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## Chuck Matthei Peacemakers Oral History Collection

1975-1984 (*Bulk:* 1982-1984)  
3 boxes (1.17 linear feet)  
Call no.: MS 1247



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In the early 1980s, Chuck Matthei, in collaboration with Gail Danecker and Cheryl Fox, conducted approximately 40 taped interviews with the founders of the revolutionary pacifist and tax resistance group, Peacemakers. The interviewees include: Ernest and Marion Bromley, Maurice MacCraken, and Wally and Juanita Nelson. Matthei was a pacifist and activist and from 1980-90 and was the Executive Director of the land trust/community loan organization Institute for Community Economics (ICE), then based in Greenfield, MA and now located in Springfield, MA. Matthei then went on to found Equity Trust in 1991, which focused on alternative models of land tenure and economic development across the U.S., Central America and Kenya.

### Background on Chuck Matthei

Chuck Matthei was a pacifist, civil rights and anti poverty activist who believed that economic justice was rooted in the construction of alternative models of land management and economic development. Matthei was born in 1948 in Chicago, where he brought Martin Luther King Jr. to speak at his high school. Rather than go to college, he became involved in the draft resistance movement during the Vietnam War, where he met Dorothy Day and became involved with the Catholic Worker and larger peace movement and integrated "ahimsa", the Gandhian practice of integrating nonviolent practice, into his everyday life. Matthei eventually became interested in land, affordable housing, affordable farms, and community-supported agriculture and served as director of the Institute for Community Economics (ICE) in Greenfield, MA from 1980-1990. ICE pioneered the modern community land trust and community loan fund models of economic development. Despite living a life of voluntary poverty, Matthei was a skilled fundraiser, who was able to build the alternative economic development movement from the ground up. In 1991 he moved to Voluntown, CT to form Equity Trust, which focused on alternative models of land tenure and economic development across the U.S., Central America, and Kenya.

In the early 1980s, Matthei, in collaboration with Gail Daneker, Cheryl Fox, Mark Reeve, and Diane Engber conducted several dozen oral histories, with the founders of the revolutionary pacifist and tax resistance group, Peacemakers. The interviewees included: Ernest and Marion Bromley, Maurice McCrackin, and Wally and Juanita Nelson.

The interviews discuss the founding and development of Peacemakers, a decentralized, self-described "revolutionary pacifist" organization which believed in economic and social community uplift through resource sharing and cooperation as a way to dismantle capitalistic lifestyles. They spread the idea of peacemaking and developed non-violent methods of opposing war through various forms of non-cooperation and to advocate unilateral disarmament and economic democracy. The group manifested this through tax resistance, refusing to serve in the armed forces, refusing to make or transport weapons of war, and refusing to pay taxes for war purposes.

## Scope of collection

The collection consists of 73 audiocassettes containing recordings of interviews conducted by Chuck Matthei, Cheryl Fox, and Gail Daneker, as well as workshops, speeches, and group discussions involving the interviewees. Throughout several hours of interviews, the Nelsons, Bromleys, and McCrackin discuss their upbringing, family lives, nonviolent philosophy, the history of Peacemakers, their influences, politics, tax resistance and more. There are also recordings of the participants at various events and workshops such as a Institute for Community Economics workshop, an AFSC non-violence forum, a nonviolence workshop in Alabama, a radio interview, and speeches. The collection contains transcripts of most of the interviews as well.

## Series descriptions

### [Series 1. Transcripts](#)

1975-1984

1 box (.50 linear feet)

Transcripts of oral history interviews with Wally and Juanita Nelson, Maurice McCrackin, and Ernest and Marion Bromley. Also contains interview notes and an article about the seizure of Ernest and Marion Bromley's home in Cincinnati.

### [Series 2. Audio recordings](#)

1982-1984

2 boxes (.75 linear feet)

73 audiocassetts recorded over the course of two years containing extensive oral history interviews with Wally and Juanita Nelson, Maurice McCrackin, and Ernest and Marion Bromley as well as public events in which all 5 people spoke.

## Inventory

### Series 1. Transcripts

1975-1984

1 box (.50 linear feet)

Bromley, Ernest: Interview transcript

1982-09-24

Box 1: 1

Bromley, Ernest: Interview transcripts

1984-02-20

Box 1: 2

Bromley, Ernest ; McCrackin, Maurice: Interview transcript

1982-02-20

Box 1: 3

Bromley, Marion ; Bromley, Ernest: Interview transcripts

1984-02-20

Box 1: 4

Bromley, Marion: Interview transcripts

1984-02-20

Box 1: 5

Interview notes

ca.1983

Box 1: 6

McCrackin, Maurice: Interview transcript

ca.1982

Box 1: 7

McCrackin, Maurice: Interview transcript

1984-02-20

Box 1: 8

Mong, Bob ; Moores, Lew: "Hounding peacemakers in Cincinnati". The Progressive

1975 Jan.

Box 1: 9

Nelson, Juanita: Interview transcript

ca.1982

Box 1: 10

Nelson, Juanita ; Nelson, Wally: Interview transcript

1983-11-07

Box 1: 11

Nelson, Wally: Interview transcripts, biographical sketches

1982 Dec.

Box 1: 12

### Series 2. Audio recordings

1982-1984

2 boxes (.75 linear feet)

AFSC Cambridge forum: Non-violence in the 80's - the opportunities and the roles: Elise Boulding and Wally Nelson

1983 Apr. 12

compact cassette

Box 2

(010)

Bromley, Ernest ; Bromley, Marion: Interview by Diane Engler and Mark Reeve, tape 1

undated

compact cassette

Box 3

(068)

Bromley, Ernest ; Bromley, Marion: Interview by Diane Engler and Mark Reeve, tape 2

undated

compact cassette

Box 3

(069)

Bromley, Ernest ; Bromley, Marion: Presentation to Larry Gara's history of the peace movement class

1984 Jan. 24

compact cassette

Box 3

(072)

Bromley, Ernest ; McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 1  
ca.1984  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(039)  
Bromley, Ernest ; McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 2  
ca.1984  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(040)  
Bromley, Ernest: Interview with Gail Daneker and Cheryl Fox, tape 1  
1984 Feb. 2  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(051)  
Bromley, Ernest: Interview with Gail Daneker and Cheryl Fox, tape 2  
1984 Feb. 2  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(052)  
Bromley, Ernest: Interview, tape 1  
1982 Sep. 24  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(058)  
Bromley, Ernest: Interview, tape 2  
1982 Sep. 24  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(059)  
Bromley, Ernest: Interview, tape 3  
1982 Sep. 24  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(060)  
Bromley, Ernest: Interview, tape 4  
1982 Sep. 24  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(061)  
Bromley, Ernest: Interview, tape 5  
1982 Sep. 24 - 1982 Sep. 25  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(062)  
Bromley, Ernest: Interview, tape 6  
1982 Sep. 25  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(063)  
Bromley, Ernest: Interview, tape 7  
1982 Sep. 25  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(064)  
Bromley, Ernest: Interview, tape 8  
1982 Sep. 25  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(065)  
Bromley, Ernest: Preliminary interview with Kirby and John, tape 1  
1982 Mar. 3  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(030)  
Bromley, Ernest: Preliminary interview with Kirby and John, tape 2  
1982 Mar. 3  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(031)  
Bromley, Ernest: Response to Gail Daneker and Cheryl Fox interview  
1984 Mar. 3  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(073)  
Bromley, Marion ; Bromley, Ernest: Interview with Gail Daneker and Cheryl Fox, tape 3  
ca.1984  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(055)  
Bromley, Marion ; Bromley, Ernest: Interview with Gail Daneker and Cheryl Fox, tape 4  
ca.1984  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(056)  
Bromley, Marion ; Bromley, Ernest: Interview with Gail Daneker and Cheryl Fox, tape 5

ca.1984  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(057)  
Bromley, Marion: Interview with Gail Daneker and Cheryl Fox, tape 1  
ca.1984  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(053)  
Bromley, Marion: Interview with Gail Daneker and Cheryl Fox, tape 2  
ca.1984  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(054)  
Bromley, Marion: Interview, tape 1  
1982 Sep. 23  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(066)  
Bromley, Marion: Interview, tape 2  
1982 Sep. 23  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(067)  
Bromley, Marion: Interview, tape 3  
1982 Sep. 24  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(035)  
Bromley, Marion: Interview, tape 4  
1982 Sep. 24  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(036)  
Bromley, Marion: Interview, tape 5  
1982 Sep. 24 - 1982 Sep. 25  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(037)  
Bromley, Marion: Interview, tape 6  
1982 Sep. 25  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(038)  
Bromley, Marion: Preliminary interview, tape 1  
1982 Mar. 19  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(032)  
Bromley, Marion: Preliminary interview, tape 2  
1982 Mar. 19  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(033)  
Gara, Larry ; Nelson, Wally: Discussion on nonviolence, draft resistance, freeze movement  
1983 May 16  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(028)  
Juanita and Wally at Auburn CAP nonviolence workshop, part 1  
1982 Jan. 14  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(022)  
Juanita and Wally Nelson at Auburn CAP nonviolence workshop, part 2 / Tuskegee Institute "living the nonviolent philosophy of Gandhi and King"  
1982 Jan. 14  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(023)  
Juanita and Wally Nelson at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL chat and chew non violence workshop, part 2  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(021)  
Juanita and Wally Nelson at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL chat and chew nonviolence workshop, part 1  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(020)  
Juanita Nelson and Lillian ? nonviolence workshop  
ca.1983  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(024)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Interview regarding Michigan anti-nuke protest, jailing and prisons  
1984 Jan. 18

compact cassette  
Box 3

(070)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 1  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(041)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 1  
ca.1984  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(050)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 2  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(042)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 3  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(043)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 4  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(044)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 5  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(045)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 6  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(046)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 7  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(047)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 8  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(048)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Interview, tape 9  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(049)  
McCrackin, Maurice: Preliminary interview  
1982 Mar. 17  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(034)  
Nelson, Juanita ; Nelson, Wally: Interview with Gail Daneker and Cheryl Fox, part 1  
1983 Nov. 7  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(002)  
Nelson, Juanita ; Nelson, Wally: Interview with Gail Daneker and Cheryl Fox, part 2  
1983 Nov. 7  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(003)  
Nelson, Juanita ; Nelson, Wally: Interview with Gail Daneker and Cheryl Fox, part 3  
1984 Feb. 6  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(004)  
Nelson, Juanita at BCC  
ca.1983  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(019)  
Nelson, Juanita: Interview with Chuck Matthei  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(001)  
Nelson, Juanita: Interview with Chuck Matthei, part 1  
1983 Mar. 24  
compact cassette

Box 2

(011)  
Nelson, Juanita: Interview with Chuck Matthei, part 2  
1983 Mar. 24  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(012)  
Nelson, Juanita: Tax discussion, Cambridge Friends Meeting  
ca.1982  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(027)  
Nelson, Wally : Nelson, Juanita: Institute for Community Economics workshop, part 1  
1983 Apr. 23  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(013)  
Nelson, Wally : Nelson, Juanita: Institute for Community Economics workshop, part 2  
1983 Apr. 23  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(014)  
Nelson, Wally : Nelson, Juanita: Institute for Community Economics workshop, part 3  
1983 Apr. 23  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(015)  
Nelson, Wally : Nelson, Juanita: Institute for Community Economics workshop, part 4  
1983 Apr. 23  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(016)  
Nelson, Wally: Interview with Chuck Matthei, part 1  
1982 Dec. 16  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(005)  
Nelson, Wally: Interview with Chuck Matthei, part 1  
ca.1983  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(017)  
Nelson, Wally: Interview with Chuck Matthei, part 2  
1982 Dec. 16  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(006)  
Nelson, Wally: Interview with Chuck Matthei, part 2  
ca.1983  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(018)  
Nelson, Wally: Interview with Chuck Matthei, part 3  
1982 Dec. 17  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(007)  
Nelson, Wally: Interview with Chuck Matthei, part 4  
1983 Dec. 17  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(008)  
Nelson, Wally: Interview with Chuck Matthei, part 5  
1983 Dec. 17  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(009)  
Sustainable and Responsible Investing (SRI) conference panel, Hampshire College, part 1  
1983 Jun. 11  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(025)  
Speakers: Joan Baverla, Amy Domini, Chuck Matthei, Terry Molner, Juanita Nelson  
Sustainable and Responsible Investing (SRI) conference panel, Hampshire College, part 2  
1983 Jun. 11  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(026)  
Speakers: Juanita Nelson  
Waronker, Lou: How the Bromley's, the Nelson's, and Maurice (Mac) McCrackin figured in my life  
ca.1983  
compact cassette  
Box 2

(029)  
WVXU-Cincinnati Interconnect tribute to McCrackin, Maurice  
ca.1997  
compact cassette  
Box 3

(071)

## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Bob Bady, 2024/2025.

### Processing Information

Processed by Jeremy Smith, 2025.

### Related Material

The following three archival collections document the life and work of the Nelsons, the Bromleys, and McCrackin.

- [Juanita Morrow Nelson and Wallace F. Nelson Papers](#)
- [Marion Bromley and Ernest Bromley Papers](#)
- [Maurice McCrackin papers, 1905-1988](#)

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use ([More information](#) )

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## Search terms

### Subjects

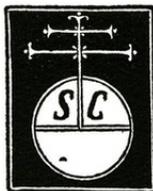
- African Americans--Civil rights
- Bromley, Ernest
- Bromley, Marion, -1996
- McCrackin, Maurice, 1905-1997
- Nelson, Juanita
- Nelson, Wallace F.
- Pacifism
- Peacemaker Movement
- Peacemakers--History
- Pioneer Valley War Tax Resisters
- War tax resistance

### Contributors

- Matthei, Chuck [main entry]
- Daneker, Gail
- Fox, Cheryl
- Gara, Larry
- Engler, Diane
- Reeve, Mark

### Genres and formats

- Audiocassettes
- Oral histories (literary genre)
- Transcripts



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