incarceration. Brown was interviewed with his friend, Les French. Recorded November 5, 2008.

Gretchen Coben

A Dallas social worker in 1963, Coben watched the Kennedy motorcade and witnessed part of the assassination from the second-floor balcony of the Old Red Courthouse. Recorded June 15, 2007.

Nellie Connally

The widow of former Texas Gov. John Connally, Nellie Connally was in the presidential limousine at the time of the assassination and spoke the last words to President Kennedy. Connally's memories were recorded during a public speaking appearance in Dallas. Recorded December 6, 1996.

Dr. Malcom Couch

A part-time news photographer for Dallas ABC affiliate WFAA-TV/Channel 8, Couch covered the president's arrival at Dallas Love Field and was riding in the motorcade when he heard three shots fired and saw a rifle barrel in the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository building. Recorded circa 1989, November 21, 2000, and April 2, 2007.

Tom Dillard

Chief photographer for the Dallas Morning News in 1963, Dillard was riding in a press car in the presidential motorcade and took photos of the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository immediately after the shooting. Recorded July 19, 1993.

Ken DuVall

A truck driver with Central Motor Freight in Dallas, DuVall frequently picked up shipments of textbook boxes at the loading dock of the Texas School Book Depository. On November 22, 1963, he allegedly saw Lee Harvey Oswald in the second-floor lunch room approximately thirty minutes before the assassination. Recorded May 6, 2009.

Diane Francis

Six years old in 1963, Francis watched the Kennedy motorcade from the steps of the Old Red Courthouse near Dealey Plaza. For her, the assassination prompted a lifelong interest in Jacqueline Kennedy and her children. Recorded January 22, 2009.

Buell Wesley Frazier

An employee of the Texas School Book Depository in 1963, Frazier drove Lee Harvey Oswald to work occasionally. He did so on November 22, 1963. Frazier also witnessed the assassination and was detained and questioned by Dallas police. Recorded June 19 and 21, 2002.

Toni Glover

An 11-year-old schoolgirl, Glover was in Dealey Plaza at the time of the assassination, and the event had a traumatic impact on her. Recorded January 20, 1999.

Bobby Hargis

A Dallas police motorcycle officer riding to the left rear of the Kennedy limousine, Hargis was splattered by blood and debris during the assassination. He parked his motorcycle and remained in Dealey Plaza in the aftermath. Recorded September 24, 2010.

Jerry Haynes

Best known as "Mr. Peppermint" on WFAA-TV/Channel 8 for many years, Haynes was a spectator in Dealey Plaza at the time of the assassination. He then went live on the air with WFAA-TV program director Jay Watson within 15 minutes of the shooting. Recorded January 10, 1995, and January 23, 2004.

Clint Hill

The most recognized U.S. Secret Service agent on the Kennedy detail, Hill jumped onto the back of the presidential limousine during the assassination. He received an award for his service and continued to protect Mrs. Kennedy for one year after the shooting. Reluctant to speak for years about the assassination, Hill was deeply impacted by the tragedy. Recorded November 18, November 19, and November 20, 2010.

Jean Hill

An eyewitness to the assassination, Hill was standing next to her friend, Mary Moorman, in Dealey Plaza. Seen in photographs of the assassination wearing a red raincoat, Hill believed shots were fired from the grassy knoll. Recorded February 1989.

Maureen Hughes-Thompson

Hughes-Thompson's late husband, Robert Hughes, was an eyewitness to the assassination and filmed a home movie of the Kennedy motorcade in Dealey Plaza and the assassination aftermath. Recorded April 27, 2002.

Bob Jackson

In 1963, Jackson was a photographer with the Dallas Times Herald. On November 22, 1963, he covered the president's arrival at Dallas Love Field and, while riding in the motorcade, spotted a rifle in the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository building. He was also at Parkland Memorial Hospital and Dallas police headquarters that day. On Sunday, Jackson captured an iconic image of Jack Ruby shooting Lee Harvey Oswald, which won the 1964 Pulitzer Prize in News

Photography. Recorded November 22, 1993, October 23, 2003, February 28, 2007, April 17 and July 22, 2009, and September 10 and October 16, 2010.

Winston Lawson

A U.S. Secret Service agent assigned to the White House detail during the Kennedy years, Lawson was in charge of security in Dallas and did 10 days of advance work before the presidential party's arrival. In the motorcade, he rode in the lead car with Dallas Police Chief Jesse Curry. Recorded September 5, 2003.

H.B. McLain

McLain was a Dallas police motorcycle officer who rode in the motorcade and later escorted Jackie Kennedy into the emergency room at Parkland Memorial Hospital. In the 1970s, McLain was thought by the House Select Committee to be the officer with the open microphone who might have inadvertently recorded the assassination. Recorded July 16, 2003.

Frances Moffeit

Fourteen years old in 1963, Moffeit was standing in front of the Old Red Courthouse on Main Street and heard shots fired in Dealey Plaza. An Oak Cliff resident, she frequented Austin's BBQ where Officer J.D. Tippit worked. Recorded May 31, 2007.

Bill and Gayle Newman

The closest civilian eyewitnesses to President Kennedy at the time of the fatal shot, the Newmans were on the north side of Dealey Plaza and shielded their small children after the shots were fired. They were then [interviewed on live television](#) approximately fifteen minutes after the assassination. Recorded March 10, 1993, July 10, 2003, November 22, 2004, July 15 and November 17, 2008, June 17 and November 11, 2009, September 25, 2010, and February 17 and May 12, 2011.

Orville Nix, Jr.

Nix is the son of the late Orville Nix Sr., a Dallas air conditioning engineer who recorded a famous film of the assassination across the street from Abraham Zapruder. The Nix film is considered one of the most important films made in Dealey Plaza. Recorded November 22, 1996, November 21, 2000, and August 15, 2002.

Harold Norman

An employee of the Texas School Book Depository in 1963, Norman was on the fifth floor underneath the alleged sniper's perch at the time of the assassination. Recorded July 31, 1991.

Patsy Paschall

Paschall filmed the presidential motorcade before and after the assassination from a window in the Old Red Courthouse. Recorded November 22, 1996, and May 15, 1997.

Stephen D. Pritchett

Standing with his father on Main Street, Pritchett observed the Kennedy motorcade approximately two minutes before the assassination. His late father was a longtime executive with Mrs. Baird's Bakery in Dallas. Recorded July 13, 2010.

George Reid

Reid was a longtime Kennedy supporter who campaigned for him in Texas. He also filmed home-movie footage of President Kennedy at Love Field in Dallas and in Dealey Plaza on several occasions in the 1960s. Recorded April 24, 1996.

Victoria Wahlstrom Rodriguez

Thirteen years old in 1963, she saw the Kennedy motorcade on Main Street and heard shots fired in Dealey Plaza. Several minutes later she observed three suspicious individuals in the area surrounding the grassy knoll and rail yards and felt that they may have been involved in the assassination. Recorded January 7, 2010.

Thomas Sills, Jr.

Nine years old in 1963, Sills and his late father saw the Kennedy motorcade from the corner of Main and Houston streets. They were crossing Houston Street towards Dealey Plaza when the assassination took place. Currently a high school history teacher, Sills teaches an extended unit on the Kennedy assassination. Recorded June 30, 2008.

Marilyn Sitzman

A receptionist in Abraham Zapruder's office, Sitzman insisted Zapruder retrieve his camera to film the motorcade and then steadied him as he made his famous film of the assassination. Recorded June 29, 1993.

Jay and Erma Skaggs

Standing on the corner of Main and Houston streets, the Skaggs heard shots fired and remained in Dealey Plaza for over an hour after the assassination. Jay Skaggs photographed the motorcade and the aftermath in Dealey Plaza and donated his pictures to the Museum. Recorded March 13, 2002.

Malcolm Summers

An eyewitness to the assassination who can be seen in the Zapruder film, Summers was standing opposite the grassy knoll. Recorded March 7, 2002.

John Templin

Standing on the north side of Elm Street, Templin was an eyewitness to the Kennedy assassination. Recorded June 28, 1995.

James, Pat and Tina Towner

The Towner family were eyewitnesses to the assassination. James Towner took a still photograph while 13-year-old Tina filmed with her father's home movie camera as the limousine turned onto Elm Street. Recorded March 30 and November 22, 1996, November 21, 2000, February 1, 2008, and September 25, 2010.

Tom Turner

Turner's wife was employed at the Old Red Courthouse near Dealey Plaza in 1963, and as a result, he was able to watch the presidential motorcade from the courthouse's second-floor balcony. Turner heard shots fired and observed part of the assassination and later went to Dealey Plaza to briefly speak with eyewitnesses. Recorded July 18 and August 3, 2007.

Gail Williams

A sophomore at Woodrow Wilson High School in 1963, Williams and a classmate watched the motorcade pass by on Main Street. She believes that shortly after the limousine passed her, she heard one of the shots fired in Dealey Plaza. Recorded February 3, 2006.

Marilyn Willis

Willis was in Dealey Plaza with her daughter and husband, the late Phil Willis. Phil Willis took a series of important still photographs, including one during the assassination that continue to be studied by researchers for possible evidentiary value. Marilyn Willis' memories were recorded during a group oral history session with other eyewitnesses. Recorded November 22, 1996.

J.W. "Bill" Wiseman

A Dallas County deputy sheriff in 1963, Wiseman was standing at the corner of Main and Houston Streets and heard shots fired at the presidential motorcade. He ran to Dealey Plaza where he spoke with eyewitnesses, including Abraham Zapruder's receptionist, Marilyn Sitzman. Wiseman then participated in the initial search of the Texas School Book Depository. Recorded July 16, 2008.

YouTube

[The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza Channel](#)

[JFK Assassination 50th Anniversary Media Open House: Eyewitness Panel](#)

A panel discussion for media attending the JFK Assassination 50th Anniversary Media Open House on November 20, 2013, featuring assassination eyewitnesses. Panelists included: W.E. "Gene"

Barnett, the closest Dallas police officer to the Texas School Book Depository entrance at the time of the assassination; Rickey Chism, who was with his family in Dealey Plaza and whose parents were later interviewed at length by the Dallas County Sheriff's Department; Eugene Boone, the Dallas deputy sheriff who discovered the rifle on the sixth floor of the Texas School Book Depository; Dr. Ronald C. Jones, chief surgery resident in Parkland Memorial Hospital's emergency room on November 22, 1963; and Bob Jackson, a photographer with the Dallas Times Herald who was in the motorcade and saw a rifle in the sixth floor window of the Texas School Book Depository building.

[Living History with the Newmans](#)

An interview with assassination eyewitnesses Bill, Gayle, Clayton and Bill Newman and Museum Associate Curator Stephen Fagin. The Newman family were the closest civilian eyewitnesses to President Kennedy at the time of the fatal shot. The presentation was the first time all four family members have discussed their memories of the assassination publicly.

[A Photographer's Story: Bob Jackson and the Kennedy Assassination](#)

Bob Jackson was a photographer with the Dallas Times Herald and followed President John F. Kennedy's motorcade from Love Field through downtown Dallas on November 22, 1963. He was a few cars behind President Kennedy's limousine as it passed through Dealey Plaza and was one of only a handful of eyewitnesses to see a rifle protruding from a sixth-floor window of the former Texas School Book Depository. This video includes audio from Jackson's oral history interview in which he describes what he saw from the presidential motorcade that day.

Websites

The Dallas Morning News - [JFK50](#)

A yearlong series from 2013, created to commemorate the assassination of President Kennedy covering the people, the city and the impact of this historical event. Includes multi-media, interactive feature stories, oral histories, photographs, and video documenting the five decades long interest in this story.

Kennedy Assassination Home Page - <http://mcadams.posc.mu.edu/witnesses.htm>

Created by John McAdams, Professor of political science at Marquette University, the [site](#) is "dedicated to debunking the mass of misinformation and disinformation surrounding the murder of JFK." Documents also include articles such as "[Eyewitness Testimony, Memory, and Assassination Research](#)" by Dr. Dennis Ford and Mark Zaid.

Mary Ferrell Foundation - [Witnesses](#)

The Mary Ferrell Foundation (MFF) is a non-profit group engaged in an ongoing effort to bring accessible and interactive history to a new generation of critical thinkers. With a wide topic base including the assassinations of the 1960s, the Watergate scandal, and post-Watergate intelligence

abuse investigations, the MFF's vast digital archive at www.maryferrell.org contains over 1.2 million pages of documents, government reports, books, essays, and hours of multimedia.

National Archives - [The President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection](#)

John F. Kennedy was killed on November 22, 1963. Almost 30 years later, Congress enacted the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992. The Act mandated that all assassination-related material be housed in a single collection in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The resulting Collection consists of more than 5 million pages of assassination-related records, photographs, motion pictures, sound recordings and artifacts (approximately 2,000 cubic feet of records). Most of the records are open for research.