

Informant Louis & Claire Ajamy

Sex M & F Age 94 & 77 Interview Schedule Code IV / 2

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 19 & 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff

City Detroit, Mich. Date May 19, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IIA2

Claire remembers strange name of train - Lackawana - and saw black people for the first time.

IV/2

Informant Alexander K. MalikSex MAge 71*Interview Schedule Code IV/2Religious Sect OrthodoxCountry of Origin SyriaImmigrant Age 19*Interviewer Alix NaffCity Grand Rapids, MichiganDate July 1962

* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
111-540

When Mr. Malik first encountered his brother in the store, the brother asked him "What ~~can~~ ^{can} I do for you, ~~young~~ ^{my son} man?" and Mr. Malik thought that if this is America, he should go back home, there was no place for him here. He began to talk to himself in Arabic. When he realized, after his brother spoke to him in Arabic, that he was his brother, he began to kiss him but his brother told him to wait until they were at home because they don't do that in America--the other people in the store were watching.

Informant Mrs. Mary Maloley Sex F Age 65 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Grand Rapids, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
245-445

The informant was stunned and disappointed with what she saw enroute by train to Grand Rapids, and upon arriving there: barns, and houses which did not compare favorably at all with the beautiful homes and buildings of the old country. She asked: "Hai America? Hai byut America?"

They did not see any of New York City.

Informant Rose Canty Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV / 2
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 1
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 13, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

When her sister came to the U.S. around 1913, she expected that her parents had a good and well furnished house but she was surprised at her parents' house for its being so modest and that her mother was still cooking bread in the Lebanese way.

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Carl Nassif

Sex M & F Age 73 & 69 Interview Schedule Code IV/2

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 9 & 12

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

When Wardie arrived at her parent's home in Cedar Rapids for the first time in the night her first impression was puzzling. They lived in the back room of their little confectionary store, the only things in the room were a wood and coal burning stove and a pail of coal and a broken shovel, about which her father was complaining. She thought why is he worrying about such a little thing in America. Then she realized that America was not as she had imagined. The next day she looked around and couldn't see the gold in the streets. Things looked poor. Her parents weren't in the best neighborhood. After visiting 3 or 4 different families each of whom had a single room, she felt very disappointed.

Carl illustrates the kind of exaggerated stories told in the homeland by those returning from America. A hundred dollars could support a family in Ayn Arab for a whole year. He heard that if a man dropped 5 or 10 dollars he wouldn't bother to pick it up in the U.S. People believed these stories because of the remittances that emigrants were sending back to their families and the beautiful homes they were building in Ayn Arab when they returned.

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Carl Nassif

Sex M & F

Age 73 & 69

Interview Schedule Code IV/2

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria)

Immigrant Age 9 & 12

Interviewer Alixa Naff

City Los Angeles, Calif.

Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

Wardie's first impression was that there were more Christians in America than in the whole world because of the many churches she saw here

IV/2

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/3 Informant worked right from the beginning in Toledo and Cedar Rapids. She couldn't speak English in Toledo; memorized kinds of cigars from pictures on boxes. Store opened 16 hrs./day. She worked shifts with her husband; had someone taking care of children. Very difficult life in the U.S.

I/B/3 Informant was most impressed in the U.S. by men and women cooperating in work. Both go off to work early in the morning and come home and cooperate. She did this herself. Enjoyed watching people go to work, dressed up and clean unlike village people who worked in fields. Women had no babysitters; relatives took care of children but she baked her own bread, kept own garden, canned everything, washed on a washboard.

Informant Mrs. Adeby Coury Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox-R. Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Richard Coury City Cairo, Illinois Date May 24, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

II/B/1

"It felt very good to see the seashore and see the statue of Liberty and shoreline of New York". She had not heard of the statue of Liberty before.

They just saw New York from the island and from the boat, just the skyline, but they didn't walk on the streets. It was huge; she had seen Beirut but the skyscraper wouldn't compare with New York, but they already knew New York was a great city.

Informant Amelia C. Unes Sex F Age 66 Interview Schedule Code 1V/2
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 16, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

In early 1890's —

Father of informant and his cousin went to plantations in the country in Kentucky, and they were impressed by the colored people's life which was similar to life in villages in Lebanon. For example, colored women cooked in copper pots outside like Lebanese women did.

Informant Mr. Alex Ecie

Sex M Age 74

Interview Schedule Code IV/2

Religious Sect Sunni

Country of Origin Syria

Immigrant Age 15-17*

Interviewer Grant Farr

City Dearborn, Michigan

Date June 2, 1980

* Informant provides conflicting data.

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Informant was impressed by buildings, nice homes.

Informant Mr. Edward Ellis Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Grand Rapids, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
471-819

The informant says that they found the customs very hard to adapt to. They are used to a clique (having with) one another. In order to be able to establish ourselves in the American community, which was hard for us, ^{was} understanding the language, and not knowing the people, so we had to gather together to make our own community and the only way we can do it is through the church. That's why we established the early churches in America.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alixa Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-053

The weather was the most difficult thing for her to adjust to in the U.S.-- especially the quantity of snow. It was a five-minute walk to the streetcar. She couldn't understand how her sister could like snow; she had never seen so much. They cooked Syrian foods (her sisters had married Arabs) kusa, ~~minshi~~^{minshi}, yabrak; nothing was lacking.

¹ Her sister seems to have been better adjusted, of course she had been here longer, wasn't tired, wasn't thirsty, not waiting for tomorrow.

IV/2

VI/19

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alix Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Son (i.e. informant?) was rerouted through Liverpool by an agent; had no trouble--came in through Boston.

Can't remember whether father came in group.

In Eli's case, also had some trouble; first landed in Naples. U.S. agents examined them in Naples before boarding ship for the U.S.

Eli had trachoma--4 of the group detained. Father returned from U.S. to Italy; took group to Marseilles, then Liverpool. Father had inquired from agents best way to get Eli to U.S. Bought 1st class ticket for Eli; don't examine 1st class in U.S.; others went steerage; father borrowed for this expense. Eli saw bathtub for the first time.

Steerage did not provide food; passengers took own food.

Ship doctor recognized him; detained without his family at age 13.

Taken by agent in Liverpool, Khairaallah Basila, to Syrian poolroom owner. Sent word to father in U.S. by telegram; Eli not frightened. Basila and father arranged to send Eli via St. John Halifax. Also got medical treatment in Liverpool and Halifax. Got certificate of cure; travelled directly by train to N.Y. and Worcester. Trip took 7 months.

Informant Mr. Mose Nasser Sex M Age 87 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 19
Interviewer Grant Farr City Detroit, Michigan Date May 15, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

II/A/2

He saw young looking people with grey hair.

Also the electric light.

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Was delighted to see N.Y. Counted stories of tall buildings. Couldn't go too far--no language or money.

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3 Was delighted to see N.Y., counted stories of tall buildings. Couldn't go too far didn't have language or money.

IA3 Came directly with uncle to Cedar Rapids July 10. Uncle owned a home there.

IV / 3

IV / 2

Informant Mr. Alex G. Haddy Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Grant Farr City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 19, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Informant was very impressed by the U.S.

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alixa Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Informant was too anxious to reach destination to be impressed. Everything was different.

Informant Wagha Sophiea Sex F Age 80 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 20
Interviewer Alix Naff City Royal Oak, Mich. Date May 28, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

Asked if life in America in the 1920's when she arrived seemed strange or shocking, she said no. She didn't cut her hair until the 1950's and then rolled it in back to disguise the shortness. She was the first in the family to cut it.

VIII/2/b

IV/2

Informant Amelia C. Unes

Sex F Age 66

Interview Schedule Code IV/2

Religious Sect Maronite

Country of Origin U.S. born

Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Peoria, Ill.

Date July 16, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Father and his cousin were going from place to place just to adventure, not peddling. They went to farmhouses to ask for work so that they could sleep in the barn and eat. "People were kind to them." To hide a blizzard, her father went to an indian cavern, prayed and slept. The next morning he met a priest who helped him get some food. This was in 1893. Father and cousin "were very adventurous men."

14/3

14/2

Informant Shaikh Kalil Bazzy Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date June 9, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

"As a Muslim, it never came to my mind to be concerned that my way of life would be changed or it would be difficult for me if I came to the U.S. I was not afraid, no reason to be afraid".

Informant Shaikh Kalil Bazzy Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date June 9, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Informant's destination was Highland Park, Michigan to his brother who worked there. When informant arrived, he showed the street car conductor the address; took him to Ford Co. and pointed out brother's street, LaBelle; informant was never afraid; all depended on that piece of paper.

II/2

II/3

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 20, 198

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

II/A/1

Never experienced any value conflicts: "took it in his stride".
and went along with the rest of the people" (he was 9 years old when he
came to the U.S.).

IV/2

X/2/2

Informant Ali Turfe Sex M Age 77 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alixa Naff & Grant Farr City Dearborn, Mich. Date June 7, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

After arriving, he thought that a new life was waiting for him the "great country."

Informant Mr. Oscar Alwan Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Illinois Date July 16, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

Informant was basically a schoolboy when he immigrated; he found everything strange in the American way of living.

MRS.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo

Sex M

Age

Interview Schedule Code IV/2

Religious Sect

Country of Origin Syria*

Immigrant Age

Interviewer Alix Naff

City West Roxbury, Mass.

Date August 1962

* Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side I
000-096
2

Mrs. Shabo, who didn't have any instruction in housekeeping,¹ was advised by an older lady (khutra) to arrange things together by color--the blues together, the whites together, etc.--on shelves.

⁻¹ because she had come to the U.S. so young, and there was no one to teach her.

I think she says, however, that once she learned to keep house, she felt her housekeeping to be superior to that of others she knew. She wouldn't let others help her.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alixa Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
055-491

Informant was taken off Ellis Island by a family with the same last name as hers. They operated a restaurant on Washington St.

All the Syrians and Lebanese came to watch her arrive from their windows.

The Syrian-Lebanese community seem to have lived in the Washington St. area, just like they did on Hudson (???) St. in Boston.

The entire street was Syrian-Lebanese from one end to the other.

Somelady waved and called to her/and said she would take her in her home.

They seemed to fight over her. by name

She told them not to be angry, that she would contact her sisters.

They called Boston and she talked to her sisters on the phone--the first time she had ever used a phone. They took her to the place where the phone was, told her to say hello. She and her sister began to cry, she wanted to know why they had left her abandoned and not met her, that she wanted to go back home to her family. They told her not to cry, and they talked for an hour. Her other sister told them to let her talk as long as she wanted, even if it cost \$10-15.

Informant Alexander K. Malik Sex M Age 71* Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 19*
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Grand Rapids, Michigan Date July 1962
* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
0-820

When Mr. Malik came to the U.S. did not have any difficulty in adjusting to life in America--food, dress, customs, politics.... He says that perhaps he was different than other immigrants, but that he had pride in himself (that he was nice too???).

It wasn't exactly family pride, but family background which enabled him to learn the American way.

¹ except for food, he did not like meat in the U.S. and the way it was prepared and so for about a half year he ate only parsley and eggs.

MRS.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo

Sex M

Age _____

Interview Schedule Code IV/2

Religious Sect _____

Country of Origin Syria*

Immigrant Age _____

Interviewer Alixa Naff

City West Roxbury, Mass.

Date August 1962

*Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____

World War I _____

1920's _____

1930's _____

Side I
000-096
2

Mrs. Shabo says that her life in the U.S. when she came was not pleasant at all "ma mbasit abadan". She got married young, had children. There were parties but she didn't attend them or give them. No good times.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alixa Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-053

When she arrived in the U.S., she was so young, she had never left her people, she remembers crying every night.

Things changed a lot, the customs were different.

But she found working more difficult than adjusting to the customs.

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alix Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
121-320 When the informant first immigrated, he did not adapt to western foods. but continued to eat good Arab food--ingredients were available in the stores (burghul and everything). In Montreal they found Arab operated stores which imported everything from Syria.

VI/1

VI/11

X/2/2

IV/2

MRS.
Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962
* Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side I
000-096
2

When Mrs. Shabo came, there was no one here for her to relate to.
She had been married young at 14 years of age. She had no family
here or from her hometown.

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

The following passages were very difficult to understand so I'm not sure of the accuracy of the information:

For some reason, other people made fun of Mr. Azar, in line in the last group (sof=group???) to leave Ellis Island; he was called wahash, himar (trash/dirty, jackass). Mr. Azar put the lira given him with his own money making 4-5 lira (???). After that, a Syrian man advised him to buy some food because the trip to Ft. Wayne would take 24 hrs.; he did so, paying a riyal. Never having seen sardines, bologna or wieners (???) before, he threw them out of his sack, putting only 2 delicious apples and an orange (???) in his suitcase. Since he was happy to be in America and looking forward to seeing his brothers, he bought another sack of food and did likewise with it. He was then to board the ship to be taken from the island to the depot in NYC, but he could not find his train ticket which he had had since Marseille. He spotted 4 short Italians behind him and decided one of them had taken (found???) his ticket. He quickly snatched it from him and another Arab (from verified that it was his ticket. He then opened his suitcase and threw into the sea all his homeland clothing (shirts, shirwal-like pants) and dressed in western clothes. Another Arab asked him why he had done this and told him that bologna was the American kubbeh. This man also showed him how to eat sardines with lemon juice.

Side I
000-731

Saidnaya)

MRS.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code IV / 2
Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

* Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side I
000-096

2

When Mrs. Shabo came, her greatest difficulty was that there was no one here for her to relate to. She was married young (14 years of age). She had no family or others from her hometown here to relate to.

She didn't know how to bake or cook.

I think she says she had to ask others how to cook everything--I cannot understand much of her statement.

She mentions her paternal uncle's son, her brother, and one other person--I don't know if she means that was the extent of her family here. She goes on to talk about living upstairs, describing it--stove, bed, chairs,--not much else. Mr. Shabo interjects that the rent was \$5/month, for the whole place.

She seems to indicate that the furniture¹ was a mixture of colors--black, white, blue--because of collecting it from others, i.e. lack of tasteful/decor.

¹ or rather, dishes

fashionable

Informant Alexander K. Malik Sex M Age 71* Interview Schedule Code IX/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 19*
Interviewer Alix Naff City Grand Rapids, Michigan Date July 1962
* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
111-540

When Mr. Malik arrived in NY he sent a wire to his brother informing him of his arrival time in Detroit so he could be met. When his brother had come to the U.S., Mr. Malik was about one year old, so he didn't know what his brother looked like and he thought all the time on the train about how would he find his brother.

He brought 3 suitcases full of books with him; they were dear to him and so he carried them with him.

He asked for a horse and buggy, but he couldn't find any to hold his suitcases so he hired a small tractor and he rode with the driver. He had the address of his brother, the name of the furniture company, and his/calling cards.

own

So he appeared at the store, in his fashionable attire--spats, derby, cane--and the doorman bowed to him, respectfully so he gave him his card and his brother's name. And the other people began to bow to him. And the doorman led him to his brother and he rode an elevator for the first time, en route--he nearly fell when the elevator took off and was supported by others and they all laughed. On the 6th floor he got off and he saw a man sitting at a desk and something told him this was his brother.

Informant Alexander K. Malik Sex M Age 71* Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 19*
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Grand Rapids, Michigan Date July 1962
* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
111-540

When Mr. Malik arrived at the immigration office, he was wearing a derby hat, a monocle and carrying a cane, all of which he says are from the old country i.e. not necessarily English. When questioned by the officers as to why he was so attired, he responded that he wore the derby for dignity, the glasses for decoration, and the cane in order to be an aristocrat.
So the immigration authorities let him go in.

¹ He thought his dress, although he acknowledged it seemed peculiar, was superior to that of the American people.

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-731

Enroute on the train from NYC to Ft. Wayne, Mr. Azar wanted to appear to be French/European (frangi) by cutting an apple (peeling it) with a knife as he saw others doing. He didn't want them to know he came from Syria. Somehow he managed to cut his finger repeatedly in the process. (???)

He felt somehow that he had become American by peeling the apple this way.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-053

Her future husband wrote a letter to her family proposing marriage. She didn't know him although his family was from Damascus. They had really never seen each other before (I presume she means in the old country).

She noticed how her sisters were married and living with their husbands and children.

She noticed how she was living alone, please send the neighbor's daughter to sleep at my home (yiba'th binat al-jiran yina'm andi). She was still angry that her family was far from her.

↓
even so, she still felt stranger/foreigner (gharibi)

Informant Mr. Peter Fawaz Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox? Country of Origin Syria? Immigrant Age 21
Interviewer Alix Naff City Manchester, New Hampshire Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-088

For the most part the informant experienced no difficulty in adjusting to the American way of life; was not disturbed by the differences in customs and traditions.

The only thing which disturbed him considerably was the filthiness of his first residence here--"dirty like hell". And it wasn't well heated; they burned wood (khatab) in the stove to keep warm. There was no electricity; they used kerosene oil. There was no hot and cold water, while in the old country he was used to (public???) baths (hammam) with hot water. (even though there was no gas or electric).

¹This was true of other Syrians as well of course.

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alix Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
511-588

Although peddling was hard work, the motivation of making money kept the people doing it rather than returning to the old country.
After a person became accustomed to the country for 2 or 3 years (itbalad al-insan)(???)

Informant Mrs. Samia Salem Sex F Age 80 Interview Schedule Code II/2
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 20
Interviewer Alix Naff City Bethesda, Maryland Date August 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Informant was very amazed when she saw Ellis Island.

Informant Mrs. Latify Cory Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Louis Cory City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/3

"I saw statue of Liberty but was only 11 yrs. old so didn't know what it meant".

Got to Rochester in Spring or June; nothing too much impressed her--too young--except young neighbor child who was able to do acrobatics.

Informant Charles Teebagy Sex M Age 80 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 20
Interviewer Alix Naff City Dorchester, Mass. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1 When he first came he was very sorry he came because in Damascus he had been a carpenter making \$1. a day in his own business while here he made only 90¢ a day for 10 hour day.

II/9

VI/11

IV/2

IV / 2

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Oldest brother emigrated to the U.S. and eventually sent for whole family, but sister married and remained in homeland, so family was split.

I/B/2

Mother was very lonely. No women from Damascus; didn't get along with daughter-in-law, was old and set in her ways. She stayed home and took care of needs of her sons, did not work for wages. In this regard, life was easier for her. Never mixed with Zahle women; Zahalni formed their own clique and were snobbish, were richer. When Damascene men began to come, she fed and helped them. Sometimes they paid her, but what was important was that Damascenes formed a group. Mother then had company. She lived into her 70's and died in mid 1920's. Informant's wife raised grandchildren so daughter could work in store with husband.

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-731

Informant did not have any difficulty at the immigration office, but they had spent all their money during the 14 day voyage and so did not have any money.

When he arrived at Ellis Island, Mr. Arbeely/ (the son) examined him. (???)
(seems to be pronounced Arbeeni)

After Mr. Azar passed the examination, Mr. Arbeely asked him how much money he had. He told him he had a couple of dollars (riyalain). Mr. Arbeely saw to it that Mr. Azar had a room and he was kept there 5 or 6 days, and fed while Mr. Arbeely contacted the informant's relatives to have them send some money. Meanwhile, Mr. Azar became worried as he watched other immigrants being sent back home. He was afraid this might happen to him. They were all thinking about Ellis Island, New York, the water (sea) and crying, because a lot of people were being sent back.

III/3

IV/1

IV/2

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-491
55

The fact that she spoke English made her adjustment easier.

There were others who did not know English who would become lost, would not know how to return home, did not know how to tell their address so others would know and help them.

The informant could read the street signs. The first time she went to buy a suit at Jordan-Marsh, the largest store in Boston, her sisters were going to buy a suit for her; they told her no need for an interpreter; she could speak for herself. But she couldn't understand the salesgirl, because the pronunciation was so different from the pronunciation she had learned in school (wada for water, different terms, cravate for necktie). Informant asked if the salesgirl was speaking English. But she was determined to catch up (i.e. on).

↓
It was all different, new vocabulary, not the same language studied in school

II/7

VI/7

IV/2

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-731

American food and the English language gave the immigrants some difficulties.

And there were times in the past where we could only work 2 or 3 days a week (presumably in the factory). And the wages, Mr. Azar worked for 12 hours for \$1.25.

VI/7

VI/17

IV/2

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age
Interviewer Alixa Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962
*Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre-World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side II
213-829

When Mr. Shabo came to the U.S., there was a neighbor from Damascus, Gurji Zahqa. The informant came to his address in Boston.

Mr. Shabo did not arrive in New York; he arrived in Charlestown, Boston, directly. His eyes were examined, he received a pass; he didn't know what to do. He walked in the street and could see people coming and going. He saw an Italian-looking man with a one-horse team. He called him to come up and so Mr. Shabo did and he took him to the informant's friend's address. Mr. Shabo had showed him the address and the man asked directions from the policeman. The man dragged the informant all around until they arrived at the address. The man was also a foreigner/but could speak a little English.

"like me"

The address was 65 Maryland (???) St., the store of Assad Mdarwi.

Informant Mr. Dan Sickrey Sex M Age 80 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Grand Rapids, Michigan Date July, 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-047

On train to Grand Rapids, was asked by a man from Grand Rapids where he was from; he replied he didn't know; he wasn't going from G.R. to N.Y. but from N.Y. to G.R. The man noticed he could speak English a little so he asked him what was the native language of children in Syria; he replied that they spoke English at birth (he decided to tease him, make fun of him, laugh at him) but their families speak to them in the language of the country and they forget their English, but as soon as they step foot here, the English comes back to them. This is how English comes to the foreigner.

The man offered (I think) to have the conductor tell the informant when he arrived in G.R. but Mr. Sickrey had already figured out that it would be the stop after the conductor removed the ticket/from above his head.

riishi

The man complimented him on his knowledge.

IV/1

IV/3

IV/2

V/7

Values - humor

Values - pride in his knowledge

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-053

Informant refused to get married before she brought her mother to this country. Her brothers and sisters helped her (akhwatni--I'm not sure if this means both or if she had brothers); she couldn't afford to bring her from just her own earnings.

She was still crying and missing her family.

IV/2

IV/4

VI/12

VI/18

VI/13/2

VI/11

VI/20/6

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
055-491

Her mother came to live with her in Boston.
She fixed a place for her mother.

or a bed (ta'bi')

She asked her mother to wake her when the nibus struck (???) so she could go to work. Her mother let her sleep until 8 or 9 o'clock, complaining that the sun never rises here. The informant had from then on to depend on an alarm clock. The mother couldn't understand getting up before sunrise. She couldn't trust her mother to get her up on time.

IV/2

VI/12

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age
Interviewer Alixa Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962
*Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre-World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side II
213-829

After he lost his job, despite Mr. Mdarwi's concern that he couldn't speak English, he decided to peddle and learn English.

At that time Mr. Shabo had a room for \$1.50/month on Neelan St. (???); No heat, no lights, no bed. He never even had underwear for two years.

A man, one winter, saw him shivering, after finding out that he didn't even know about sweaters, opened his shirt and saw he didn't have underwear and told him it was necessary to keep warm to buy underwear. He was sleeping on the floor, he was used to 6-7 ft. of snow in the homeland, near the Russian border; they lived on a mountain-top there. They used to go barefoot in the snow, while seeing the desert down below (as he says "the Arab"). They used to sleep on the floor; the houses were made from rock-stone so the Muslims couldn't break in and kill them. Mr. Shabo says that of 10-15/children born in a family, only 2-3 live, the strongest.

20

So they were tough.

IV/2

VI/2

VI/11

VI/7

V/2

II/1

II/2

II/3

II/4

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code IV/2

Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age

Interviewer Alixa Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

* Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side I
000-096
2

In terms of adjusting to the American way of life, when Mr. Shabo came to the U.S. he minded his own business, he never smoked, or drank, or did anything wrong, or go to parties. He used to live like a monk, going from work to his room and sleep.

IV/2

Values - morality / serious attitude toward life

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-731

When the immigrants first arrived they had difficulties, including language problems. They were then living 5 or 6 in a place together.

VI/2

VI/7

IV/2

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
392-460

When Mr. Cory first arrived in Canada he wore short pants.
Most young Syrian immigrants at age 14 wore short pants.

IV/2

X/2/a

Informant Mrs. Mary (Mariam) Sayfee Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect _____ Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alix Naff City Grand Rapids, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
0-94

Informant adjusted very easily to life in the U.S. (food, clothing ...); the language was the only difficulty they experienced.¹ They were better here and happy that they came.

¹ A lot of people can talk but the meaning of the word they don't know.

IV/2

VI/7

Informant Mrs. Latifée Cory Sex F Age 64-66 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 11-13
Interviewer Alix Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II

392-460

his father

When Mr. Cory's father joined him in Canada, he/was concerned that he was not going to be able to learn English. His son told him to ask him questions and that he would give the English equivalent word for the Arabic word. He also told him that there was nothing easier than learning English.

IV/2
V/7

Informant Mr. Peter Fawaz Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Orthodox? Country of Origin Syria? Immigrant Age 21
Interviewer Alix Naff City Manchester, New Hampshire Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-088

Informant had no problem traveling from NYC to Manchester, N.H.; he knew where he was going.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
055-491

she didn't like it

When she arrived, found America different than expected, /houses next to one another on Hudson St. (Boston). It was difficult to climb the stairs.

By contrast, Rashayya home was a beautiful place, veranda. The houses were built (as well as ???) in America, except that there we are on top and here they are on the bottom. (reference to floors???)

↓
unfortunately

IV/2

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Grant Farr City Washington, D.C. Date April 24, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/519

A story about peddling.

A woman got her husband. (?)

No prejudice: he feels that because Americans were new they also liked other immigrants.

I/B/550

A story about how he was embarrassed when they sang a song about love.

I/B/580

A scary story about when he crossed the Mississippi and later stayed with an old man. He was carrying a gun and he was afraid because he had heard that a peddler had been killed in this town. He say something in the night that turned out to be a cow.

II/A/5

Continues the story above.

V/8

VI/3/f

X/2/b

IV/ 2

Informant Mr. Harry As'ad Bousamra Sex M Age 85 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Michigan Date May 16, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

The town was dark.

He tells about how when he arrived at Mishawauka, Indiana, he found his cousin.

When he first arrived, he tried to say things in Arabic, but of course no one understood.

He was very well received in Mishawauka.

Informant Mr. Osman Mohammed Chamie Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code IV/2

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin United States* Immigrant Age 32*

Interviewer Alix Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date May 31, 1980

* U.S. born in 1907 but taken to Syria in 1913; immigrated to the U.S. in 1939

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

Mrs. Chamie was very awed by everything she saw.

Informant Mrs. Rahmy Francis

Sex F Age 77

Interview Schedule Code IV/2

Religious Sect Maronite

Country of Origin Syria

Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Grant Farr

City Detroit, Michigan

Date May 15, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

(She tells a story here about how she mistakes the word "good bye" for "kibbeh".)

When they were sent to Kentucky they had labels. When they got to Lexington, they didn't get off. A person was sent to catch (???) them, but they refused to leave. Finally they had to leave and they were taken to their father's house, but her father and mother had gone to the station. She saw this older woman and said to herself "My mother can't be that old".

When she met her new brothers and sisters, born here, they couldn't understand each other.

Little by little they learned to communicate.

II/2

IV /3

Informant Mrs. Rahmy Francis Sex F Age 77 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Grant Farr City Detroit, Michigan Date May 15, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

II/A/1

Detroit: When she came to Detroit she lived with her sister-in-law. "
She came to Detroit in 1924.
The men on Congress Street, were factory workers, peddlers, or had stores.

Why did they go to Congress St.? Because of the church? The church was there
for 64 years.

IV/2 destination

VI/11 - work

VI/2 - neighborhood or VI/Z

VI/9 church

Informant Mrs. Zahdi Barsa Sex F Age 81 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alix Naff City St. Claire Shores, MI Date May 21, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Came to U.S. and worked and sent for father and mother. Originally came to stay with grandmother; WWI began and she "had to work". Missed people very much; cried constantly in Boston. Grandmother admonished her "you don't know when you will see your people--are you going to cry all the time?"

Never intended to return--soon forgot about missing people--"it was a long war".

Informant Mrs. Zahdi Barsa Sex F Age 81 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alix Naff City St. Claire Shores, MI Date May 21, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Woman she traveled with arranged for tickets and trip--no agents or problems. Left from Beirut and stopped in France. Went straight to hotel of Syrian already known to woman. Waited for next boat, 2 months in Marseilles. Brought olives, preserved lemons and other food, to take to U.S. but consumed them in France. Didn't know cost of trip. Saw soldiers marching in Marseilles--was very excited. Woman suggested return to Syria; Zaheda said "I'll drown myself before I go back to Syria". Boat was stopped and escorted by 4 warships from Beirut to France--took 10 days. Not afraid, excited. Travelled on cargo ship which stopped at many ports in Mediteranean Slept on deck. Fed them beef on ship--didn't know what it was--were scared to eat it. Took own food, cheese, and some dried fruit, etc. Got seasick--left July 2 arrived N.Y. on Sept. 16, 1904 (1914???).

Informant Mrs. Bahieh Kappaz Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code IE/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 16, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

not
Came to stay and send for widowed mother and younger brother; did/want to back--
"what did I have to go back to" no work there"Happy or unhappy in America, you
have to make a living". Not happy in U.S. too much hard work; "every one envied
those who cameto heaven to U.S."

Informant Mr. H. K. Igram Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 18, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Intended to stay only short time and return. Didn't like it at first;
anxious to return; found U.S. too different; got used to it in year or two;
worked and liked it; made money.

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code TK/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Arrived Ellis Island, July 3, 1912; rushed through because next day was July 4 holiday and would have to feed them. Remained in N.Y. about 3 days so uncle, who had wholesale house for peddlers in Cedar Rapids could shop for store; saw old Washington St. Arab colony. Had Maronites, Catholics, and Orthodox and they used to find (???) there.

IV/2

IV/1

IV/3

Informant Mrs. Mary Schervish Sex F Age 88 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite* Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Grosspointe Park, Michigan Date May 14, 1980
* Maronite mother, Orthodox father; attends Roman Catholic church

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

First impressions: surprised, things were different.

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Grant Farr City Washington, D.C. Date April 24, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/230

He was surprised by New York; seeing policemen so fat and when he saw dancing.
He was expecting supprises.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/2
Religious Sect Maronite? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-491
55

elevated cars for travel

Elevators/were something, besides the telephone, that she had never seen before coming to the U.S. --which she says they had in Boston, but not in New York. She wondered how they worked, worried someone might fall from them. the informant She had to use them in Boston. Her sister told her not to be afraid, they were up high and she told her/ that if the elevator didn't work or broke, everybody would die.

Little by little, after that, she adjusted to life in America.

IV /2

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code IV/2

Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age

Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

*Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre-World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side I
000-096
2

When asked about what was difficult when he first arrived in the U.S., he says that he used to think about his people and his people and his food, although they had Arabic food here just the same. They had Syrian restaurants. The man he rented his room from for \$1.50/month had a restaurant that he and his friend would go to; they received a plate of food and two loaves of bread for 15¢.

IV/2

VI/2