VI/7

Informant Mrs. Eva Frenn | Sex F | Age 56 | Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Melkite | Country of Origin Lebanon | Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City N. Hollywood, California | Date 1962

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

I/A/1 Informant spoke French fluently but no English. She went to a Jesuit boarding school for girls in Zahle. She also learned Arabic.

Informant Mrs. Eva Frenn Sex F Age 56 Interview Schedule Code VF/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa Naff City N. Hollywood, California Date 1962

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

I/A/1 Her husband spoke English fluently. He was born in 1897 and was about 2 years old when his mother brought him here in 1900. His family was in Watertown, Wisconsin and were very successful peddling as they were doing 62 years ago. They got to Wisconsin peddling. His mother had brought him with her to her married daughter's, Mrs. Suzanne Mussallem. At some point Mrs. Musallem said she was tired and wanted to go south, so they came to Muskogee, Oklahoma because they heard Oklahoma was going to become a state and join the union and that there was oil there. So they came and there was no paved sidewalks or streets. It (Muskogee?) was a small depot.

I/A/2 So her husband was already living in Oklahoma when they were married and they went straight there. They lived in Okmogie which had 2500 people with her mother-in-law.

She was accustomed to going to mass every Sunday; her mother-in-law said there was no need to go every Sunday. On her first Sunday, their colored maid took her. When the priest started the sermon with "my friends" she was surprised, "what's he going to say about Mike Frenn; as he repeated it, she was impressed with her husband's importance. Her husband laughed when she told him.

Informant Mrs. Latify Cory | Sex F | Age 83 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 Had learned essentials of English in Baptist school in village. In Canada she taught herself English so that she speaks, reads and writes it now with some facility--reads books and newspapers. Also her Arabic was rudimentary when she came and tuaght herself here so that she reads and writes it with great facility.

Attended school in Rochester, Pennsylvania for only 3 days before it closed for that year and never returned. Teacher was music teacher and taught her do-re-mi, etc.

III/B/3 Informant's brother who came to U.S. before she did went to school to become a medical doctor but he failed. Then went to Montreal.

II/7

II/13

VI/7

VI/17

Informant Mr. Mitchell J. Maloof Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Illinois Date July 15, 1980

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

I/A/1

Informant's paternal grandmother spoke French fluently; informant claimed she was well-educated.

Informant said his mother had never read Arabic or newspapers in Arabic. (Informant wasn't asked if his mother could read and write English.)

VI/7

Informant Mr. Mitchell J. Maloof Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Illinois Date July 15, 1980

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

I/A/1

Informant's grandmother emigrated about 1916; she was educated in French and Arabic.

His father probably did not write Arabic, but read Arabic newspapers; his mother did not read Arabic; she was only 8 or 9 years old when she immigrated to the U.S.

II/7
III/2
IV/7

VI-7

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____

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 _____

II/B/3

Regarding pride, informant said that we have a streak in us where we hate to ask people for anything (speaking of not being able to read English or Arabic newspaper and therefore having to ask someone).

"Take me, for instance, (this was difficult for him to say) I'm afraid to talk--I'm afraid you'll laugh at me".

This is pride in oneself but it also goes back to the family. One has to bring up children right. Reading and writing is the most important thing.

VII/7

Values – pride

Values – education of children

II/7

Informant Widad Naff Frenn Sex F Age 47 Interview Schedule Code

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6

Interviewer Alixa Naff City North Hollywood, Calif. Date 1962

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

IB1

At age 6 upon arrival in the U.S. her parents sent her to school, although she could not speak English. When she made a mistake in kindergarten the teacher would slap her. Another American-born Syrian girl was in the same class who also couldn't speak English because her parents only spoke Arabic at home.

Schoolmates made fun of her for being a foreigner, not speaking English, having long hair, and poor clothes. The other children were mostly Italian, also the children of immigrants.

She attended only ½ year of high school because she had to work in the store with her father. Her mother was very educated and wanted her to be educated also but the father couldn't afford help in the store.

IB2

Her mother attended day school for a few months to improve her English. She was very keen on educating her children, especially her 3 sons. She read, Arabic newspapers which came regularly to the house. Tried also to read English newspapers. Went to night school for a while. Her brother in Beirut used to send her literary journals. She brought with her from Rachaya Arabic books to teach them Arabic in the U.S. but failed to overcome the force of English.

VI/7

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____

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/B/1

A veteran peddler, 5-6 yrs. in U.S., would teach newcomer where to get best buys on goods, where lucrative to peddle, where rich lived, where to buy certain goods, where not to peddle. He would also teach him English words which had a double meaning if pronounced with an Arabic accent, as a joke.

V/2
VI/7

VI 17

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____

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/B/2

Oldest brother, who learned to read Arabic from friend in the U.S., bought books in Arabic on trip to N.Y. Also subscribed to Arabic newspapers from N.Y. Asked if brother read news to informant and other brothers, he said no, there was no time; during leisure time they played cards.

VI-17

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy | Sex M | Age 88 | Interview Schedule Code

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/B/1 To sell razors to Italian immigrants, informant demonstrated by cutting one of his hairs. He motioned and knew how to count to ten and recognized value of pieces of money.

(Informant is self-conscious about his lack of education and poor English, although he handles it well.) Asked when he began to feel comfortable with the language here, he said he always feels ashamed when he wants to say something and he feels it does not come out correct. Feels same about reading; reads a little English, self-taught. Said he learned language slowly because he was too shy and for years and years when he first came to U.S., he didn't mix with people, afraid to make mistake and people laugh, so stayed to himself. Didn't ask. Should have gone to school, would have gotten better jobs. He and his brothers all felt things were more difficult withoutbetter knowledge of English. Didn't inhibit them from working, but vocabulary was limited to what peddling required, which wasn't much.

II/A/1 Informant was picked up with friend in Michigan City and spent night in jail because he couldn't speak English, never knew why they were picked up because they didn't understand English; fined $15. Wife could not read or write Arabic.

VI/7

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____

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/B/2

Neither informant nor his brothers were educated. Older brother learned to read and write Arabic and English from a Syrian roomer (in his home?) who had been in the U.S. a long time; this man was educated. So brother was able to write letters in Arabic to his family in Damascus before they too migrated to the U.S. On his trips to N.Y., brother would buy books in Arabic and read them as well as newspapers which he subscribed to.

Informant reads a little English, self-taught.

VI/7

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____

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 _____

| | |
|---|---|
| II/A/2 | Informant's wife didn't work. Her English was worse than the informant's. Also, at that time Damascenes didn't want wives to work; she also had to take care of her sisters and brother and had her first child the first year (they were married). |
| II/A/2 | Informant's wife gave birth at home by midwife; didn't used to go to hospitals in 1911. |
| II/B/1 | Informant's wife raised grandchildren while daughter worked in husband's store until 11 p.m. every night. |

VI/7

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____

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/B/3

Informant became a citizen in 1932-33; delayed so long because he didn't know the language; couldn't answer questions.

He learned the answers, but no really. A gov't. official who owned a bar in which informant peddled wanted handkerchiefs or towels to give away; informant either got or gave him some (statement not clear); official promised he would be present when informant went to obtain his citizenship papers, but he wasn't. He passed but believes man put in a good word for him. Among hundreds getting citizenship that day, he was the only Syrian. He believes Syrians delayed or never got citizenship from lack of language.

Ward politicians never contacted or went into Syrian neighborhood in informant's time. Before his arrival in the U.S. he heard that politicians used to seek immigrants, including Syrians and pay them $5 to vote, even though they were not citizens. Believes must have been Democrats. Has voted since he became a citizen; voted for FDR; still blesses him; votes Democrat "no matter what".

VI/6/a
VI/6/b
VI/6/c
VII/7

VI/7

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____

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 _____

II/B/2 Daughter Margaret (about age 40 who was present) said she was not bothered about whether she was Syrian or American. Although household was Syrian, i.e. food, language, visitors, etc., she and her siblings' friends were mostly relatives; she didn't make many American friends.

II/B/2 Informant was not too concerned with homeland politics; America is his country.

II/B/2 Asked if Americanization agencies like Jand Addams' Hull House or groups contacted Syrians to help Americanize them, he said no. He was shy and too embarrassed to associate with Americans because of lack of English so he never knew. "No, we were free, no one came and told us anything".

VI/7

Informant Mr. Alex G. Haddy Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code _____

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 always wanted to go to church on Sundays.

I/B/1 In 1964, they built a hall for the church. The Lebanese borrowed $40,000 for its construction. Church services are mostly in English.

Informant's daughter: before the services were English, everything was "boring" for people who didn't speak Arabic. The entire service is not in English, a little Arabic is sometimes used. They didn't have chanters except for funerals and memorial services.

VI/9/2
VI/9/6
VI/7

VI 17

Informant Mr. Joseph Couri  Sex M  Age 65  Interview Schedule Code ____

Religious Sect Maronite  Country of Origin U.S. born  Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff  City Peoria, Illinois  Date July 15, 1980

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

I/A/1 Wife's grandfather peddled (when and where not stated); then opened a dry goods store and became a supplier in Minnesota.

Informant's mother peddled, but she didn't know English or even American money; one lady taught her about American money. Mother peddled before having children.

I/A/1 Peddlers in Peoria took trains when available but they mostly walked long distances.

I/B/1 Wife's father peddled in Mankato, Minnesota; then came to Peoria in 1912.

VI / 7

Informant Mrs. Samia Salem Sex F Age 80 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 20

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Bethesda, Maryland Date August 22, 1980

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

I/B/1

Informant did not learn arithmetic. Uncle said no need for it because she will not be a businessman. Informant had no education in the U.S. She taught herself to read and write English.

During her two years of teaching, she learned Turkish and the Qur'an and taught them the next day; she still has her Qur'an.

Her father was a lawyer in an office with 2 Druze and 1 Christian; he learned law from experience only.

Uncle was educated in Egypt and England. He was Queen Victoria's interpreter during her visit to Egypt.

Brother-in-law got his law degree in Damascus.

VI 17

Informant Mrs. Samia Salem Sex F Age 80 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 20

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Bethesda, Maryland Date August 22, 1980

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

I/A/3 Village of Shuwayfat had many schools, one of which was taught by 6 or 7 Christian women, and attended by over 100 students, boys and girls, from all sects--Muslims, Christians, and Druze. There were primary and secondary schools and "two big colleges". Primary school was not segregated; students attended to age 12; only boys attended secondary school.

I/A/1 Informant attended the Christian-taught school (Sitt Amelia Trad) for 4 yrs.; learned to read and write Arabic. Druze girls were allowed only to learn to read and write. Not unusual for Druze girls to to go school. School was segregated (seems to be a contradiction with information above). Informant attended this school in 1912; also learned a little Engligh and French. Stopped schooling because of onset of WWI; had responsibility of supporting sister and 4 children. War cut off family income. During WWI Turks opened schools in Lebanon and insisted on Turkish language; Turkish school in Shuwayfat; informant applied to teach.

Informant Mr. Nafe Katter | Sex M | Age 82 | Interview Schedule Code I/

Religious Sect Druze | Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon | Immigrant Age 22

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Saginaw, Michigan | Date June 13, 1980

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

I/A/1

Informant stated that all countries under Turkish rule "never did pay very much attention to education. The education was supported by the parents of the students.

In the village school, during winter, students were asked to bring a piece of wood or coal for heating the classrooms. If not, on two succesive days, the teacher would put the student in the coldest corner of the room.

Girls went to school in the village. Christians and Druze went to the same school.

I/A/2

Informant learned to read and write Arabic; quit school at 6th grade. Informant's father read a little Arabic; only few people were educated in the village.

II/7
III/7

VI/7

Informant Mr. Nafe Katter Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 22

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Saginaw, Michigan Date June 13, 1980

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

I/B/2

Three months after he came to the U.S. while he was working in his brother's bakery in Saginaw, his brother's friend, an American, came once to the bakery and found the informant making cookies. The American asked the informant what kind of cookies he was making and he replied "25¢ a dozen".

VI/7

Informant Mr. Nafe Katter Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 22

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Saginaw, Michigan Date June 13, 1980

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

II/A/3

The Bakora ad-Duruzia was started in 1918. "The purpose of that organization is to keep ourselves informed in what's going on between our people here and our people back home and also try to keep ourselves well-informed on our culture and our religion to see there is no division that could be a problem to the American government" and he added "I don't believe that American government have any one of our people under welfare that I know of".

The founder of the Bakora ad-Duruzia was Dr. Yahya in Cleveland, Ohio. The club "had annual dues" but if there was an emergency, money was collected from members. Example:

Two thieves entered a store of a Druze man, shot at him and took his money; he was unharmed and went to his room in the back of the store and got a gun and shot the two thieves in the street, killing one and injuring the other.

When the Druze man had to go to court, the Bakora ad-Duruzia collected money to get him an attorney, but he lost the case because "his English didn't help him; he said things against himself". The Bakora contacted a Mr. Joseph in Hannibal, Missouri who was a Mason and who talked with the judge, also a Mason and whopaid $25,000 to get the Druze man out of jail.

Informant Mrs. Adeby Coury Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 _____

I/B/1

After WWI, the French took over the same (Orthodox, Russian supported) schools; they mixed the classes, boys and girls together, in the boys school. Informant studied French.

III/7
III/18
III/7

Informant Mrs. Adeby Coury Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code IV/7

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 _____

I/A/3 Informant's mother's maternal uncle was the mayor (shaikh al-balad), as far as she knows for life. After he died, informant's husband's uncle became the shaikh until he died. She doesn't know what the first shaikh did for a living. He had a big family, all educated, who worked. Three were doctors in the U.S. after their education in London; two opened a clinic somewhere in Virginia, in Roanoke or a small little town (nearby). One was an eye, ears, nose and throat specialist. The second shaikh had a shop (dukan), an oven (furn) where people would bring their kneaded dough to have baked, and a bakery shop.

Other leading families were her mother's uncles, one of whom had a son and three daughters, all educated in England. He had a meat market and land.
I/B/1 The three daughters all came to this country except the son, who died. Another of her maternal great uncles, who was a leader, had a dry goods store. Apart from her family, there were no other village leaders from other families.

Asked how they became leaders, she replied that they were the only educated people "and people looked up to them"; "now most of the old people there, they never knew how to read or write".

I/A/2 Everyone respected the mayor and the mukhtar; people looked up to them. She thinks they mukhtar is elected by the people, not certain if for a certain length of time or for life. She only knows of two mukhtars in her lifetime; they elected the second after the first one died.

VI 17

Informant Mr. Mitchell J. Maloof Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Illinois Date July 15, 1980

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

I/A/1

Informant's father followed his sister, Adele, to the U.S. to Brooklyn, N.Y.

Informant's paternal grandmother came to the U.S. about 1916; his father came came in 1906 and his mother in 1907, to Brooklyn, N.Y. His grandmother spoke French and Arabic.

III/1
III/1 III/3
III/7

Informant Mr. and Mrs. Ed Absey | Sex M/F | Age 81/73 | Interview Schedule Code VL/7

Religious Sect Roman Catholic | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer* Alixa Naff | City Grandforks, North Dakota | Date January 15, 1981

* telephone conversation

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

Mr. Absey's father could not read nor write Arabic, but his grandfather could and so they got Arabic newspapers from New York to keep informed.

Mrs. Absey, who is eight years younger than her husband, knows no Arabic and he now speaks it only fairly well having lost it from lack of use. He was enthralled to talk with the interviewer in Arabic--but only a few words.

Informant Mrs. Mayme Farris Sex F Age 75* Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Episcopalian Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 10, 19

* in 1979

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

I/A/1 Informant's father read Arabic and English; he didn't tell them much; he was very quiet. They never related to them. He never wanted to talk about WWI--the starvation and deaths and the hard times.

I/A/1 (From 2nd interview, March 21, 1980)

Her mother never had any schooling but her father was taught English and Arabic in al-Munsif. He read Arabic newspapers from New York and he read and wrote in English in the U.S.

Parents spoke English at home therefore the heritage was not properly transmitted. Parents did n't do this so they could fit into the community. But second generation did. They didn't want to be associated in American's minds as being like other foreigners who spoke their language loudly. "I'm told this, but when I grew older I noticed these young people feeling reluctant to have their parents speak Arabic to them".

Between 1916-1925, Jabour Haick, from Bishmezzine, taught them (the informant and others) Arabic and taught the children songs of the church. There was no school; they just met wherever they could.

II/B/2 Her husband, Orthodox, was educated in a Presbyterian school in the old country.

Informant From 2nd interview, March 21, 1980 Mrs. Mayme Farris | Sex F | Age 75* | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Episcopalian | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Elaine Hughes | City Vicksburg, Mississippi | Date August 10, 197

* in 1979

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

I/A/3

Jabour Haick, from Bishmezzine, taught Arabic between 1916-25. He had a store in Vicksburg; none of this family is left there now. He put his brothers and nephes in business there. He was a leader in this community.

I/B/1

He helped the informant organize the Syrian Girl's Club in 1920. It was for the betterment of St. George Orthodox church and the welfare of its people. Father Elias Mena taught some of us to chant the liturgy.

From 2nd interview, March 21, 1980

Informant Mrs. Mayme Farris Sex F Age 75* Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Episcopalian Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 10, 197

* in 1979

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

II/B/1

Her life in the 1920's: She learned Arabic from Jabour Haik only to sing church songs; she seems to speak Arabic well and understand it, although she says her parnets spoke Arabic to friends and visitors in house but not enough to their children. She loved Arabic music and learned Syrian dance, solo and dabki. It was less glamorous than other Middle Eastern dance. She used to dance solo for older folk at affairs.

She find Northeasterners spoke more Arabic or broken English. In the South Arabic wasn't used s much.

She livedin a 4 room house when she was young; the children slept in the backroom and living room and they would have relative stay there as well until they got on their feet.

They had a gramophone with a big horn and played roll records.

Mother cooked Lebanese food and then learned to cook country food--cabbage and corn bread, black-eyed peas, okra, corn--and baked Arabic bread but also biscuits They had an old wood stove and used a "saj", gotten from N.Y., to bake thin Arab bread on the iron stove.

Informant Mrs. Adeby Coury Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 There were Arab agents in the immigration office both here and in France. She doesn't remember the agent's name in New York and didn't know the name of the man in France either.

She recalls there were poeple being sent back because theydidn't pass the medical examination. She knows some were disappointed, imaginges it sometimes split families. There was a very particular, important eye examination and for other diseases like small-pox.

No one asked her if she could read or write; she imagines they asked their names but doesn't remember. She thinks her motehr, who knew a few English words tried to tell a non-Arabic-speaking officer their names and straightened it out herself.

(She repeats her praise of Ellis Island.)

Probably the agent took them from Ellis Island to the train, the fare was already taken care of. They took the train to Mounds, Illinois where her uncle met them. Train trip was long, took about three days and nights or maybe longer.

II/B/2 Informant arrived in Ellis Island sometime in the latter part of January (1921). She recalls that two weeks after arriving in Mounds, Illinois she visited a Syrian family who had a new baby, a son born February 7 (the mother was informant's future husband's sister). The mother's parents (she was born here) were from Bteghrine (father) and Batroun (mother); the father was from ʿain al-Shaʿra, Syria. Groceryston

Informant Mrs. Adeby Coury Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 _____

Informant's ability in Arabic: Fair-Good

Informant Mrs. Adeby Coury | Sex F | Age 72 | Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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 _____

III/A/1

Asked if she could read and write Arabic, she replied: "yeah, not in the fancy, correct way, I can write things to get by". When she came to this country, she didn't know English, except maybe a few words. Her mother knew a few words of English too.

Asked about any particular language problems when she first came, she replied: "It was easy to learn; we learned, I learned how to read and under(stand) and talk much faster than I thought I would".

She didn't know of any books especially written for Syrians and Lebanese to help them. They just used the first grade primers. Asked if they spoke mostly Arabic or English at home, she replied: "We tried to speak English; and we spoke some Arabic, sure, until we learned".

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Darwish Raya | Sex M & F | Age 74 & 72 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite | Country of Origin Lebanon | Immigrant Age 17 & 22

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Los Angeles, Calif. | Date 1962

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

IB1

His wife learned all she knows of English from their children. She always spoke to them in Arabic and told them stories in Arabic.

Her husband ordered books for her from N.Y. in Arabic and she would pass the time reading stories and histories. Also read in French.

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Carl Nassif Sex M & F Age 73 & 69 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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 _____

IIA1

He learned to read and write English in school in the U.S. for 3 years. Catholic school. He taught himself Arabic by reading newspapers here in U.S.

His wife learned English here also - had a private teacher in Minnesota after she was married. She had 8 years of schooling in Ayn Arab, and knew Arabic very well.

Informant Mr. George Malooley | Sex M | Age 73 | Interview Schedule Code VL/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 24

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Lexington, Nebraska | Date 1962

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

I/A/2

Asked if he maintained the traditions, customs and values of the homeland as seemed apparent because he was isolated from Arabs in Lexington or deliberately, he said deliberately because that's the way "we like it and the way we were raised and we wanted to raise our children in our traditions--in one way in particular. If they saw a person, known to them or strangers, they greet him, meet him and benefit themselves. (He was conscious that he was talking for the tape recorder.)

Reminded by the interviewer that he had told her that he didn't learn English well because he didn't want to and because he wanted to maintain Arabic, he said: "That's true".

Informant Mrs. Malaki Bhennessey | Sex F | Age 74* | Interview Schedule Code VL/7

Religious Sect Melkite | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Los Angeles, California | Date 1962

*deduced from information given

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

I/A/1

Informant didn't know any English (she speaks with an accent, but well) when she came; she learned it all here. She studied Arabic in Zahle. It took time to learn English but she was among Americans all the time.

II/7

VI/7

Informant Mrs. Mary Schervish Sex F Age 88 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite* Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa 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 _____

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant William Abbott Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill Date July 9, 1980

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

IA1 Neither parent ever learned to read or write Arabic or English or any language.

VI/7

VI/8

Informant Cecilia B. McMurray Sex F Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 5

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date June 13, 1980

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

IA2 Cecelia's mother read and wrote Arabic.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age ____ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Mr. Shabo lost his job[1] changing beer barrels in the hotel because he couldn't understand English and brought his boss a broom, a basket, a barrel, when he had asked for a piece of paper. So he took the $10/check, severance pay, and gave it to his friend who had the store, for merchandise which he decided to peddle.

[1] Mr. Shabo learned to say "Yes, Sir" quickly.
The boss was a big English man with a big moustache and a derby hat.
The boss kicked him out after he tried to suggest to another Syrian who could understand English to take his place and he would do the other Syrian's job, washing dishes in the cellar.

[2] He explained that he didn't steal anything, nor had he been in a fight, because he didn't know how to fist-fight; in the old country they used knives.

Informant Mr. Peter Fawaz | Sex M | Age 73 | Interview Schedule Code VI / 7

Religious Sect Orthodox? | Country of Origin Syria? | Immigrant Age 21

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Manchester, New Hampshire | Date August 1962

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

Side I
426-501

When they first came to the U.S., there wasn't a church for the Arabs. They would go to their brothers, the Greeks', church on feasts like Xmas and Easter (al-fasih, paques???). For two years the informant went to a Protestant church so (he) they could hear English spoken, first of all; and then it was a church, built by clergy with God's intention and he had no difference with it. I think he says that he participated and then quit. He was still single at the time.

In 1915 (or 1913-14) a priest (Melkite?) to serve them who stayed a couple of years. The priest would say the liturgy in the Irish church. Then came a Maronite priest, al-Khuri Zeitoun, who stayed 2-3 yrs. and they used to go to him. After he left, they began to get a priest from Lawrence (???) (Melkite) every 2-3 (hatt or hattain, thleti); he would say liturgy for them. And a Maronite priest would come (there were two priests in Lawrence???); they had with them al-ma'douniyi[1](???) from the metropolitan there; each one would come and say liturgy.

???

This continued until 1953.

Informant Alexander K. Malik | Sex M | Age 71* | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

While the informant was in Detroit during World War I, the draft began, but because the informant was a Turkish subject, they didn't draft him. But the informant volunteered and became an interpreter because he spoke a little English, French, Turkish; good Russian, in addition to Arabic.

Informant Mr. Edward Ellis Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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, 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.

IV/2

VI/13/2

VI/13/f

VI/7

Informant Mrs. Mary Maloley | Sex F | Age 65 | Interview Schedule Code VI / 7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 15

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 II
245-445

Informant did not know any English before she arrived in the U.S.

When she first arrived in the U.S. a Mr. Burd (???) Abu Yarid took her to Ottawa Beach, Michigan to a lady (not sure if she was Syrian) whose father owned the Morton hotel.[1] This lady began to teach the informant English.[2] The informant began to be aware and learned easily.
The lady's name was Margaret. She was the same age as the informant and they played together and stole ~~from-the-sayih-(???)~~ apples from the farm.

Ottawa Beach was about 20 miles from Grand Rapids.

[1]They were friends of the family.

[2]Margaret would point to things like water or bread and say the names in English.

The informant also learned English from the girls she worked with at the candy factory.

Informant Mr. Peter Fawaz Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox? Country of Origin Syria? Immigrant Age 21

Interviewer Alixa 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

On arrival in Ellis Island, he was asked his name and where he was going. He translated for himself as he knew a few words. There was an interpreter there, but the informant he completed his transaction translating for himself in English. He knew a little English, which he had learned from his brother who had graduated from Beirut College; his brother taught him some words before he came.

II/7
IV/1
II/7

Informant Mr. Charles Bojrab Sex M Age 40's* Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox? Country of Origin United States Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

*approximate, inferred from information given

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

Side II
088-110

Informant sings the folk song "Lindy, Lindy, ya Tayyar"; this is a song commemorating the solo transatlantic flight of Charles Lindbergh. The informant knows the basic theme of the song and the meaning of some of the words.

He sings with a traditional Arabic accent (nasal). The informant says the song was written in America.

Informant Mrs. Mary (Mariam) Sayfee Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect _____ 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
0-94

Informant did not know a word (actually only 1 "bad" word) of English when she came to the U.S.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

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

Side I
126-331

Informant did not experience any discrimination in school in Spring Valley, because most of the students were Italian.

Informant attended school also in Ft. Wayne, but did not understand English enough to know if the other students looked down on her or not.

Informant Mrs. Selma (Salimi) Salhaney Sex F Age 84 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 32

ewer 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
0-86

actually from when they boarded the ship
When informant and family arrived in the U.S./they did not continue to dress as in the old country but they did continue to fix Syrian foods. The communication and socializing was in Arabic (sahras), in the community.

Informant Mrs. Selma Bonahoom Sex F Age ____ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect ~~Orthodox~~ Melkite Country of Origin United States Immigrant Age n.a.

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 II
718-786

Apparently the immigrants who had been here longer would on occasion teach the newly arrived ones bad words for good words, e.g. "go to hell" for "good morning".

Informant recalls an incident her father related: this peddler cursed a woman, in Arabic, each time she refused to buy an item. She understood him because she had been a missionary and knew Arabic. She called the police who arrested him. The informant's father was called in because he was a judge (respected man) in the Syrian community. Her father severely chastised the man "What possessed you, what made you use that language." The man was frightened and pleaded and promised never to do it again. The informant's father was humiliated, told the man that he should be hung, that he was a disgrace to their people .... He then vouched for the man with the judge, that the man would never repeat his action, and he was excused. The informant felt that it's not right to use that kind of language to any woman, no matter if she can understand or not.

Informant Alexander K. Malik Sex M Age 71* Interview Schedule Code VI / 7

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

Four Syrian men were arrested for wearing their night gowns outside their homes and smoking a Turkish pipe. Since they could not speak English, Mr. Malik explained that that was there custom in the old country--to put on their nightgowns, drink some araq and smoke their Turkish pipes. They weren't trying to insult or harm anyone. The officers took his word and released them to him. He hired a buggy for them since they had their night gowns on. The police would not take them back.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo  Sex M  Age ____  Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Mr. Shabo contrasts old funeral mourning custom -- 40 days of wearing black/not moving, celebrating. They would wail (biwelwalu, byindibu). If the family was wealthy, they would hire professional mourners.[1] These laments would be spontaneous,/improvised. People would cry, made to cry from the laments. It was requisite. poetry-like
(Mr. Shabo relates this memory, oral ability at improvisation to his own mental calculations concerning his business and his ability to retain numerical/data in his mind--he does record them in his book.) and other

They would do a sad/zalaghiit for the dead. These customs were throughout the old country, not just in Damascus, or the mountains.

Mr. and Mrs. Shabo don't personally remember these nadab (laments) to sing them. You'd have to go to the old country to hear them now.
He says that now after a funeral, the people celebrate with a banquet, laughter, songs.

[1] women; they would not make a mistake; they knew everyone.
They have died now, these women.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad | Sex F | Age 74 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Her husband came as a child to the U.S.; his family ran an olive place (I'm not sure, store, press, factory--m'atar) in Damascus; it was a good family. He didn't need money or need to come to America. He was sent to avoid being drafted into the Turkish army, to his brother-in-law's (their daughter's husband's).[1] He stayed there a year, not working. He was 18 yrs. old. His father sent him a living allowance from the old country. There was no work for him and he couldn't speak English.

and others who thought about the old country

I think she says he asked about returning/but was told that there was war in Damascus (not sure about this).

[1] Khalil Ayoub

Informant Mrs. Selma Bonahoom Sex F Age _____ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin United States Immigrant Age n.a.

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 II
160-280

Informant's father was very hospitable. Would come home with meat under one arm and guests on the other and tell his wife to prepare a meal (dinner).

Informant's father was a good singer. Informant doesn't remember his songs, but she remembers guests from Australia (Syrians). Her father improvised songs about their youth/friendship in the old country. One man left the room weeping.

Informant's father wrote songs, etc. down, but informant gave them and Arabic books away (to others who presumably could read Arabic) because she couldn't read Arabic (to/Julia Tawil in L.A. and another friend in Chicago).

her husband /

who lives near the Syrian church in L.A. (St. Ann's--Melkite ???)

VI/19

VI/18

VI/16

VI/7

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Informant's husband worked in a hotel (Essex), about 7 years.
They were living at the time in her sister's home. He was 21 years old at the time (wulid ibn 20-21 sinii).[1]
Her husband could write Arabic; her sister's family could not.
He was the one who wrote the letters to the old country for the family.

[1]This was before their marriage.

Informant Alexander K. Malik Sex M Age 71* Interview Schedule Code VI / 7

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

Mr. Malik was not satisfied as a bookkeeper because of the salary.

He had cousins in Grand Rapids, Michigan, who were very successful in business--Oriental goods. One of his cousins wanted him to start the same business. And so he traveled with him (peddling ???) for 6 months, but he did not like it.

They used to travel by train and when he would arrive in a city to sell, he would hire a buggy (horse and) and before the end of the day he would go to any educational institution such as college or university to listen or study. And they accepted him. He used to attend classes and he asked them many things. And he wanted to learn their ways. And so they paid him a great respect and gave him good help, enabling/him to study the English language.
giving him a chance
The informant always, had had the desire to go back to school to study more.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/7

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
000-491
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

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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
000-491
55

The informant's two sisters had a hard time when they first came to America, because they couldn't speak English; they couldn't even read and write Arabic. That was the trouble.
They followed her mother's footsteps; she didn't want to learn. They got married so young. The men and women worked. One of her sisters had no children so she went to work[1] at a rubberhood??? company (where they made rubbers???). She made $9/week in the beginning, which was good wages for that time.

or rather good

krullers

[1]Someone took her there.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad | Sex F | Age 74 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

(or m'burri

There was a leader in the Boston Syrian community. His name was Assad ibn Durzi (???) They talk of him in their church, St. John[1]. He was educated in a college, and well-loved. He got married and became a leader in the church.

And in St. George's church there was a similar leader--Gurios ad-Daraani. He was muqtadir (???), had money, spoke English better than anyone else. He acted as an agent,[2] buying tickets for the immigrants to send to their relatives in the old country to come. (She calls him a kind of ticket agent, seems to me to be a forerunner of a travel agent.) He would buy the necessary tickets for the people (coming & going - traveling)

Every church had its leaders who took care of the people, were responsible for them (diir bellu alayhun).

[1] Whenever informant mentions deceased people, she always asks God's mercy on them "All yerhamu, al-marhuum.....".

[2] This is another man, Saliim Ayyoub.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI / 7

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

The Syrian community did not have an entire range of stores to satisfy the community's needs. They would go to the large American stores, especially for clothing (dresses-fasatiin) Syrians did not have dry goods stores at first. This next section was difficult to understand:
The community was not closed in on itself.
She talks about "istarjah" (everything was cheap) and relates this to "job-lock??? lot???"
Everyone had someone who would explain to him in English. They would have an agreement where everything was cheap ( I think she may be using an Arabicized English expression store-job, and meaning that people could buy things cheaper-- perhaps if they worked in the store.

The Syrians adapted, they worked with Americans and saw everything.
They learned how to recognize prices of items (???)--$10, $15. It was not difficult.
↓ marked with price tags

One grocery store would bring Arab products from Syria or Lebanon or New York. where there were wholesale grocery stores. ~~I think she may mention the names of the families who operated the wholesale stores in NY~~. I'm just not sure.

VI/3/c

VI/11

VI/3/f

VI/18

VI/7

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar  Sex M  Age 65  Interview Schedule Code ~~VI~~/7

Religious Sect Orthodox  Country of Origin Syria  Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff  City Ft. Wayne, Indiana  Date July 1962

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

Side I
000-731

Mr. Azar comments on the hardship of leaving one's family in the old country and not knowing the language of the new country. The only words one learned well were the household words (???), because the need to make a living precluded the chance to study English better (this is implied in his statement)

III/1
IV/4
V/7

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

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

Tape II
Side II
105-300

in the Middle East mosques

When the Arabs/didn't have schools or churches or ~~organizations~~ for education, they focused on the Arabic language, and the perfection of it (the high language).[1] God gave them this language. And they used to speak poetry to each other.

Among the Arabs there are three social (economic) classes: high, medium, and low. He tells a story about a marriage between two people from different classes. The boy can't read or write, but wants to obtain the daughter who has been hidden from him; he asks someone for a poem to recite in order to obtain the girl; finally after asking for this poem day after day, he is told the name and location of the girl (I think this is the meaning of the story???).

The desert Arabs studied Arabic and recorded every detail of it.

[1] The everyday language we speak is weak (by comparison).

Informant Mr. Peter Fawaz  Sex M  Age 73  Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox?  Country of Origin Syria?  Immigrant Age 21

Interviewer Alixa Naff  City Manchester, New Hampshire  Date August 1962

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

Side I
311-360

Mr. Fawaz learned English in the U.S. from books; he paid a man who taught him the alphabet to begin with. Then he managed to learn English on his own.

He says he reads English but can't write it; there are still a few words he can't _____(yithayaaha???). But if he wants to write a letter to his children, he can and does so.

Mr. Fawaz concentrated more on the Arabic language than on English. He came from the old country, not knowing Arabic well. In two years they had been taught the (Arabic) alphabet and the first book and that was it (just like the first two years in grammar school in the U.S.). So when he came to the U.S. he wanted (had in mind) to study Arabic because he didn't want to forget it and so that he could read and write it well.

I think he says that he exerted 100 times the effort (tl'aat bil-'arabi akthar ma tl'aat 100 times ala al-inkliizi) to learn Arabic than to learn English.

Informant Mr. Joseph Kirby Sex M Age 66** Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect _____ Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age 21**

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

* Informant was born in Mardin, Turkey **inferred from data given

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

Side II
131-140

Mr. Kirby says that he read a lot, the story of Antar, Firouz-shah (or fi Russia, or firdouz-shah) the story of Ali Zier(or Ziba)

He has American and Russian history books.

He is not certain whether his children will preserve his books.

He then recites in classical Arabic poem of Antar ( a portion ???)
He knows also about the mu'allaqat and recites, I think from one of them.

Informant Mr. Dan Sickrey Sex M Age 80 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 18

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
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.

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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

Mr. Cory taught himself English, as he peddled. At the homes in which he slept the young people would come and they would talk with him asking him what the words were for certain objects and he would answer in Arabic and they would teach him the English word for the objects.

Informant Mr. Edward Ellis | Sex M | Age 74 | Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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

He didn't know a word of English when he emigrated; he learned about a hundred words on the boat from a man who had been here who came with them. He learned how to ask for a drink of water, for something to eat, and a place to sleep.

III/1
IV/7
III/3

Informant MRS. Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age _____ Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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
000-296

Both are aware there are many in Arabic

Mrs. Shabo does not know any Arabic proverbs./ In the U.S. they had no older people in the family to learn them from.

Mr. Shabo remembers everything was focused on work and riyaz (???).

I think Mrs. Shabo says that people had a good time at their home always. All it took was for somebody to stop by and drinks would be served and a good time would be had by all.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age ____ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 he returned to his job at the hotel, the boss fed him. The next day he was concerned what to do with the check he had given Mr. Mdarwi for $10, his severance pay, which he used to buy merchandise to peddle. He went out and sold his remaining goods and in one hour made a $5 profit. A woman who made a $3 purchase and realized he was saying "goodbye"for"good morning" and was amused, tried to teach him the difference, he was afraid that when she called to him she was going to take the $3 back. He didn't care as long as he had the $3. This was something, to make $5 in one hour. Mr. Mdarwi was surprised.

As a result of his great success he decided to peddle during the day and work the hotel job at night. And so he did for 3-4 months. He began to speak English. His boss really liked him. Then the boss announced to the employees that "the wholesale failed??"[1]and so Mr. Shabo was glad he had his own job. The $10 check really made him a business man.

~~1 Mr Shabo didn't understand why he was called because he understood English more.~~

[1]I guess that meant that some employees were laid off.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age _____ Interview Schedule Code IV/7

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.



So they were tough.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age _____ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Mr. Shabo never went to school in the old country, because his family put him to work from the age of 7.

So he didn't know English or Arabic. Even now he cannot read and write.[1] He can sign his name and work with numbers. He keeps everything in his head.

[1]Although he says he is a businessman who has many customers and made a lot of money.

Informant Mrs. Mary (Mariam) Sayfee Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VC/7

Religious Sect _____ 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
0-94

Informant had no difficulty adjusting to life in America. Her brother taught her English and planned to send her to school but she was not strong enough and so did not attend school.

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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

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

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code VI/z

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

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.

Informant Mrs. Rose LaBa Sex F Age 84 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

Religious Sect Catholic* Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 14

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

*possibly Orthodox

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

Side I
499-545

After assessing the reason for Germany's problem leading to WWI, Mrs. LaBa sings a line (mis-stated by her) from "My Country Tis of Thee"--from every mountain side and every country (which she seems to pronounce dountry)".

She then comments that they did come from every "mountainside"--

like scrap (???).

X/2/c
X/2/b
VI/7

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

???
Assad Mberri,/a leader in the Boston Syrian community, could speak English and was very good. she says something about his learning English--perhaps had difficulty
But Saliim Ayyoub,/became an agent, sending and bringing people.
in Boston this was Saliim Ayyoub
The leaders/would take a newly arrived immigrant, one who couldn't speak English and find them a job. He would take a girl to a factory where Syrians were employed. He would ask them for a job for her.
priest
he became a priest (doesn't say what he did before, or where he became/
Also a priest,/al-Khuri an-Nahas, who spoke English a little, took a 16 year old girl/, either employed her himself/or ~~more likely~~ took her to find a job.
to take care of the church
whose family wanted her to work (I have the impression she may have been born here)
And she worked. or aunt???
If the girl's family/wanted to give $5-10 to the church, they would say this is the first _____ (abud???) I want to give to the church.

VI/5

VI/7

III/1

VI/11

VI/20/6

VI/9/2

Value - devotion to the church

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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
744-819

When the Arabic school was first established in Boston, the priest Sliman Fernani was the pastor, from Damascus (min 'andna). He couldn't teach all by himself. So informant taught first class and he taught second class. They didn't have a classroom, so I think she indicates that they divided ~~a room up (perhaps in his or her home~~ the church hall in half. At the beginning she had 15 students and he had about 15 students, but later the numbers dwindled until he had 6 and she had 4, because of lack of interest. There were some who cared and some who didn't.
Some woman asked her if they (should???) be teaching their children Arabic or English? She told the woman that she was born and raised in the old country, that she reads and writes English, that she doesn't make mistakes in Arabic writing, that her children learn English in school and in the home she wants to teach them Arabic and speaks to them in Arabic. She then states that her son Antoun writes and read makatiib (letters) Arabic. (It's obvious that she is proud of her son--my comment.)

Informant Mrs. Rose LaBa | Sex F | Age 84 | Interview Schedule Code III/7

Religious Sect Catholic* | Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon | Immigrant Age 14

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Ft. Wayne, Indiana | Date July 1962

*possibly Orthodox

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

Side I
725-827

Mrs. LaBa mentions that in the old country they would go to grade school and then the rich would go to a boarding school, which was expensive (Catholic).

They studied 7-10 languages--German, English, French.

When a man or boy heard and wanted to meet a girl who attended the school, he would come to the school and ask to see her. The nun would dress and make-up the girl (white powder only no red powder) and fix her hair. They would be introduced, but not touch one another; he had no right to touch her. They would sit in tall, formal chairs in a salon.

II/7

II/13

Informant Mrs. Mary Abraham* Sex F Age 63 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 23

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

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

* and Mrs. Anisie Zakem, Mrs. Rasmiya Barakat, Mrs. Khazna Khouri, and Mrs. Minnie Barakat.

Side I
000-072

The immigrants did not know English when they arrived in America, except to count--1,2,3,4.

But those who were already here had learned English, and those who had been here one or two months would teach the newcomers the few words they had already learned--what to say to sell, to indicate he was hungry (cookies and milk) and when he needed a place to stay for the night.
And there was a man who had studied English/in the old country before immigrating.

There was a book/pamphlet which related the experiences (peddling) of the Syrian immigrants. Whichever informant had the book, it had been lost.

Informant Mrs. Latifee Cory Sex F Age 64-66 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 11-13

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

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

SideII
392-460

After her father-in-law's work on the railroad ended, he was taught English by two women who were teachers for a period of three months, which helped him considerably.

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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 Before he peddled for the first time, Mr. Cory was taught a couple of words: hello, good morning, good day, buy something ya ma'am.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age ____ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Mr. Shabo learned his English from peddling--"buy something lady, good morning, goodbye".

He went to night school for 1 week; played with his moustache in class, everybody laughed at him. I can't understand the tape but I think his teacher reprimanded him and it was a shame (???) he never went back. But when the school closed his teacher (female) sent him a diploma in the mail (Quincy school in Boston), yet he never learned anything there.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age ____ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

although he does know the ABC's

Mr. Shabo cannot read or write English./ He received a letter of commendation[1] from the president of the chamber of commerce and had someone read it to him.

Mr. Shabo burned the letter and was chastised by the person who read it to him for doing so; he told him he should frame it and it would be important to his grandchildren.

[1] for all the work he did, different from the rest of the people in Boston (???)

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age ____ Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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 he came, he didn't know what kind of work he would be doing.

The day after he arrived in Boston, he was given a job washing dishes in a hotel, Boyleston St. (???). He was working in the third flight down in the cellar. He was earning $20/month.

After a couple of weeks, his boss asked him to help him move beer barrels. Mr. Shabo didn't want his boss to get his clothes dirty. The boss told him he couldn't move them by himself. Mr. Shabo says he is sure the man swore at him, curious to see how he would move them. The barrels were a kind of system, with ice inside that pumped the beer cold upstairs. The success which Mr. Shabo had in arrangeing the barrels, exchanging the empty ones for full ones, prompted his boss to give the job permanently.

The Syrian worker in the restaurant part was upset that Mr. Shabo was given the new job at $30 a month, when he just arrived in the U.S. while they had been there years and didn't make that kind of money or have that type of job.

So Mr. Shabo told the man he could have the job/and the man died after threedays on the new job.

worked from 4-12.

So Mr. Shabo finally got the job; he told the boss he didn't know English, but the boss told him he would learn.

Informant Mr. Joseph Kirby Sex M Age 66** Interview Schedule Code XII/7

Religious Sect _____ Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age 21**

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

* Informant was born in Mardin, Turkey **inferred from data given

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

Side II
131-140

Mr. Kirby says something about Germany buying a book written 13 years ago (???) and lau fihun sahab bain al-'alam, kanu a'alamu awlad al-madaris sirat Salah ad-Din al-Ayyubi (and if they had friends among the peoples, they would have taught their children the story of Salah ad-Din al-Ayyubi???.).

Mr. Kirby says Salah ad-Din was famous and holy and a Muslim and relates a story to prove his point: the crusaders took over the Orthodox churches and prayed in them; the crusaders captured from the muslims and vice versa; one day(Ithink this is the meaning of the story) Salah-ad-Din, riding a horse, showed more fear of God (or respect????) than the crusaders by offering to release them; and there were cardinals and metropolitans[1], but he was the best one of them all.

[1] kanu hainiin or khainiin???

X/2/a
X/2/b
XI/17

Informant Mrs. Selma Bonahoom Sex F Age _____ Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect ~~Orthodox~~ Melkite Country of Origin United States Immigrant Age n.a.

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 II
067-094

Mrs. Bonahoom's mother taught her to use the smoke from a burned rag to heal a sore or cut. She still uses this remedy and has taught it to her children. She is convinced of its efficacy.

and possibly chick peas (???)
She also remembers the use of sumac/and another weed (khabaizi???) to wash sore eyes.

with qdhami around it
She remembers boiling wheat/for the first tooth, but this custom has died.

She regrets the loss of the traditional funeral,[1] with lamenting and mourning, because it allowed people to cry and relieved the pain a little. Because the lamenting is done by women, when a woman had a daughter, people would say that she would have a good funeral.

impossibility
She comments on the difficulty/of translating Arabic words into English, using the word batir (tragedy???) as used in the funeral ritual as an example.

Current funeral practices are a three-ring circus.

**Informant** Mrs. Latifee Cory **Sex** F **Age** 64-66 **Interview Schedule Code** VII/7

**Religious Sect** Orthodox **Country of Origin** Syria **Immigrant Age** 11-13

**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
121-320 The informant did not know enough English when she immigrated.
The informant learned the ABC's in school in the old country, the first books, but she did not know how to speak English.
She had attended the Russian school in the village and then went to the Protestant school where she was taught by al-mu'allimi Rougina who was a Baptist.
Some man[1] came to the informant's father to criticize his sending his daughter to the Protestant school.

..

[1] her maternal uncle

III/7
III/8
III/7

Informant Alexander K. Malik Sex M Age 71* Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Mr. Malik did not get married in this country right away. He wanted to start a business first. He didn't like the Oriental goods business and he went to work as a clerk in a clothing store in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He was about 20 years old. The store is still in existence.

With his knowledge of English, which was limited, he did very good.

But although he did very well in this store, he wanted to be independent, for himself and so began to sell fresh fruit and produce for a big wholesale house. He worked for about 8 years as a salesman. And he was successful. As he sold for the company, he bought stock with the company. But to his bad luck he always lost the money he invested in the two (???) companies.

But he started a business of his own, then. At first, on a small scale. He had a truck and hired a driver. He would go to the auction at the produce terminal in Detroit and buy the merchandise there and come back to Grand Rapids and sell it to the store dealers, direct. He did this for about a year and was successful.

Informant Mrs. Latifee Cory Sex F Age 64-66 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 11-13

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's father joined him in Canada, he/his father 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.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad | Sex F | Age 74 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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
744-819

Mrs. Abdelahad started a Syrian school in Boston at the reqeust of her church society; she lived across the street from the church and assured her husband, when he asked if she had the time to teach, that she would not neglect any of her house duties, would have everything, supper, ready for him, would wash the dishes.

She would not accept money for her teaching (altho she tells the interviewer she wasn't rich). "The only thing I like to help my people. I wouldn't ask a penny from my church". She taught their priest, Fr. Moses[2] for 2 yrs. and he learned to read Arabic perfectly and say the entire mass (including the gospel) in Arabic. She told him that when he rang the doorbell to visit her, she spoke only Arabic,[1] ~~which she loves,~~ and he would stay for 2-3 hrs. and she would explain everything to him in Arabic, meanings of words, voweling.

Informant is pleased "God bless you" to learn that the interviewer is learning Arabic and wishes she had a teacher like the informant.

There are a couple of short passages in this area of the tape that I could not understand.

[1] He told her that he loved that. ??? I think the priest complimented her on how she put her head down in humility - Mediterranean custom - but not sure)

[2] Fr. Paul Moses

she told him he was smart - she didn't teach just anyone, or he did

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VC/7

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

Her father and brother-in-law accompanied her on the train to Beirut. They wouldn't let her come alone on the train.
Of course she could speak English.
When she arrived at the boat, she saw a man from her home town, from the Maloof family,[1] who had gotten married and brought his wife from Beirut, they were coming from their honeymoon. They were in first class. She was in 3rd class. They were concerned that she was coming to the U.S. alone--actually surprised. He couldn't understand how her family could let her come alone. I think he then had her join them for the remainder of the trip, but I'm not sure.

at least during the day

[1]The informant and his sister were schoolmates.

Informant Mr. Edward Ellis Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Informant went to school in the U.S. for one year (November-June) two years after arriving here, to study English.

Informant Mr. Edward Ellis Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Informant peddled for about 3 months when he arrived, but he didn't like it. It was too much (like) begging.

He didn't have any trouble with the Americans to whom he peddled. He had a good understanding right from the beginning, although it was hard to understand the language.

Informant Mr. Edward Ellis  Sex M  Age 74  Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 II
045-115

The informant and interviewer discuss the mourning laments that used to be ~~said~~ sung for the dead. They were in Arabic and can't be done in English, so they are lost (as those knowledgeable in Arabic become fewer, I presume). Mr. Ellis says he didn't mind this custom (nadab) of improvised wailing. It had a real value to it. It showed respect (statement by interviewer concurred with by informant). These wailings are the equivalent of the eulogies given by Americans at funerals.

Mr. Ellis is frequently asked to give eulogies. He praises the man, how good he was, how he provided for his family. He then recites the Arabic equivalent "today we lost a very big man"; this is sung.

Informant Mrs. Mary (Mariam) Sayfee Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect _____ 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
0-94

Informant was taught by her sister-in-law's cousin that "son of a bitch" meant "hello" and that she should say that to a certain woman. The woman chased her with a broom after she said that; the informant began to run, stumbled and fell and began to curse her relative in English. She assumed it must have been a bad word. The Syrians taught each other the "bad words" in English.

Informant Mrs. Mary (Mariam) Sayfee Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect _____ 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
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.

Informant Mr. Peter Fawaz | Sex M | Age 73 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox? | Country of Origin Syria? | Immigrant Age 21

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Manchester, New Hampshire | Date August 1962

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

Side I
311-360

Mr. Fawaz mentions that he has many Arabic books, including the ancient books of Arabic learning (lil'ullaam lil-'arab al-qadim). He has the stories/novels (rwayat) of Gurji Zaidan which he had known of (min 'arafni) for 50 years.

maktubiin haiki (???)

The interviewer reacts to 250 (books, presumably)/which the informant is going to _____ (ghayyibun) so that they can be arranged in a place for them (???--I think another person on the tape says that they are moving "on the 11th").

Interviewer comments that they will make a wonderful library.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age _____ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Mr. Shabo learned quickly his new job, exchanging beer barrels. The man, after three days, told Mr. Shabo that when the phone rang, he should change the barrel, but Mr. Shabo was afraid, didn't know how to tell which barrel.

He couldn't ask his fellow Syrians in the cellar, because they were jealous, mad at him for his new job at $30/month.

He examined all 5 barrels to see which was empty and replaced it. Three days later he received a big shipment of whiskey. He opened the boxes and when the boss asked him to bring him a piece of paper, he didn't understand, thought he wanted him to clean up the mess he made opening the boxes.

VI/7
VI/11

Informant Mr. Charles Bojrab Sex M Age 40's* Interview Schedule Code XI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox? Country of Origin United States Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

* approximate, inferred from information given

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

Side II
053-088

Informant sings the folk song "Barhoom, ya Barhoom"; this is a song about a mother who killed her son, returning from America, whom she mistook to be a rich man, for his money. The informant does understand some of the words of the song and the basic story.

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar  Sex M  Age 65  Interview Schedule Code VII/7

Religious Sect Orthodox  Country of Origin Syria  Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff  City Ft. Wayne, Indiana  Date July 1962

...e in America: Pre World War I ____ World War I ____ 1920's ____ 1930's ____

Side I
000-731

Mr. Azar could only learn certain kinds of words working in a factory (kalaam as-sakia, kalaam as-safee???).

Others who had relatives here would be encouraged to go to school (???).

When he was 17, Mr. Azar really didn't know English or Arabic. So he used to get Arabic newspapers and books (given to him by _____) and thus he learned formal Arabic (nahawi). No one taught him. He began to get magazines and books and would read; I think he says he would read anything he could get his hands on and then discard it. He did not have a dictionary but he learned the meaning of words from context and he read the Old Testament (at-Taurat) and would listen to the priests. If he came across a word he didn't understand, he would work with it until it made sense to him. He used to receive al-Hilal which was a difficult magazine (everyone's writing was included in it). It seemed to take him a year or two to gain some proficiency in Arabic (???--not sure if this is what is referred to--he seems to say "hatta akhadht al-magdalaira" ). What helped him to learn Arabic was Arabic poetry--which has every word in the language--which he would hear at sahras. Mr. Azar mentions composing a poem of 300 or so couplets--no telling who stole it from him.

/bait

/qasida about the Dinni

VI/7
VI/8
VI/22
VI/10
VI/17
VI/16

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age ____ Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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

For about a year, the language problem was the most difficult one for Mr. Shabo. They didn't understand and didn't know what to say or to answer.

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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
121-320

When he immigrated, informant knew neither English nor French.

Informant Mrs. Mary (Mariam) Sayfee Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect _____ 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
0-94

Informant can read prices on items in a store if they are printed, but not if they are figures.

Informant Mr. Peter Fawaz Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox? Country of Origin Syria? Immigrant Age 21

Interviewer Alixa 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 indicates a preference for doing the interview in Arabic.

III/7
X/2/a

Informant George F. Addes Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff & Grant Farr City St. Claire Shores, Michigan Date June 14, 1980

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

IIA1

Mother was the disciplinarian, "my Dad was chicken." But if Father sometimes said something, family members had to respect him and obey him. Father spent a lot of time with informant and his brother's and sisters telling them stories and teaching them Arabic - regular classes. Parents told them stories, jokes, experiences. "They tell us what is right and what is wrong."

Informant Zenib Sabaugh | Sex F | Age 75 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Dearborn, Mich. | Date May 30, 1980

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

She and her husband spoke to their children in Arabic at home, but their children did not learn much Arabic. She tried to get them to learn but they were not interested.

Conversation with:
Informant Hussien Hussien Ayad Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code VI/7
Religious Sect Muslim Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer John P. Brennan City Michigan City, IND. Date Unknown (1972)
Public Library, Michigan City

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

There was no need to converse in anything but Arabic since food, clothes, and all need were brought directly to their residences by merchants of our same origin. All were Arabs, except for Mr. Bloom who sold milk from door to door, using a big water pail.

They remained in this condition,for a time, their lives consisting of going to work, returning home; immigrants as well as new arrivals were subjected to this same existence, excepting for those who had learned English.

Informant William Abbott | Sex M | Age 79 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Spring Valley, Ill | Date July 9, 1980

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

IA1 Mother learned to speak English fluently through peddling, father could never speak it very well.

IA3 Nick Malooley could write Arabic but not English.

Informant William Abbott Sex M. Age 79 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 9, 1980

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

Speaks fair Arabic.

Conversation with:

Informant Mary Agemy | Sex F | Age 83 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 23

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Dearborn, Michigan | Date June 5, 1980

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

She went to school in Highland Park. There were 37 Syrians and 7 were Armenians. Three women taught. Her brother and all others learned except her, she could write but not understand. Her husband had already learned, he was intelligent, he was self-taught. He couldn't understand how she could write and not understand. She couldn't understand because she had never learned Arabic. Her husband had learned Arabic in the village.

Conversation with:

Informant Zenib Sabaugh Sex F Age 75 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Mich. Date May 30, 1980

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

Her children kept on asking why they did not have any church. This was before the existence of the mosque in Dearborn. She explained to them that they prayed in their home and in fact the family always did pray at home.

When the present Sunni mosque did open in the early 1950's even in its incipient stage as a basement of the future building, the community started Arabic classes for the youth, at least for the purposes of reading the Qur'an, but the children didn't want to go. Only her daughter did. This daughter wanted to memorize the Qur'an and did memorize at least most of it. Mrs. Sabaugh wanted to educated her girls.

Conversation with:

Informant Mrs. Fatme Askker | Sex F | Age 78 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 32

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Dearborn, Mich. | Date June 2, 1980

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

She is illiterate in both English and Arabic. She is traditional in some ways but not in others. She covered her head when she showed the interviewer to and from the door but not during the conversation. She condemned Muslims for not educating their children, and praised Christians for educating them, and bringing them up to be more polite. She did not like the new Arab arrivals in her neighborhood, giving an example of one's lack of courtesy by not helping her carry her packages. She said if it had been a Christian he would have helped her.

VI/7
VI/3/f
VI/19

Informant Mrs. Helen Dow | Sex F | Age 67 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Fenton, Michigan | Date June 13, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Mrs. Helen Dow | Sex F | Age 67 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Fenton, Michigan | Date June 13, 1980

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

I/A/1

Informant's father was illiterate in Arabic.

Her mother had rudiments. Mother spoke English fluently because she came to the U.S. at age 13, (when she got married).

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman Sex M Age 68 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Taylor, Michigan Date June 4, 1980

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

I/A/1

Ford Motor Company

Dearborn was called Fordson--named after Henry Ford and his son Edsel. Before that, it was called Spring Wells. Some people called the west part of the city "old Dearborn".

Ford Motor Co. started in Highland Park. Ford "owned all the land" in Dearborn and around. Ford ahd in mind that someday he would move to Dearborn because there was a river, a lake, an airpot and railroad.

There were about 45,000 people in Highland Park and it was considered "the richest little city in America because of Ford Motor Co.".

Manchester was booming economically in the 1920's and early 1930's. Life was cheap ut the rent was high. (Was Manchester a street?)

"The mayor" raised taxes on Arabs on Manchester and Victor (streets?). When the Arabs were emigrating in 1920, they were coming to Michigan City, Indiana in large numbers. When Ford moved to Dearborn, the Arabs started moving to work in the Ford Co. (there were 110,000 workers at the Ford Co). Edsel Ford wanted to move the company somewhere else, but Henry Ford wanted to stay in Dearborn.

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7/11

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

I/A/1

Ford Motor Company, continued, note 2

When Edsel Ford died, Henry Ford II took over the company; he was 28 yrs. old. He fired all "the old timers" and started business up again and expanded it all over. There were then only 20,000 workers in the Rouge Ford plant. Ford was the first to open the "Henry Ford Trade School" around 1929-30. People "learned the trade 4 hrs. and put to work 4 hrs". Workers were paid 75¢/hr.

Back in the 1930's, there was a General Motors Chevrolet plant. Foreigners could not get jobs there because citizenship was required. Blacks could get jobs, as sweepers mostly.

On the other hand, Ford Co. hired "everybody". Henry Ford II was the first to pay $1 an hour wages, but when the company needed money (almost bankrupted), Ford opened a bank in the company and told the workers to deposit $20/week and they would get interest. In this way he saved the company. At that time there was no income tax. A pack of cigarettes cost 8 or 9 cents; a quart of milk cost 4¢; a whole lamb cost $4. Gas was 9¢/gallon.

Another man present at the interview with Mr. Osman stated the following:

Emigrants used to come to Dearborn because of the availability of jobs at Ford and the relatively high wages. Moreover there was training for younger people.

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

I/A/1

Ford Motor Company, continued, note 3

Ford then opened factories in Germany; some of the Arabs who got jobs at Ford, when experienced, became foremen, even thoughthey didn't read or write English. Some uneducated Arabs showed a lot of talent at Ford and they were given responsibilities. If a worker got sick, he would be taken home by a service man, but later he would be checked by an investigator who was sent to the worker's home from the company to see if he really was sick. *

Ford also opened a grocery store for workers in Dearborn. When asked if workers liked Ford because of what he was doing, he replied "Yes, they did". (This was in the late 1920's.)

When a worker had to go to a toilet--toilets had no doors--he had to put his pants down and sit. The service man had to check the toilet before it was flushed to be sure that the worker had actually used the bathroom. If there was no evidence of using the bathroom, the worker would be fired. White shirts were not permitted at work. Workers had to wear blue shirts (working shift); otherwise they were sent home for the day. No smoking was allowed.

He (i.e. Ford?) thought that if a worker was really a hard worker, he would be rewarded.

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code VI/11 7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

Ford Motor Company, continued, note 4

I/A/1 Mr. Ford, founder of the company, claimed "There was no such a thing as IQ test". It's the production that counted. Experience was important. He said "A worker is like a machine, when it breaks, fix it".

When asked about the union, the informant

I/A/2 "The Union was good". And he added:
"Henry Ford done a lot good, but he was bad to the people".

Workers had to buy the product of the company. If a worker drove a car made by another company, he was fired.

"Henry Ford and his people used to check the parking lot. If they found non-Ford product, they would find out who was driving the car, and the man would be dismissed". During late 1918 to early 20's Ford stopped production of cars for about 1½ yrs. There was an old saying in Dearborn "Henry Ford said: you can have any color you loved in a Ford car as long as it was black".

Ford wanted to see a man elected mayor of Dearborn in the late 30's or early 40's, so he layed everybody off who lived in Dearborn and rehired only those who voted for this person. Ford would tell a worker "If that particular man won't win election, I'm going to fire you".
People had to vote for Ford's man to get their jobs back.
There was "a conspiracy" in that there was a campaign office where workers went and got letters to get their jobs.

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code VII/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

Ford Motor Company, continued, note 5

I/A/2 "If you wanted a job in Ford Co. go to City Hall".

I/A/3 The Arabs in Dearborn paid an Arab businessman ($50 to $100) to get jobs at Ford. The businessman paid the Ford Personnel for hiring Arab workers.

II/A/2 In 1935, the Ford Co. police, which were the city police, fired at the crowd of workers' demonstrators and killed 4 people.

II/A/2 If a worker mentioned "the union", he was fired. Even if a worker looked like he thought about the union, or wore a white shirt, or spit on the floor, he was fired.

II/A/3 Father of informant was respected by Arabs who were selling and buying jobs because father did a lot of favors for them.
In normal circumstances, he could get jobs for himself and son (informant) free, because "Arabs owed him a lot of favors". But in 1932 when the Depression was deep, father offered to apy for jobs for him and his son, but he couldn't get any job, knowing that Arabs were selling and buying jobs. (Arab job sellers couldn't sell or give father a job so father was a victim of an Arab value:

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code II/A

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

II/A/3 Ford Motor Company, continued, note 6
shame of taking money from someone who did favors for them, and Arabs couldn't pay the job from their pockets.)

When Mr. Ali Turfe walked in the store, everybody would drop everything and welcome him enthusiasticlaly because he was well-known.

II/A/3 "What was missing in Dearborn was communication", lack of leaders.

I/B/1 Helped people to get their driver's license without asking for money.
He criticized some Arabs for being dishonest.
Turfe was working in Ford Co. Turfe knew servicemen, and helped Arabs to get jobs at Ford, and helped them to solve their problems.
In 1935, informant wanted to get a job so badly but he was turned down because he couldn't see--he had bad left eye, so his uncle went to Ali Turfe and asked him to help informant get a job at Ford.
Turfe asked uncle todo one thing: to send his ~~uncle's~~ next payment to his ~~uncle's parents~~ relatives in Lebanon. (i.e. the uncle's own)

I/B/1 Turfe was only a worker, not a supervisor, but he knew a lot of people in Ford Co. He was helping his people--the Arabs.

The Arabs "were closer together in old days"--1920's and 1930's--"we shared what we had".

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

Ford Motor Company, continued, note 7

I/B/1

Bill Abbas was called a gambler. Informant said "but he was not a gambler". Bill worked at Ford and knew the sheriff, the governor, and all prominent people. Bill came to the U.S. in 1922. He couldn't walk well, so he was asked by 2 Russians in Highland Park to go to WMCA to exercise. He was cured after 6 months and became "strong wrestler".

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

I/B/3

When informant went back to Lebanon in 1921, he spoke no Arabic (because he was born in Michigan City, Indiana). "At that time French took over Lebanon" and opened French schools that also taught Arabic. He learned Arabic and the Koran. He learned to read and write Arabic in 3 months.

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

| | |
|---|---|
| I/B/2 | Went to Lebanon at age 9 in 1921; stayed for 7 years, learned Arabic. |

VII/7
II/7
VII/18

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

II/A/2

When he came back from Lebanon in 1928, he was sent to the 5th grade in Dearborn. But since he stayed 7 years in Lebanon (1921-28), he learned French and Arabic and had forgotten some English. He used to pronounce English words with French pronunciation. Kids in school made fun of him so he beat them up. One month later he was thrown out of school because of his behavior. Uncle who lived near the school hit informant when he was thrown out.

VII/7
VIII/8
VIII/3/f
X/2/6

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

II/A/1

When he returned to Lebanon in 1921 at age 9, he went to a French school. He learned French, Arabic, and read the Qur'an in (Tebnine).
When he came back to Dearborn in 1921, he went to Salina school, 5th grade. Because he didn't speak or write English well, kids made fun of him and he hit them, so he was thrown out of school. Uncle who lived near the school, returned him to school and with special attention, he caught up with English.

Informant Mahomed Wazney | Sex M | Age 90 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim | Country of Origin Lebanon | Immigrant Age 25

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Dearborn, Michigan | Date June 3, 1980

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

Ability in Arabic language good.

Informant Mahomed Wazney Sex M Age 90 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 25

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 3, 1980

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

IIB1 Wife said that informant was "the Boss" of the family. He said that his wife was "the Boss in the kitchen."
Wife took care of the children and had some authority as disciplinarian but not "all the authority."

IIB1 Informant taught his children Qur'an and reading/writing Arabic. Taught the children not to eat pork, in short how to be a Muslim Arab. All the family, including the wife, who is American, read Qur'an.

VI / 20 / ∞ -
VI / 19
VI / 6
VI / 7
VI / 14 -

Informant Mahomed Wazney Sex M Age 90 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 25

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 3, 1980

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

IB1

He spoke a little English before he came to U.S. because he bought an English book and learned words from it.

Informant Mahomed Wazney | Sex M | Age 90 | Interview Schedule Code VII/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim | Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) | Immigrant Age 25

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Dearborn, Michigan | Date June 3, 1980

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

IA2 In Michigan City there was a man who taught Arabic to "all Arab children." When asked when, his wife said "when our children were babies." Later informant stated that it was in early 1920's. The teacher taught children Qur'an and reading and writing Arabic. There is a school in Dearborn for Arab children where his grandchildren went.

IB2 In Michigan City, he wanted to go to school to learn English around 1914. So he went to a school and asked if he could take night school. The school offered to provide a teacher if informant could gather a group of people who wanted to learn English. So he gathered twenty people and they were given a teacher. (didn't say if they were all Arabs.)

IB3 Went to night school in South Bend, Ind. and studied also some Portuguese. The principal of the school taught informant in class "how to eat, how to act, how to meet a woman, everything."

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code VL/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

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

Speaks excellent Arabic.

Attended Arabic-Russian Missionary School, in homeland, for 5 years.
Learned English in homeland for 3 months, knew alphabet.

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

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

IA3

Most Syrian Arabs peddled, didn't know any other way to make a living. One who could read and write would open store and sell to them. He would not recruit them.

Most were bachelors, but many were married.
Some peddled on foot , some had horse and buggies. Loneliness a problem but forced him to learn English. He used to read English at every opportunity, in R.R. stations and farm homes, including Sears Roebuck catalogs. People would try to correct him and he welcomed it. He started out knowing only alphabet. Quotes proverb in Arabic, "If a day goes by and I don't gain knowledge, I don't add that day to my life."

IB1

By 1912, men had married and had homes and families so women didn't peddle.

IIA2

In 1930 some were still peddling but on different scale. Sold imported rugs, made in Italy and Japan, in cities and to farmeres. (seems to be confused here between WW1 and WW2 - talks about products coming in from Europe because of Marshall Plan.)

In 1930 they used cars and stayed in hotels. Some worked on WPA - gave men $1./day a living wage.

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

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

IB1 Mrs. Abodeely went to school in Mexico and learned Spanish well after 4 to 5 years. She was going to be a nun - prefers to be a grandmother. Had couple of months at night school. Husband had no schooling here. Was self taught in English.

VI/20/d
VI/8
VI/7

Informant Mr. Joseph Couri | Sex M | Age 65 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Peoria, Illinois | Date July 15, 1980

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

I/A/1 Informant learned some Arabic from his grandfather. Grandfather was advised by someone in the church that he would confuse the children if he tried to teach them Arabic, so he stopped.

I/B/3 His parents spoke Arabic at home, but later they spoke half-Arabic, half-English.

Wife's parents spoke good English.

Informant Mr. Alex G. Haddy | Sex M | Age 79 | Interview Schedule Code VI-7

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 _____

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Mr. Joseph Couri | Sex M | Age 65 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Peoria, Illinois | Date July 15, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Poor

Informant Mr. Alex G. Haddy | Sex M | Age 79 | Interview Schedule Code XC/7

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 spoke good English.

I/B/1 Informant's wife spoke very little Arabic at home; she was American born.

Informant Aliya Ogdie Hassan Sex F Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Mich. Date June 2, 1980

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

Speaks good Arabic.

Informant Wagha Sophiea | Sex F | Age 80 | Interview Schedule Code J1/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Lebanon | Immigrant Age 20

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Royal Oak, Mich. | Date May 28, 1980

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

IA1 Informant got her citizenship in 1939 in order to bring her mother here. She voted only recently.

IB2 Her husband never got involved in politics, didn't vote. She has gotten involved in American politics very recently. She was too busy working before and didn't know a good from a bad candidate and couldn't read English.

She knew about and liked FDR because he repealed Prohibition, because she heard him on the radio, and because he was in office so long.
Her son votes Democratic sometimes and generally for the individual in presidential elections.

Informant Wagha Sophiea Sex F Age 80 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 20

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Royal Oak, Mich. Date May 28, 1980

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

IB1

Arabic was spoken at home. Norman didn't speak English until after he started kindergarten at age 5. Now he speaks less English than his brothers.

Although son and nephew don't speak Arabic they understand much of what is said, they love Arabic music but don't understand the words.

Informant Wagha Sophiea | Sex F | Age 80 | Interview Schedule Code VI / 7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Lebanon | Immigrant Age 20

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Royal Oak, Mich. | Date May 28, 1980

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

Speaks good Arabic. Attended village school for 6 to 7 years. Reads and writes Arabic.

Informant Aliya Ogdie Hassan Sex F Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Mich. Date June 2, 1980

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

IIA2

Her father couldn't read or write English or Arabic, but would have newspapers read to him. Most Arabs in S.F. both Christian and Muslim, couldn't read or write.

Arabic newspapers would come to the general store and people would go there to listen to others read to them out loud.

Her children speak Arabic, but her grandchildren don't.

She thinks Arabic is very import and should be required for all children of Arabic decent as a second language. It is especially important for Muslim children since the Qur'an is in Arabic.

Informant Mrs. Mary Agemy Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code W/Z

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 23

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 5, 1980

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

I was in Ellis Island 19 days. My husband and brother went to get me. I was advanced in years. My brother said to my husband. Nothing will do but you go get her and she will marry you.

It was difficult for me at Ellis Island because I was "advanced in years", could not read or write and had no one who would provide for my support. I really didn't need anyone to support me. My brother was here; he had been here 7 or 8 years. But Americans would not allow anyone in who was not educated (literate?).

There was a man from the Biqa'a behind me who prodded me saying tell them Maryam at least the ABC in Arabic--I couldn't. All he wanted was for me to say the ABC in Arabic. I couldn't.

They kept cautioning me lest I make a mistake. My brother was ahead of me with his wife who could read and write. She was Christian. My brother married her in Saida and she converted to Islam and she was a sister among us.

Informant Mrs. Mary Agemy Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 23

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 5, 1980

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

I know how to sign my name.

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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 _____

II/A/447 Tells about Dr. Arbeely and using his book. Says it helped him learn English so that when he went to school, knowing English. He also learned Arabic from that book.

II/A/642 More about school.

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code VII/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

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

I/A

A man from Mhaithie, who taught Arabic in homeland, taught immigrants Arabic in church. Not many attended--too strict--whipped children. In U.S. not allowed. Told authorities who stopped him. He returned to homeland.

Parents wanted Arabic to be taught. English took precedence; others tried teaching Arabic; didn't go over well.

Children didn't work; went to school.

Principal of neighborhood school recommended immigrant children be sent to special school for teaching immigrants. "Special" school--public school.

His father disapproved so he attended neighborhood school. Attended kindergarten at age 13, embarrassed; moved up quickly--a grade each month until 3rd grade. Other Syrian children in school. Third class different--father finally agreed to special school until 5th grade and left school permanently.

Informant Mr. Eli Busada | Sex M | Age 87½ | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Washington, D.C. | Date April 22, 1980

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

I/B

Eli had a sister who worked in husband's store all day and husband worked in tannery. When he came to store after work, she could tell him everything. She couldn't read or write, but she kept everything in her head. Sometimes a child would help her. She worked from about 7 a.m. to 4 or 5 p.m. when husband returned from tannery and went home to cook dinner. This was during late 20's and all through the 1930's.

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

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

I/B

Mrs. Busada interjects: Father wouldn't speak English to children; made them learn to speak Arabic. Also to read and write in Arabic classes in church.

Cousin who married 1st cousin (bint 'am) without dispensation in homeland, lost teaching job in village; so came to U.S. and taught Arabic in church.

II/11
III/ 7
III/8
III/9/2

Informant Jack A. Hamady Sex M Age 71 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 11

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Flint, Mich. Date June 13, 1980

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

Speaks fair Arabic.

Informant Mrs. Nellie Khouri Jacobs Sex F Age 71 Interview Schedule Code IV/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 7, 1980

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

IA2 Children wouldn't learn to speak Arabic. Understood it but spoke English.

IB3 Agrees her father's house was mainly a Syrian household. Parents spoke Arabic and ate Syrian food.

IB3 Claims traditional rituals changed with second generation (hers). They Americanized very fast - "No more wailing at funerals, but earlier, the more they showed emotion the more they thought it was great."

VI/19

X/2/a

X/2/c

III/7

Informant Mr. Raymond Hamden | Sex M | Age ca.40 | Interview Schedule Code ~~VI~~/7

Religious Sect Druze | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Arlington, Virginia | Date December 5, 198

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

Telephone conversation with Dr. Raymond Hamden, Arlington, VA, 12-5-80

Dr. Hamden confirmed that his father was one of the peddlers who sold to coal miners in West Virginia. His father came in 1921, had the equivalent of one years schooling before he came; knew no English. He had two brothers who were already established.

Dr. Hamden's father told him that in the coal mines of that Appalachian area, there were isolated immigrant communities in which the immigrants communicated solely in their native tongue -- among them Hungarians and Italians so that the father had to learn Hungarian and Italian words before English. He soon picked up English, however and by 1930 the father had opened a restaurant and later moved to Princeton W.VA and began a real estate business, buying property and building buildings.

Informant ~~Mr.~~ Mrs. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 121-320 The informant did not know enough English when she immigrated. The informant learned the ABC's in school in the old country, the first books, but she did not know how to speak English. She had attended the Russian school in the village and then went to the Protestant school where she was taught by al-mu'allimi Rougina who was a Baptist. Some man[1] came to the informant's father to criticize his sending his daughter to the Protestant school.

[1] her maternal uncle

t/III

t/II

Informant Mrs. Nellie Khouri Jacobs Sex F Age 71 Interview Schedule Code XI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 7, 1980

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

IA1 Informant's husband finished grade school at about 14. Didn't finish high school but apprenticed in Peru, Ill. as machinist. Father insisted on son's education, forced him to take correspondence course for mechanical drawing; combined with experience he learned machinist, tool making, but did not have a degree.

IA2 Informant attended grade school only in Streator. Parents wanted to teach her and sisters and brothers to speak Arabic but attending school and "friends" and "family" -"it was all English." Father upset when children didn't speak Arabic. Children understood Arabic but didn't speak it.

IA3 Father could read and write English, kept records, read books. Mother could not read or write Arabic or English.

Informant Theodore M. Hamady Sex M Age 43 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City McLean, Va. Date Sept. 1978

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

IA2 Because his grandfather spoke little English in his early years here, in his grocery store in 1911 he told customers to serve themselves since he didn't understand what they wanted. Informant thinks that his grandfather and others like him pioneered the idea of self service..

IA3 Father also had problems with English when he first came at age 11.

IB1 His mother already spoke English when she came in 1935.

IA1 Grandfather learned English, to speak and write, but forgot written Arabic.

Informant Theodore M. Hamady Sex M Age 43 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City McLean, Va. Date Sept. 1978

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

IA3

Informant had a very normal American life growing up. His parents spoke English at home rarely Arabic. They had Amrican neighbors, and their values were perhaps more American than those of the family's American neighbors.

Informant Mrs. Nellie Khouri Jacobs Sex F Age 71 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 7, 1980

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

IA2 Never learned to read and write Arabic - speaks Arabic.
When she married she understood Arabic but did not speak. She learned to speak by talking to immigrant relatives of her husband and to her Arabic-speaking neighbors.

IA2 Her Arabic is a mixture of Rachaya (Because of Spring Valley) and her parent's villages.

IB2 She said that in 1920's her husband could not speak Arabic well, and her younger sister either.

Informant Mrs. Madeline Bolis Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin United States* Immigrant Age n.a.*

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 27, 1980

* parents were immigrants from Mt. Lebanon

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

II/B/2

They love their language and when they are walking down the street, they run over to her.

People think that they were born in the old country because they speak Arabic so well.

To make the girls remember Arabic, when they went to the show, their parents would give them money but require that they tell them the plot in English (???).

Informant Mrs. Bahieh Kappaz Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 16, 1980

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

I/B/1

As'ad Mdarri and Antoine Tamir were experienced with building.
Latter had factory and hired many Syrians--mfg'd kimonos-- hired kids--both made money.
Also was good speaker in Arabic and English, a good man, people trust him.
Leaders have to have some kind of experience and skills.

VII/5
VII/7

Informant Mrs. Bahieh Kappaz Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 16, 1980

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

Ability to speak Arabic: Good.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney | Sex F | Age 64 | Interview Schedule Code VII/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Detroit, Michigan | Date July 1962

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

Side I
038-97

Her father did not know a word of English when he immigrated.

Informant Mrs. Rahmy Francis Sex F Age 77 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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 _____

Informant's ability in speaking Arabic: fair to good.

Informant Mr. Peter Aref Solomon Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Grant Farr City Sterling Heights, Michigan Date May 28, 1980

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

He spoke Arabic but quickly learned English. However, the younger brother(s???) doesn't speak Arabic.
don't

Note: This is a good point here about the generations, he was born in Syria and lived there until he was 10 and speaks Arabic. His brothers and sisters who were born here didn't speak Arabic and don't now.

Informant Mrs. Zahdi Barsa Sex F Age 81 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14

Interviewer Alixa Naff City St. Claire Shores, MI Date May 21, 1980

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

Informant's speaking ability in Arabic: Good.

Informant Mrs. Zahdi Barsa | Sex F | Age 81 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 14

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City St. Claire Shores, MI | Date May 21, 1980

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

I/A/3

Couldn't make non-Syrian (Arab) friends because couldn't speak English. Didn't feel comfortable with English language or being in U.S. for maybe 2 yrs., until she married.

Informant Mrs. Bahieh Kappaz Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 16, 1980

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

II/A/1

I began feeling like an American when I got my citizenship in 1942.

No pressure to become American--you have to make friends with everyone--my children are American. I am Damascene, or Syrian, but I am also an American. You have to learn the language.

Informant Mr. Osman Mohammed Chamie Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Interviewer Alixa 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 _____

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent.

Informant Mr. Osman Mohammed Chamie Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Interviewer Alixa 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/A/3 1896 father went directly to Sioux Falls, S.D. and remained there; returning to village 3 times in interim, until final return as widower in 1921. Left daughters in Sioux Falls; Mr. Chamie born in Sioux FAlls, in 1907.

I/B/1 Widowed father took young son, Mr. Chamie, and returned to village for wife; couldn't leave children while peddled. Has no more contact with or relatives in Sioux Falls.

I/B/2 Re shopping--Mrs. Chamie shops alone for things for herself. For food and other things for house they go together.
Before Mr. Chamie retired she went shopping with her son; he had a car; she didn't have language--made many good Arab friends in her neighborhood.

Informant Mr. Osman Mohammed Chamie Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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

Interviewer Alixa 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/A/1 Attended school to approximately 8th grade.

I/A/2 In 1913 when father took Mr. Chamie with him to the village with intent to stay 2-3 years, WWI broke out; American Consul advised U.S. citizens to return. Mr. Chamie left in U.S. Father feared would lose citizenship. Many returned with father from his and other village. Turkes now ruling; stepmother palced him in school 2 yrs. Turkish teacher; didn't learn much; too strict, taught Koran and Turkish; many days absent; letters came from U.S. from father inquiring about his education. Mr. Chamie couldn't read letter; angered mother; changed his school to Christian; Sheikh taught Koran poorly; In Christian school learned better. American protestant school. In 6 months mastered Arabic, could read well. Christian teacher's name Mikhail Mansour. Probably connected to AUB. When father returned in 1921, ended son's education to work.
Mrs. Chamie learned neither English nor Arabic. In her day they didn't teach girls.

Informant Mr. Harry As'ad Bousamra Sex M Age 85 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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 _____

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Mr. Mose Nasser | Sex M | Age 87 | Interview Schedule Code ~~VI~~ / 7

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/3

He came to Detroit in 1913 because heard about work in the factories and he heard that there were many Syrians in Detroit. Although he knew little English, he knew enough to get by. For instance when he was on his way from Iron Wood to Detroit and stopped in Chicago. Since he didn't want to get off he said "I no sleep in Chicago". He heard of a colony from Lebanon from Arabic newspaper, "al-Hoda". He heard that the Damascus people were in Boston and the Lebanese people were in Detroit. On his second day here, a priest came from Montreal and was having a service in the Ajamy home. When he went to church, he canted and a man in the congretationgot him a job at Gordon (???) Bakery.

Garden

Informant Mr. Woodrow W. Woody Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 4

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Mt. Clemens, Michigan Date May 22, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Fair

Informant Mr. Mose Nasser Sex M Age 87 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 _____

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Msgr. Aghabius Riashi Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 26

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 15, 1980

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

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Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Mr. Ollie Okdie Sex M Age 67 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Grant Farr City Lincoln Park, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Mrs. Madeline Bolis Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin United States* Immigrant Age n.a.*

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 27, 1980

* parents were immigrants from Mt. Lebanon

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Mrs. Edna Migala Sex F Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin United States* Immigrant Age n.a.*

Interviewer Grant Farr City St. Claire Shores, Michigan Date May 21, 1980

* parents were immigrants from Mt. Lebanon

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Mrs. Madeline Bolis Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin United States* Immigrant Age n.a.*

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 27, 1980

* parents were immigrants from Mt. Lebanon

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

II/B/1

Both sisters love to speak Arabic and feel at least as Lebanese as American. They are both proud of being Lebanese although they live American.

XI/7
XI/2/2
XI/2/c

Informant Mr. Ollie Okdie Sex M Age 67 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Grant Farr City Lincoln Park, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

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

I/B/1

His children speak very little Arabic. He would like his children to speak Arabic or at least some language. He thinks everyone should speak another language. He has travelled a lot and says that language is very important.

He tells about a woman next door that would laugh when his wife speaks Arabic. She was ignorant.

His father could read and write both Arabic and English.

VI/3/f

VI/7

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely | Sex M | Age 83½ | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa 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

Most Syrian Arabs used to peddle; didn't know other way to earn a living. One who could read and write would open store and sell to them. He would not recruit them.

Most were bachelors, but also many were married and had homes.

I/B/1

Some peddled on foot; some had horse and buggies. Loneliness a problem but forced him to learn English; he used to read English every opportunity, in RR stations and farm homes, including Sears Roebuck Catalogs; people would try to correct him and and he welcomed it; because he only started out knowning only alphabet. Quotes proverb in Arabic: "If a day goes by and I don't gain knowledge, I don't add that day to my life".

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code V/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

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



Occupation continued:

Remained in curtain manufacturing until 1930. Partnership failed. Partner and brother cheated him; had $3400 in bank. (???)

II/A/1 Returned to Cedar Rapids because lost everything in curtain manufacturing in Worcester, Mass. also C.R. was home to him.

II/A/2 1930 went out peddling with brother--rugs--1st year or two. Then worked in grocery for Nick Baba for 1 or 2 years. Then WWII started. Then got into business for self in 1941 (?); bought store from George Albert who had to go to service.

From 1930 to 1941 peddled and worked for other people; mostly peddled, averaged $30-50/week. Sometimes went as far as Rio Grande river, Texas.

Sometimes ran into other peddlers; didn't hurt each other. No special routes; used map; tried to develop repeat customers. Now was respectable; 3 months (???) ordered goods COD--Those who travelled alone were more successful than my brother-in-law and I.

continued on 4

Informant Mrs. Laila Igram Sex F Age 73 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 21

Interviewer Alixa Naff. City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 18, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good (presumably)

Informant Mr. H. K. Igram | Sex M | Age 84 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni | Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon | Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa 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

Arabs are resourceful; undaunted by lack of language; bold; tells story of 2 Turks who wanted to buy fish; store closed; continued to bang on door until admitted; looked for fish; didn't see it to point to it; told his friend "Ma fish" (there is none); storekeeper said "Oh, you want fish".

VI/7
Values - resourcefulness
pride

Informant Mr. H. K. Igram | Sex M | Age 84 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni | Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon | Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Cedar Rapids, Iowa | Date June 18, 1980

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

I/B/2

Peddled several months in 1920's; quit; didn't like it because have to knock on doors and sometimes people put you in barn to sleep--out in country--many peddling in 1921 or 1923.

Hsein Shronick was supplier in those days. Went from farm to farm walking. Had satchel on back and one in hand; walked sometimes 20 miles a day; got to Iowa City. Some with horses went further.

Didn't make much money; stopped cause job no good. Embarrassed him plenty. Couldn't talk English very well. Some nice people let you in; some thought they were begging; said"why don't you go home to work?" It was furn but no money.

Informant Mr. William Schervish Sex M Age 71 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite* Country of Origin United States Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa 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 _____

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code XII/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

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

I/A

Carried anything women might need--yard goods; took orders for shirt sizes and colors.

Were welcomed; father spoke more Canadian French than English.

Not discriminated against; peddlers generally welcomed.

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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/126 He left from Beirut to Marseilles to Providence, Rhode Island, to Fulton, Tennessee to Memphis . . .
(He remembers an experience in Fulton about a lady who taught him his ABC's.)

He came with 17 people.
He had relatives who came here in 1905.

I/B/168 He describes steerage on the boat; tells story about an older man who was supposed to watch him.

I/B/230 The trip took 28 days.

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Grant Farr City Washington, D.C. Date April 24, 1980

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

II/A/310

Tells why he left Hopewell. At the gun powder factory he had a very good job, but once he had to run an errand and since he didn't understand English, he failed to transmit the message and was sent to a bad job working with acid.

This is when he decided to become a barber.

He and his cousin (Slyman Sadaqa) came to Washington to go to barber school.

But he quit the school because it was full of drunks.

And because he was good with his hands; he just went out and got a job.

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

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 _____

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Mrs. Mary Agemy | Sex F | Age 83 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin Lebanon | Immigrant Age 23

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Dearborn, Michigan | Date June 5, 1980

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

Now Arabs come and all open stores and they don't know the language. A couple of men get together, open a store--they have to earn a living.

VI/12
III/7

Informant Mr. Eli Busada | Sex M | Age 87½ | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Washington, D.C. | Date April 22, 1980

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

I/A

Mrs. Busada says if her father-in-law was around, their children would have learned Arabic, but since she is American, they didn't. Her daughter went to mosque to learn Arabic--daughter wrote articles for Caravan (N.Y.), an English paper for Arabs.

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code IV/7

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/345 Language or other problems selling:

He learned a few phrases fast. Used Dr. Arbeely's book. How did he learn? "You want to buy" "Let me showyou what I have" etc.

Where did he stay at night? "Stayed in room" if people didn't take money they gave them a gift.

I/B/396 Peddled along (alone?).

Informant Mr. Eli Busada | Sex M | Age 87½ | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Washington, D.C. | Date April 22, 1980

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

II/B

Raised children to certain age and do as they please. Tried to pass on some Arabness; girl speaks some; son memorized Arab songs from records and performs for guests, although didn't know meaning of words.

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

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

I/B

Father peddled 10-15 years and accumulated much property; mother kept accounting; people brought rent to the house. She could read and write.

Informant Mrs. Mary Schervish Sex F Age 88 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite* Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa 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/A/1 Girls didn't go to school much or get around so don't know much. There was a school for boys; informant only girl to attend for about 5 months; parents took her out, so had no more schooling; forgot everything; priest taught Arabic. Also brought teacher from other village because no experienced teacher in village; no grades; begin with bible; not really school, just rooms.

I/A/2 About half of the males learned some Arabic, but only a few girls did.

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa 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/1 No English, only alphabet. Self taught. Now speaks English very well.

I/B/3 English really improved when joined army and 5 years in Iowa National Guard as sargeant.

Informant Mrs. Mary Agemy Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 23

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 5, 1980

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

I can read numbers. I know the alphabet but I can't connect them.

VI/7
VI/8

Informant Mr. Eli Busada | Sex M | Age 87½ | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Washington, D.C. | Date April 22, 1980

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

I/B

Neighborhood:

Syrians got newspapers from N.Y.; read al-Hoda, Merat al-Gharb--Orthodox read latter.

Many could read and write.

Young people read American newspapers, wanted to know about American life.

Syrians read to get news of homeland; news usually delayed.

III/7
III/10

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa 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 Uncle had many peddlers working out of his store from many villages: Hina, Syria, Ain Arab, Khubat Ruh, Jub Janine, etc.

There were 3 suppliers in Cedar Rapids: Tom Beshara, Kacere (?) and Uncle Joseph (Joseph George?). All were close together on 3rd St. and 6th St.

He did not give them routes; they fended for themselves; necessity guided them.

I/B/1 Didn't run into other peddlers on his route--not very often, only rarely; enjoyed each other; loneliness was a problem but it helped him learn English.

II/A/1 Uncle had supplier store in Cedar Rapids. Also Tom Beshara; also Abraham Risk and Sam Kacere. Joseph George. All in same neighborhood, 3rd to 6th streets.

Informant Mr. H. K. Igram Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 18, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa 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.

III/2
IV/7

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Fair (Good ?)

Informant Mr. Eli Busada | Sex M | Age 87½ | Interview Schedule Code ~~IV~~/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Washington, D.C. | Date April 22, 1980

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

I/A

Went to day and evening school in Worcester; wanted to learn language.

VI/7
VI/8

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

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

Informant's father came to make money.
Came to peddle with fellow villagers originally and returned to peddling.
No English language--first time came temporarily; second time came to stay--brought 2 children; then sent for mother and 2 sons including Eli.

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

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

II/A

No politics in Mhaithie; family not involved in politics in Worcester, Mass. People too busy making aliving and raising family.

Eli's sister got her citizenship in 1954 or 1955. First time she signed her name.

Eli got citizenship before he joined military in WWI.

Voted Republican--because after being here he got to know what was best party--voted in Worcester--probably first voted for Harding.

VI/6
VI/6/b
VI/6/c
VI/7

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code JL/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

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

Side II
195-267

Informant's father's third wife joined the church society and became its president. She wrote a letter to the informant in Spring Valley, from the old country, asking her to aid the church. The letter was delivered by mistake to the informant's uncle's wife who could not read and thinking the letter was for her, took it to her son who told her that the letter was not for her but for the informant.
So they brought the letter to the informant who read it. The informant's aunt offered to collect money from some of their guests (???) and the informant agreed to match whatever amount was raised; so her aunt and her sonraised $120 from the men staying with them and from going around to collect. And the informant matched the amount, according to her word. "I don't go back on my words". (karamat immik, karamat al-kanisi)

The informant's aunt's son said he would go to the bank[1] and exchange the money for a check to send to the old country. The informant asked him to write an accompanying letter since he was more advanced in Arabic than she.

1 Informant had only recently arrived in Spring Valley from a long residence in Canada--implication is that otherwise she would have gone to the bank herself.

Notes on conversation after tape recorder was disconnected at end of interview.

Informant Nellie Khouri Jacobs Sex F Age 71 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 7, 1980

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

Her father learned to read and write English, to speak it and Italian and some Polish here.

Informant Mr. Oscar Alwan Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Illinois Date July 16, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Mr. Oscar Alwan Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa 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

He knew Arabic and English and was asked to and acted as an interpreter for new immigrants with Americans and those who were already here and didn't speak Arabic (born here). He would also speak to Americans in English for those who didn't want to speak to them.

Informant Louis & Claire Ajamy Sex M & F Age 94 & 77 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 _____

Speak good Arabic.

Informant Louis & Claire Ajamy Sex M & F Age 94 & 77 Interview Schedule Code VI / 7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Damascus, 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 By 1913 Louis could speak English well enough so that other Syrians came to him if they wanted a job or favors. Louis went to night school for one term in Cambridge to learn English. Also went in Detroit. Used to copy words from dictionary

IIIB1 Claire attended business school - English, typing, shorthand

Informant Louis & Claire Ajamy Sex M & F Age 94 & 77 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 _____

IA2

Claire attended French School, it was fashionable for her class to send their children there. Also attending school were many Melkite children. School was also an orphanage. St. Vincent de Paul. French nuns were the teachers, only one of them spoke Arabic. Studied Arabic one hour only. She attended 4 years learned French and some Arabic.

English missionary school had lower tuition, but mother insisted French school more prestigious.

Louis attended school connected to Orthodox Church, established by Russians Learned Russian and Arabic. Boys school only.

VI/8

VI/7

Informant Hasebe Assalley Sex F Age 86 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 10, 1980

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

Speaks and reads excellent Arabic.

Informant Mr. William Darwish Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox/Baptist Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 7, 1980

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

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Informant's ability in Arabic: Fair to Good

Informant Mr. William Darwish Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox/Baptist Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 7, 1980

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

I/A/1 Informant attended Catholic school in Rashaya 5 years; learned to read and write Arabic and French, math and spelling.

I/A/2 Mother and father could read and write Arabic although father never attended school.

Informant Mr. William Darwish  Sex M  Age 79  Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox/Baptist  Country of Origin Syria  Immigrant Age 9

Interviewer Alixa Naff  City Spring Valley, Illinois  Date July 7, 1980

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

| | |
|---|---|
| I/A/1 | Learned to read and write French and ARabic in Catholic school in Rachaya; attended abouve 5 years; learned arithmetic, spelling. Didn't learn English because school was French sponsored. |
| I/B/2 | 8 years of grade school, 4 years of high school, 4 years of college at Loyola in Chicago; never finished his law degree; quit because he had a good job with government and got married. |

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 20, 1980

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

II/A/1 Informant has forgotten most of his ability to read Arabic.

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey | Sex M | Age 75 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 8

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Cedar Rapids, Iowa | Date June 20, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Fair

Informant Abdullah Igram Sex M Age 57 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 23, 1980

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

IA1 Went to Coe College, Cedar Rapids, and University of California, Berkeley. Didn't finish. Had to return to work with father who became ill. No degree.

IA3 Sami Sheronick and informant were first "first young boys in the history of this country to master Qur'an." Had to go to Arab school every night after public school. All Muslim kids in town had to go. Also went Saturdays. Attended 14 years. Learned to read and write Arabic. Mentions Detroit Imam going around setting up schools. (Imam Karoub) No place of worship, just schools. In Olwein the Muslims went to the Methodist church.

Informant Abdullah Igram | Sex M | Age 57 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Muslim | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Cedar Rapids, Iowa | Date June 23, 1980

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

IB2

Father taught himself to read some English. But he would write his orders in Arabic and charge books were kept in Arabic. Informant would have to translate them into English.

Informant Abdullah Igram Sex M Age 57 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 23, 1980

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

| | |
|---|---|
| IA1 | His father could read and write Arabic when he came. |

Informant Ali Turfe | Sex M | Age 77 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 _____

IA2

Brothers sent him to high school in the U.S. He didn't speak of write English when he arrived. Most of the people in the school were Germans, no Syrians. He was taught the American political system, and how to get citizenship.

Ford opened a school for foreigners. But he claims, the people of his community didn't want to go to school to learn.

Informant Mrs. Edna Sears Assalley Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 4, 1980

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

Speaks Arabic poorly.

Informant Shaikh Kalil Bazzy Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date June 9, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Shaikh Kalil Bazzy Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date June 9, 1980

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

I/A/1

Informant's education was all in the U.S.; self taught in Arabic and English. Some brothers (informant's own or Muslim brothers?) from a nearby village were in Highland Park. One taught him Arabic alphabet. He left and informant devoted much time to study Arabic words until he learned to pronounce accurately and to read the Qur'an.

He learned English when he started to work.

III/7
III/8

Informant Shaikh Kalil Bazzy Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date June 9, 1980

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

I/B/2

Because he was Shaikh, he didn't bring up his children any differently than non-shaikh; depends on beliefs of parents. He didn't teach children Arabic. They wouldn't learn.

Father is the lord of the house.

VII/7
VII/14

Informant Mr. Alex Ecie | Sex M | Age 74 | Interview Schedule Code W/7

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 _____

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Mr. Alex Ecie Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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 _____

II/A/1 When informant came to Dearborn, he didn't go to the mosque as often as he used to in Highland Park because "I go to the bar, or to the coffee house, or watch T.V. instead".

I/B/2 In Islam, he said, if we do something wrong or bad, it is between ourselves and God, Allah.

I/B/2 He does still go to the mosque in Dearborn.

II/A/3 He thinks it is very important to know about religion (Islam) to keep the beliefs. But his children didn't have a chance to learn about Islam because there was no teacher. Since his children don't speak Arabic, he got each of his children an English translation of the Qur'an.

II/B/1 Father-in-law was very religious; worked on a farm and always fasted during Ramadan.

Informant Mr. Alex Ecie | Sex M | Age 74 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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/B/3

Because the informant spoke no English, he fought with Americans several times:

1. Once in school he hit someone and was taken to jail.[1]

2. Another time at work in Highland Park, someone said a bad word to him. He asked about the meaning of the word and then hit the person who said it. He was fired.

[1] He fought with someone because he didn't know what the person was saying (passage not very clear).

VI/7

VI/3/f

Informant Amelia C. Unes | Sex F | Age 66 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Peoria, Ill. | Date July 16, 1980

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

Informant speaks good Arabic.

Informant Amelia C. Unes Sex F Age 66 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 16, 1980

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

IIB1 One of the informant's brothers who came back from living in Lebanon from 1906 to 1920 apparently had a hard time adjusting and communicating with his brothers and sisters here in U.S. He wanted to go back to Lebanon for this reason. Two years after arriving though, after learning English and mixing with Americans he forgot about going back. In fact he was amazed with his new life expecially because his mother cared for him a lot and helped him to Americanize. The other brother who came in 1920 at age 22 was also not adjusted to American life for the first few years but he didn't think about going back to Lebanon.

II B1 The family had a hard time understanding the four brothers who came back from Lebanon, because these boys ahd been brought up in a Lebanese way for many years, and the rest of the family was already Americanized. Example: the four boys acted a heads of the family and wanted their mother and sisters to do what they told them. Her mother and father and also the informant didn't like it. After some years they all got along fine.

Informant Amelia C. Unes Sex F Age 66 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 16, 1980

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

IA3

When her father was caught peddling without a licence he was taken to a colored jail because, although he was white, he couldn't speak English. The blacks "spit on him all night" so when he was brought before the judge the next day the judge ordered the police to buy clothes for him and take him to a hotel to eat and rest and then go. This was in New Orleans in 1891.

v/1
vi/6/a
x/2/a
vi/7

Informant Amelia C. Unes | Sex F | Age 66 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Peoria, Ill. | Date July 16, 1980

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

IIA3 Informant's mother, who could read and write Arabic, used to get the newspaper Al Huda from N.Y. She read in Al Huda about the "horrible" conditions in Lebanon during WWl and she was worried about her children.

The family subscribed to "Syrian World" for years, also subscribed to National Geographic to help educate informant. Informant read books in the school library in Dale.

IIIA2 Mother would read the newspaper to the Father especially during WWl. She read Gibran's poems in Al Huda.

IIA2 Family was very anxious to see the children who were in Lebanon during the WWl with their grandparents. Her mother got very sick while waiting for them. Two brothers came in 1920, and two more came in 1922.

Informant Imam Muhammad A. Karoub Sex M Age in 50's Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Mich. Date June 6, 1980

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

IA2 His uncle put up the money for the mosque with the understanding that other members of the community would donate to it. There was a squabble in the community. People who had pledged contributions didn't pay. His uncle had taken out bank loans bases on their pledges. He was donating also in materials and services. The bank forclosed on the loans when the people reneged. Informant said people might have thought he as a wealthy man should pay for the mosque, thinking he could afford it. The mosque was beautiful, it had a dome and a minaret. It opened in 1923 but didn't last long, maybe 4 - 5 years before the foreclosure. Then it was sold to Rumanians for church. There were 2 to 300 in regular attendance at the mosque. The mosque offered Arabic and religious classes. Shi'is and Sunnis both prayed in the mosque. When the mosque closed the Muslim community was disunited and began to pray at home. They began to observe holiday prayers in different homes. His father remained an Imam and has record of uninterupted service for 60 years in Detroit. Anyone with two large connecting rooms would open it up, remove furniture, cover floor with rugs. People would come with ablutions performed.

IA3 The next mosque to be built was in Dearborn in 1936 by the community - his father was involved. Asked why it took so long he said there were factions in those days based on competion for leadership. Also some members of the community would say they were going to return to the homeland but they kept thinking about it.

Informant Imam Muhammad A. Karoub Sex M Age in 50's Interview Schedule Code VI /7

Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Mich. Date June 6, 1980

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

IA1 His father wrote Arabic poetry which incorporated American experiences and English language - this was published in a book called Ibtisamat al Latif.

VI/17
VI/7

Informant Imam Muhammad A. Karoub Sex M Age in 50's Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Mich. Date June 6, 1980

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

IA2 Informant's father, a Sunni Imam in Highland Park, studied English "a lot" in this country, but still required the assistance of his American-born son in performing religious functions. Father went to night school with Mr. Tradd, a Christian from Zahle. They were close as brothers. Mr. Tradd was a school teacher in the old country. He taught English to immigrants in H.P. and taught citizenship classes.

IB1 Informant was taught to read and write Arabic by his father, he started before he wnet to grade school to read Qur'an. At a very young age he helped his father to teach communicants to teach the Qur'an. He also attended Wayne State and took courses in theology and journalism. He reads a great deal on jurisprudence to serve the new influx of Arabs who ask questions about prayer, fasting, divorce. How do you divorce and marry in this country. Women usually call their questions in anonymously.

Has a B.A. from Wayne State University.

Informant Imam Muhammad A. Karoub Sex M Age in 50's Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Mich. Date June 6, 1980

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

Speaks excellent Arabic.

Phone conversation with:
Informant Imam Muhammed Karoub Sex M Age in 50's Interview Schedule Code VI/7
Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Mich. Date June 6, 1980

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

His father stayed in Cedar Rapids, Iowa for one summer in 1934, the year the mosque was completed, and extablished a class for teaching Arabic.

He established a class for Arabic in Highland Park, Mich, his own community, before the mosque was built there in 1923. They used a class room in Angel High School. Informant is not sure how long this class lasted or how many attended. His father continued to start classes with the aim of teaching the Qur'an and Arabic. Over the years, as the class in progress ceased to function, he would start another. He started one in Dearborn when that community, formed from former residents from Highland Park (who followed the Ford Plant to River Rouge) and an influx of Muslims into the area, began to develop.

Informant said his father served as an itinerant Imam to a number of Muslim communities. He listed the following that he could think of:

Quincy, Mass
Springfield, Mass.
Danbury, Conn.
Chicago, Ill.
Toledo, Ohio
Williamson, W.Va.
Logan, W.Va.
Beckley, W.Va.
Windson, Ontario, Canada
Columbus, Ohio

Informant Amelia C. Unes | Sex F | Age 66 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Peoria, Ill. | Date July 16, 1980

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

IB1 There were educated people from Lebanon in St. Paul who wrote letters for her father in Arabic when he needed to send a letter. Father couldn't read or write Arabic.

IIA3 When 2 of her brothers came from Lebanon in 1920 they spoke no English. One was 20 and the other was 22 years old. Informant and her other brother couldn't communicate with them, only her parents could. These two brothers fought with the brother who had been born in the U.S. because they couldn't understand each other.

Informant Mr. Mohamod Habhab Sex M Age 61 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date July 20, 1980

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

I/A/1

Informant never learned Arabic in a school. Informant thought it was foolish at the time, but his father made him sit through Arabic lessons which he taught. However, informant learned to speak and understand Arabic "well" through other "Arabics" he associated with. Informant never learned to read or write it. Regrets not having learned Arabic better.

Informant Mr. Mohamod Habhab Sex M Age 61 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date July 20, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Mr. Mohamod Habhab Sex M Age 61 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date July 20, 1980

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

I/B/2

Informant's family received an Arabic newspaper in the 1920's in Ft. Dodge, but his father could not read or write. Two uncles of the informant could read Arabic. The family was interested in news of the homeland. Informant does not mention if uncles read letters to his father.

VII/7
VII/10

Informant Mr. Mahomed Forge Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 26

Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 6, 1980

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

I/A/1

Informant reads and writes Arabic. He and his wife speak Arabic at home. His children understand Arabic but don't speak it, except his oldest son who was with the informant for 3 years in Lebanon, 1947-50, and went to school there.

VI/7
VI/8

Informant Mr. Mahomed Forge Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 26

Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 6, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Mr. Mahomed Forge Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code ~~VI~~/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 26

Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 6, 1980

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

I/A/1 Informant visited ~~in~~ Lebanon in 1936 for 9 months.

He also returned to Lebanon in 1947 for a 3-year stay.

In 1962 informant went to Mecca on pilgrimage (hadj) for 105 days.

Informant took his oldest son with him on his 1947 trip and sent him to school in Lebanon for three years. He also bought Arabic books for his children from Lebanon.

I/A/2 He sends money home once in a while.

Informant Najla Nouhan Simon Sex F Age 82 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Mich. Date May 23, 1980

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

IA1 Her mother transmitted ethnic values and culture. Always spoke Arabic to the children. Taught them by example. She never told them they were Arabs. Informant considers herself Syrian, Arabic speaking, not an Arab. Her mother used to read the bible to the children and use it as a standard. She never reminded them of the family honor, there was no need to. The Syrian identity and ways were always there.

Informant Najla Nouhan Simon Sex F Age 82 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Mich. Date May 23, 1980

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

Speaks excellent Arabic.

VI/7

Informant Mary Shamey Sex F Age 67 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Mich. Date May 30, 80

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

Speaks good Arabic.

IA1 She learned Arabic from her mother and neighbors.

Her mother couldn't read or write Arabic, informant wasn't sure if father could. Father learned to write and read some English, but mother didn't. Mother spoke only a few words in English, because she lived within the Arab community in Dearborn.

IIB1 Informant tried to teach her children Arabic, but they did not learn too much. The older ones understand it, and speak some words.

Informant Mary Shamey Sex F Age 67 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Mich. Date May 30, 80

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

IB3

Her mother continued to have correspondance ties with the homeland, she would have someone write letters for her.

v1/18
v1/7

Informant Mary Shamey | Sex F | Age 67 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Dearborn, Mich. | Date May 30, 1980

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

IA1 Informant attended school up to the 8th grade in Dearborn, Michigan.

IIB1 There was no school or mosque for her children to learn Arabic. It wasn't until 1965 that lessons were given on Sundays for children in Arabic and Islam. Some of her grandchildren have been going to this school.

v1/8
v1/7

Informant Mary Shamey Sex F Age 67 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Mich. Date May 30, 1980

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

IA2

When they lived in Michigan City between 1911 - 1926 women used to cover their heads and because most of them couldn't speak English they spent most of their time at home.

IB1

Her mother used to cover her head when she went out to shop and continued this custom until she died. This custom, although required by Islam, started to die out in the late 1920's.

Informant Afif I. Tannous Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 33

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Annandale, Virginia Date September 10,198

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

IA1 Informant went to a 'community school' in the village. There was one teacher who taught everything. Besides being a teacher this man was a tradesman. Boys and girls went to the same school, but to different classrooms. Informant learned English, French and Arabic.

IA2 "It was the spirit of emigrants to the U.S. that developed that school." Before the teaching was very primitive, pupils learned "how to write a little, how to read a little, subtract and multiply but not division." Emigrants who went back to the village spread the American idea of education. This happened in other villages also. The influence of emigrants was tremendous on village life and on education. The emigrants sent money and ideas back to the village.

Informant remembers hearing one emigrant who returned talking about the rights of the individual, "human beings in America are highly respected."

Informant Sam M. Haddy Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 19, 1980

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

IB1 His parents spoke Arabic at home. He understood but spoke mostly English.

IIA1 Father Kacere had a school in the church in C.R. where he taught Lebanese children Arabic. Informant was a student there. He learned Arabic but didn't teach his own children. There were 35 or 40 children in the school, which closed Father died in 1917. Informant's father sent him to the school by train from Dumont and he stayed with his grandparents.

IA1 His father read and wrote Arabic.

Informant Thelma Wehby Sex F Age 82 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 19, 1980

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

| | |
|---|---|
| IA1 | Her parents didn't read or write Arabic. |

Informant Rose Canty Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 1

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 13, 1980

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

IA2

Her mother spoke Arabic and French fluently. Her father also read and wrote Arabic. (They were educated in Zahle, Lebanon most likely)

Informant Christine La Hood Sex F Age 85 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 5

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 15, 1980

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

IA1

Speaks fair Arabic.

She learned to speak Arabic only after marriage when she lived among Lebanese people.

She learned to read and write a little Arabic and she taught others to read and write English.

Informant Christine La Hood Sex F Age 85 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 5

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 15, 1980

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

IA2

They had a one room school in Itoo, Lebanon, which taught Arabic and French. Had one teacher from the village plus 2 nuns. "Everyone knows French in our town."

Her mother never went to school, couldn't read or write. Father could read and write Arabic.

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 22, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Jack A. Hamady Sex M Age 71 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 11

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Flint, Mich. Date June 13, 1980

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

Speaks and writes Arabic.

Informant John Charles Kacere Sex M Age 60 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 29, 1980

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

Level of ability in Arabic: fair.

Informant Joseph M. Couri | Sex M | Age 65 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Peoria, Ill. | Date July 15, 1980

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

Level of proficiency in Arabic: poor.

Informant Joseph M. Couri Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 15, 1980

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

IA1 He learned Arabic from his grandfather, who stopped teaching when someone advised him that he would confuse the children.

IB3 HIs parents spoke Arabic at home but later they spoke half English, half Arabic. Wife's parents spoke good English.

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 _____

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Mr. Abe Kacere Sex M Age 69 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Grant Farr City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 23, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Victoria Trahd Atalla Sex F Age 68 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Mark, Ill. Date June 3, 1980

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

Level of proficience in Arabic: poor to fair.

Informant Victoria Trahd Atalla Sex F Age 68 Interview Schedule Code J1/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Mark, Ill. Date June 3, 1980

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

IB2

She used to speak Arabic when her husband and mother were alive.
Her family spoke Arabic primarily.
Her brothers, sisters, nieces and sisters in law can't read Arabic.

Informant Hasibe & Abe Aossey Sex F & M Age 74 & 82 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Muslim Shi'i Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 21 & 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

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

Their level of proficiency in Arabic is good.

Informant Najem and Bahia Basheer Sex M & F Age 84 & 64 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17 & 24

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Richmond, Va. Date Sept. 21, 1980

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

IIB2

He had difficulties in communicating when he came because he knew no English. He communicated with body language and was aided in learning the language by peddling. His wife already knew English when she came.

v/1
vi/7

Informant Mr. George J. Bouhana Sex M Age 67 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite-R. Catholic Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Warren, Michigan Date May 19, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

(Taken from Rose Canty's interview book, Nellie was present)

Informant Nellie Bourazak Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 17, 1980

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

IB3

She was embarrassed when her mother and father spoke Lebanese in front of Americans, while she was a teenager.

She was bothered by her parents and couldn't go out the way she wanted. Was restrained from going out alone and socializing with Americans.

Her brother didn't bring up his children in a strict way.

Informant Rose Canty Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VL/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 1

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 13, 1980

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

IA1

She was taught Arabic by a priest in Peoria, perhaps a year. She went to parochial school. Her parents were very strict and wouldn't send her to high school because they were afraid she would mingle with boys. They sent her to a business college, after grade school so that she could get office work only if something happened to her husband after she got married. After she graduated from business college her parents let her work.

Informant Mr. Mitchell J. Maloof Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Illinois Date July 15, 1980

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

I/A/1 Informant did not learn to read and write Arabic; he can understand "very little", what he learned from his grandmother who arrived about 1916.

I/A/3 His father couldn't read and write English.

I/B/1 His parents spoke Arabic at home. Informant and his brothers learned the easy Arabic words.

Informant Mr. Mitchell J. Maloof Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VII/7

Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Illinois Date July 15, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Poor

Informant Haifa and Jamal Richards Sex F Age 71 & 68 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17 & 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Delwein, Iowa Date June 30, 1980

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

Both speak excellent Arabic.

Informant Lillian Haddy and Sam George Haddy | Sex F M | Age 72 74 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin she: U.S. born he: Lebanon | Immigrant Age N/A 8

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Cedar Rapids, Iowa | Date June 29, 1980

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

IA1 Both learned to speak some Arabic from parents at home. He forgot his Arabic.

Informant Lillian Haddy / Sam George Haddy | Sex F / M | Age 72 / 74 | Interview Schedule Code vl/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin she: U.S.born, ~~he: Lebanon~~ | Immigrant Age N/A / 8

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Cedar Rapids, Iowa | Date June 29, 1980

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

Both speak fair Arabic, which they learned at home.

Informant Eugene A. Myers Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date Aug. 27, 1980

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

Speaks fair Arabic.

Informant Anthony Latiff, Jr. Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 6

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Warren, Mich. Date June 4, 1980

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

IA1 Speaks Arabic very well. Father read and wrote Arabic well. Father didn't speak English when he first came to U.S.

IA2 Anthony speaks Italian, which he learned from their neighbors.

Informant Mary Latiff Maloney Sex F Age 65 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin U.S. botn Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Warren, Mich. Date June 4, 1980

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

Speaks good Arabic.

Informant Zbayda Raya Maloof / Charlie Raya  Sex F / M  Age 82 / 85  Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite  Country of Origin Lebanon  Immigrant Age 17 & 14

Interviewer Alixa Naff  City Peoria, Ill.  Date July 12, 1980

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

IA3 He attended church school in Zahle and learned to read a little Arabic but can't write. Attended 1 year, quit after being whipped for something in school.

IA3 She also attended church school for less than one year. She claims she could read Arabic but has forgotten it.

Informant Zbayda Raya Maloof / Charlie Raya — Sex F / M — Age 82 / 85 — Interview Schedule Code ~~VII~~ 14/7

Religious Sect Melkite — Country of Origin Lebanon — Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa Naff — City Peoria, Ill. — Date July 12, 1980

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

IIB1 Never associated with Americans because of lack of English language.

IIA2 Associated only with Syrians, and most closely with circle of relative s andfellow immigrants from Zahle.

Informant Haifa and Jamal Richards Sex F Age 71 & 68 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17 & 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Delwein, Iowa Date June 30, 1980

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

IA1

Learned Arabic, French and English in school in Beit Mary. Haifa sent to an English school with Lebanese teachers before and after WW1. Had to pay tuition. She also went to a French Catholic school for 2 or 3 years. Haifa was educated to 10th grade.

Jamal went to grade school in Beit Mary and to high school in Broumana, 5 miles away. She walked to school every day. She stopped going to school at age 16, in 11th grade.

Informant Eugene A. Myers Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date Aug. 27, 1980

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

IA3

Informant went to Russian school in Amyun, Lebanon. Studied Russian language.

IA#

Father was uneducated until he returned to Lebanon in 1907 when he studied Arabic. He was over 30 years old at the time.

Informant Madeline & Esther Hazar Sex F Age 64 & 66 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 17, 1980

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

IA1 Madeline speaks Arabic poorly, but can understand records and sings along. Esther speaks Arabic fair, enjoys speaking it, and understands better than she speak.

IB3 Their father read and wrote Arabic. He got newspapers from N.Y.

Informant Laurence Sophiea Sex M Age 57 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age born at sea

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Oak Park, Mich. Date May 22, 1980

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

IB1 Believes his mother was educated in Arabic at the American Missionary School in Lebanon.

IA1 Father not educated at all

Informant has B..A, M.A., Ph.D in Education.
One of his brothers is a dentist, all six of his brothers finished high school.

VI/8

II/7

VI/7

Informant Eugene A. Myers Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date Aug. 27, 1980

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

IIA1 Family used to get Arabic newspapers from N.Y. : Al Huda, Mirat Al Gharb.

Parents urged him to read the newspapers so he wouldn't forget Arabic.

IIA3 In Whitney, Penn. he read detective stories in Arabic in the 1920's.

Informant Eugene A. Myers Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date Aug. 27, 1980

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

IIA3 Mother read Western stories to him as a child.

Informant Afif I. Tannous Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 33

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Annandale, Virginia Date September 10, 1980

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

Speaks excellent Arabic.

Informant Mrs. Samia Salem Sex F Age 80 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 20

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Bethesda, Maryland Date August 22, 1980

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Mr. Nafe Katter | Sex M | Age 82 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze | Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon | Immigrant Age 22

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Saginaw, Michigan | Date June 13, 1980

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

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Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Albert Peters Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox * Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 14

Interviewer ~~tape sent by Mary Welch~~ City Wilkes-Barre, Penn. Date 1979

*deduced from information given.

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

IA1

Didn't know any English when he came to the U.S. Learned English in the grocery store by writing the names of the goods sold, also started to read newspapers by using the dictionary. When he later felt he was losing the Arabic language he started reading newspapers in Arabic.

He went to night school to learn English for about 2 years, after with a private teacher. Claimed he did very well in English.

Informant George F. Addes | Sex M | Age 70 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff & Grant Farr | City St. Claire Shores, Michigan | Date June 14, 1980

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

Ability in Arabic language poor.

Informant George F. Addes | Sex M | Age 70 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff & Grant Farr | City St. Claire Shores, Michigan | Date June 14, 1980

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

IA1 Father taught him Arabic for 5 or 6 years. "We had to learn Arabic" He took night courses in Arabic recently in St. Claire Shores, Mich. to "brush up a little bit." Wife also spoke Arabic. At home, he and wife sometimes speak Lebanese, but they "both chop it up."

Informant Elizabeth Forsa Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S.born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 8, 1980

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

IA1

Her husband graduated from the American University in Beirut, prep school, then went to business college for one semester. He was persuaded by a Romanian student in Beirut to go to theological college in Romania, since informant was a monk at the time. He then went to Romania to study for a year and a half,before coming to study in the U.S. to study at St. Vides' Academy.

He learned both Arabic and English at the American U. in Beirut.

Elizabeth doesnt read or write Arabic but she speaks it faily well.

Informant Elizabeth Forsa | Sex F | Age 74 | Interview Schedule Code ~~VL~~ 7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin U.S.born | Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Spring Valley, Ill. | Date July 8, 1980

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

IB3

Informants spoke Arabic at home.

Elizabeth's parents spoke poor English.

Their children,(Informants) lost the Arabic language because they had no use for it, informants always spoke English to their children.

Informant Elizabeth Forsa Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U. S. born Immigrant Age n/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 8, 1980

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

She speaks good Arabic, her husband speaks excellent Arabic.

VI/7

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa 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

Discrimination:

Americans never knew enough about Islam to disciminate or ask questions in the 1920's and 1930's. When they first came to Cedar Rapids in the early 1930's, there were many Bohemians around "here". Their name (Sheronick?) is spelled so it sounded Bohemian, so people thought they were. Neither the Bohemians nor the informant could speak English, so she went to a Bohemian school and learned the language and got along well with them.

In the Bohemian school, teacher asked her religion; answered Muslim. He asked if she were a Turk; answered no but Turks are Muslim. He said "you know, Turks eat people". "I said I never saw them eat people. I don't know if they do or not. They were strict, that's all I could say". Later he apologized. "Whether Muslim or Christian, it is how you treat other people--if good, they are good to you.

Muslims changed names because people didn't know how to spell Ahmed or Mohammed. Informant called her son Sam, although his real name is Hussein, because she couldn't spell it. The name stuck and appears on his birth certificate. "I'm not ashamed of 'Hussein".

XI/3/f

XI/2

X/2/6

IV/7

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa 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/1

Supplier (or other peddlers) would write English phrases in Arabic in a notebook to teach English necessary for peddling (informant gives examples). Supplier was organized and prepared for peddlers; had a place for them to sleep and cook, new peddlers had instruction and someone to train him on the road--asking for things, directions. Supplier sometimes provided the kishie (small notions case) filled with items he thought the peddler would need and send him out with instructions of what to do incase of problems or trouble. Word traveled to the homeland and new peddlers would come to the same place. Cedar Rapids became full of peddlers.

III/2
V/2
V/3

VI/7

VI/7

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 22, 1980

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

I/A/1 Informant had 4-5 years of night school in the U.S., speaks English well, accurately and with little accent; reads and writes English.

I/B/3 In her husband's store, she couldn't communicate with Bohemian customers who couldn't speak English either, so she went to school and learned to speak Bohemian.

VI/7

VI/11

VI/7

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 22, 1980

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

Informant's Occupation, note 1:

I/A/3 Informant's father was a partner with Tom Beshara and Kacere in wholesale dry goods on 9th St. in Cedar Rapids. He returned to village in 1904 and then to the U.S. in 1911. He became chairman of the Corn Belt Bank, a partner in Willis Cook wholesale, had own wholesale clothing, had a glove factory. He stayed in the U.S. until 1919when he went to get his family; couldn't go earlier because of the war.

When informant's father first came, he went into dry goods business by himself, got to know Tom Beshara. When he returned in 1911, he went in partnership with him. Father never peddled. Father took all his books back to the village on the first return; had sold everything except kept shares of stock in the Corn Belt Bank. Books recorded accounts, sold to peddlers, a column for each customer. Informant doesn't know when he got money to open first business; language was not a barrier because his customers were all Arabic-speaking.

VI/7

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 22, 1980

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

'B/3

Teacher taught children Arabic in the community, also at home; both read and speak and write Arabic perfectly; also transmitted religious practices to children. Many children didn't learn.

:/A/2

Father was strict; mother followed what father said; had to obey father.

Where her children were concerned, she and her husband sometimes disagreed, not often. "I don't know what kind of mother I would have been if I had stayed in Jub Jennine. I wouldn't have been able to do as much for my children there as I did here". "I raised my children as my parents raised me".

Informant didn't have to transmit Arab traditions and customs; they picked it up.

Children married Arabs. I was happy they did, but wouldn't object if they didn't; they respect us and their family.

VI/7

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa 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. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa 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

Muslims in the U.S.

Regarding Muslims in a Christian U.S., no difficulties; religion is same everywhere. Muslims don't have to go to mosque to pray, can pray at home. Informant prays 5 times a day, never misses. She is sure her father did so also. Many Muslims don't pray 5 times a day. If they worked in factory or other place were they could not pray, maybe they prayed only morning and evening.

Going to mosque not necessary. One could pray in store or basement. Don't need to carry prayer rugs; can pray on bare floor if clean or on a clean towel. One must wash in bathroom or sink. Some jsut stay clean like her (and she looked very clean) she washed only twice a day. But if you should release gas, you have to wash all over again. No feeling of guilt or sin.

Not that is was easy for a Muslim in a Christian country, but one could make it easy or more difficult for oneself. God is everywhere. We prayed when we came home from store. Our children see us practicing our religion so they follow us and pray too and "You plan (this idea) in the kids when they're little. Her children read and write ARabic perfectly and understand their religion, yet this was their country; son fought in the marines.

VI / 7

Informant Mr. George J. Bouhana Sex M Age 67 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Maronite-R. Catholic Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Warren, Michigan Date May 19, 1980

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

I/A/3

When the informant was in the 3rd grade, 1925, a school was built on Congress and Orleans Sts., staffed by nuns; they learned everything plus Arabic.

Informant said the Franklin Settlement helped him in his education. "Our alma mater was Franklin". He graduated in 1929; didn't have a chance to go to high school; "most of us didn't have chance to go to school".

Informant hung around St. Joseph Commerical College, played sports, but never attended; he went there because the closest friends from his neighborhood attended.

People thought he attended the college because he was there so much.

VI /7

Informant Mr. George J. Bouhana Sex M Age 67 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Maronite-R. Catholic Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Warren, Michigan Date May 19, 1980

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

I/B/3

Lebanese people were informed about the events in the homeland by newspapers, by people like Mr. George Michelle and the informant's father.

Father had a lot of Arabic books, bible; mother read Arabic books.

VI/7

Informant Mr. George J. Bouhana Sex M Age 67 Interview Schedule Code ____

Religious Sect Maronite-R. Catholic Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Warren, Michigan Date May 19, 1980

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

I/A/1 Informant's father read and write Arabic, French, German, Spanish, Italain and English. Said his father wrote for al-Hoda, the Arabic newspaper published in N.Y.

II/A/3 Informant's daughter, 39 yrs. old, speaks Arabic "but not too well".

IL/7

Informant Mr. Abe Kacere | Sex M | Age 69 | Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Grant Farr | City Cedar Rapids, Iowa | Date June 23, 1980

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

I/A/1

Informant went to school in 1938 in Chicago for 4 yrs. After going to the army for 4 yrs., he went to university for 4 yrs.

Father's brother was a priest in Cedar Rapids and he had an Arabic school since he was an Arabic teacher in Lebanon. "He came to Cedar Rapids and they made him a priest". Informant's generation learned to read and write Arabic from the priest's school.

Informant's friend (who was present at the interview) commented " I would suggest that it was very elementary writing and reading". The priest died at an early age (date not stated).

VII/7
VII/8
VII/9/2

wife could not read or write Arabic.

VI/7

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____

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 _____

II/B/3

Some Syrians returned to homeland to stay because they couldn't take it, life was difficult, no money, and especially lack of language. They didn't know Arabic or English and were neither here nor there. Referring to himself, he said "I can't deny it about myself. Between Arabic and English, I feel lost It's nice to read newspaper and not to ask".

III/4
III/7

VI 1/7

Informant Mr. Nafe Katter Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 22

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Saginaw, Michigan Date June 13, 1980

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

I/A/3

Referring to a committee, informant did not specify for which organization, he asked the people from his village in Saginaw to select young members, not the elders, because the young were more energetic and productive.

I/B/2
II/A/3

Informant joined and was active in the Bakora ad-Duruzia which had its headquarters in Detroit, Michigan. It was formed by "old timers" who made Arabic the official language of communication. Informant wanted to introduce English so that young people could join the club. "The time is coming that we must try to make some change in our methods in conducting our organization and allow our people to know what's going on especially young generation if you expect them to work with us". At first he was criticized for trying to introduce young people, but later he had support from some members who together formed another club also called Bakora ad-Duruzia but which they changed to A.D.S. (American Druze Society)

At first they had 45 members who met in Flint, Michigan in a room in a building owned by a friend.

Informant Ellis Khouri Sex M Age 80 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Elaine & Chuck Audy City Grand Rapids, Mich. Date Nov. 30, 1980

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

Informant speaks excellent Arabic.

He reads and writes Arabic and English fluently.

IA2 In 1920 and 1921 he attended school for 2 years - Jr. college. Many Syrians in his class. Teachers were interested in their students to teach them English and make them understand customs and life in America.

VI/7

Informant Mrs. Samia Salem Sex F Age 80 Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 20

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Bethesda, Maryland Date August 22, 1980

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

II/A/2 After her family joined the church, in Mineral Wells, Texas, her brother-in-law brought a teacher home, an American lady who taught the women, informant and her sister, what to say (in English) when there is a guest in the house, American customs, and how to act with American people. The teaching lasted three months.

II/B/1 Husband changed his name from Kacem to George. Brother-in-law changed his name from Said to Sam. The thought American names were easier.

II/B/3 When asked, did much change for her, she said "no".

Informant Alice Abraham Sex F Age 68 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 1

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1962

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

IB2

Her brother worked on a farm belonging to Americans rather than on his uncle's farm because he wanted to learn English. (in 1909)

He later bought a farm in S. Dakota. They had relatives there including a nephew of his mother's who talked him into buying a farm. Today his three sons have a big cattle ranch there.

Her husband also worked on a farm when she first got married in 1909. He learned English very well. He soon opened a grocery store in early 1910.

Informant Nemer Kaleel Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Earlville, Ill. Date 1962

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

IA1

When he came he could read and write Arabic but not English, couldn't speak English.

When peddling kept his records in Arabic.

Informant Mike & Ghandura Haddy Sex M & F Age 81 & 78 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 14 & 26

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Los Angeles, Calif. Date Spring 1962

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

IB1

After about 6 weeks of peddling the informant learned English. Any new word that he encountered he'd write it down so he would know it.

v/1
vi/7

Informant Mrs. Queenie Nassour Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Miss. Date Aug. 11, 1979

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

IA1

Took her some time to get used to her father and maternal grandmother in the U.S. after she arrived because she didn't know them. The children in her school here helped her so much. Had a wonderful time after she learned English.

Informant Victoria Abdanur Saliba Sex F Age @ 65 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox/Episcopal Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1962

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

IA1 Informant went to school in Beirut, the Zahrat al Ihsan and then to the American school. She learned French, English and Arabic. She later attended school in Los Angeles. The American School was Episcopal that's how she became Episcopal.

Informant Essa Malooley Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Manchester, N.H. Date 1962

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

IA1

Upon arrival, he had enough money to get started, but spoke no English. Started peddling immediately.
Elias Lebos, his wife's brother, taught him to peddle. He learned to knock on doors and say "Buy sumthin." When he wanted to tell someone a price he had to count on his fingers to make them understand. This was in Montreal, Canada.

They slept at farmer's houses, but many times were turned away because people were afraid or something. Not because he was an Arab. Peddlers looked poor. No one ever asked what he was.

Took the train to Alexandria (Ontario, about 60 min. from Montreal) and then he would walk to all the small towns around it. Would stay away 2 or 3 days. He had relatives and friends in Alexandria, but lived in Montreal. Worked 5 to 6 hours a day. The work was difficult, and they got tired from walking, carrying heavy suitcases and from the cold. Sometimes they'd walk all day and not find a house, or people would turn them away. Sometimes he'd walk until 10 or 11 at night because no one would give him a place to stay. In N.Y. state he would sleep outside but not in Canada.

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Najem Basheer Sex M/F Age 84/64 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17/24

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Richmond, Virginia Date Sept. 21, 1980

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

II/B/2

Mr. Basheer had a hard time communicating since he spoke no English when he came. He communicated with body-language. He said that peddling helped him learn some English.

Mrs. Basheer didn't have difficulties because she knew English.

VI/7

Informant Harry & Sadie Unes  Sex M & F  Age 83 & 74  Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Maronite  Country of Origin Lebanon & U.S.  Immigrant Age 4 & N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff  City Peoria, Ill.  Date July 14, 1980

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

IA1 Both his and her parents couldn't read or write Arabic. Her parents couldn't even sign their own names. His parents sent their children to school to learn Arabic.

IB1 They spoke mostly English at home. (informants)

VI 17

Informant Mrs. Latify Cory  Sex F  Age 83  Interview Schedule Code _____

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/1

Couldn't give ticket agent name of town she was going to peddle in--would say this (stop) no until the town she wanted--then "this" (yes).

Informant Essa Samara | Sex M | Age 77 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Lebanon | Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Manchester, N.H. | Date 1962

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

IB1

He went to grammar school in Rachaya for a few years. He learned Arabic, to read and write, and also learned on his own. Never went to school in the U.S.

Essa Malooly who was present, said he didn't attend school very long in Rachaya, but taught himself here in America. He bought books in Arabic on history and story books and other kinds and read them.

Informant Nemer Kaleel (and wife) Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Earlville, Ill. Date 1962

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

IA2

Mrs. Kaleel:

Her mother worked in Rachaya to be able to send informant and her brothers to school to learn English because she would say "we're going back to America." They also learned Arabic in school.

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 _____

II/A/1

Before WWI, informant thought to date an American girl; he was very young and in order to get girls to go out with him, he bought a false moustache. Couldn't speak English. Went out one night with a Muslim friend. (Apparently because of false moustache) police picked him up, spent night in jail. Didn't know why because couldn't speak English to ask. Muslim friend sought help. He was fine $15. Muslim friend couldn't speak English either. Never dated Ameican girl in Chicago because couldn't speak enough to ask her even when a girl smiled at him; too embarassed to ask.

Wife immigrated to U.S. from Damascus in 1910 with brother and 2 sisters. Pretending (to U.S. immigration officials) that she was coming to her husband. This was pre-afranged with man she knew in Damascus who had pool room in Chicago. She stayed with brother's mother-in-law. Relative pointed her out to informant. He visited, was unimpressed at first. They attended night school together for a few nights, got to know each other.

Never knew mean of "date". Went walking and an occasional movie, but not dancing. He never danced, never went to a saloon. Married her within 3-4 months. Married by a priest at home. Small family wedding, mostly Damascense. Some Zahalni customers came to congratualte him at his mother's home. However, Damascenes continued to celebrate, dancing to Arabic music played on his phonograph and drank.

-continued-

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Najem Basheer Sex M/F Age 84/64 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17/24

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Richmond, Virginia Date Sept. 21, 1980

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

Informants' ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Mrs. Amelia Malooley Sex F Age 49 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Miss Budelia Malooley Sex F Age 77* Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age ca. 1 year

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 4, 1980*

* 59 at the time of the August 1962 interview

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

Informant's ability in Arabic: Excellent

Informant Miss Budelia Malooley Sex F Age 77* Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age ca. 1 year

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 4, 1980*

* 59 at the time of the August 1962 interview

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

VA
II/A/3

Regarding teachers and Syrian children: There were some Syrian children who could only speak Arabic when they went to school because only Arabic was spoken at home.

Informant Mrs. Latify Cory Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 _____

Informant's ability in Arabic: Good

Informant Mike & Ghandura Haddy Sex M & F Age 81 & 78 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 14 & 26

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Los Angeles, Calif. Date Spring 1962

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

IIA2

Most difficult adjustment for Ghandura was in language. But they exchanged visits with Americans and got along just fine as they were in a small town and everyone got to know each other. (Lived in Hot Springs, Neb.)

Informant Mrs. Queenie Nassour Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Miss. Date Aug. 11, 1979

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

IA1

She went to school in Munsif, Lebanon. Studied Arabic, and English.
Went to 2 school and had 2 teachers. Her grandfather wanted her to study English so she could talk to her brothers who were born in the U.S.
Had to stop school during WW1.
(Apparently went to school in U.S. because she says she didn't graduate here.)

II / 13

II / 7

VI / 7

Informant Maggie Malooly Sex F Age 70 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 20

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, ILL. Date 1962

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

IA1 She couldn't speak English when she came. There was no interpreter in N.Y. when she arrived. Had no trouble getting to Spring Valley to her father She would show the address written on a piece of paper.

Informant Zbayda Raya Maloof (Charlie Raya) Sex F (M) Age 82 (85) Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17 & 14

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 12, 1980

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

IA3 He attended church school in Zahle and learned to read a little Arabic but can't write. Attended 1 year, quit after being whipped for something in school.

IA3 She also attended church school for less than one year. She claims she could read Arabic but has forgotten it.

VI/7
II/7

Informant Haifa and Jamal Richards Sex F Age 71 & 68 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17 & 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Delwein, Iowa Date June 30, 1980

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

IA1

Learned Arabic, French and English in school in Beit Mary. Haifa sent to an English school with Lebanese teachers before and after WW1. Had to pay tuition. She also went to a French Catholic school for 2 or 3 years. Haifa was educated to 10th grade.

Jamal went to grade school in Beit Mary and to high school in Broumana, 5 miles away. She walked to school every day. She stopped going to school at age 16, in 11th grade.

Informant Eugene A. Myers Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date Aug. 27, 1980

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

IA3

Informant went to Russian school in Amyun, Lebanon. Studied Russian language.

IA#

Father was uneducated until he returned to Lebanon in 1907 when he studied Arabic. He was over 30 years old at the time.

VI/8
VII/7
VII/7

Informant Laurence Sophiea Sex M Age 57 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age born at sea

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Oak Park, Mich. Date May 22, 1980

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

IB1 Believes his mother was educated in Arabic at the American Missionary School in Lebanon.

IA1 Father not educated at all

Informant has B..A, M.A., Ph.D in Education.
One of his brothers is a dentist, all six of his brothers finished high school.

Informant Eugene A. Myers Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington,D.C. Date Aug. 27, 1980

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

IA2

Amyun, Lebanon located near Tripoli. Had no more than 1500 people in 1920 An agricultural area - olive trees, grape vines, figs. Village produced olive oil, figs and raisins. Residents were Orthodox. There were two churches in two harats.,, Also a school subsidized by Russia. Amyun in area first westernized by America.

II/1
II/7

Informant Mrs. Mary Agemy Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 23

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 5, 1980

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

I was in Ellis Island 19 days. My husband and brother went to get me. I was advanced in years. My brother said to my husband. Nothing will do but you go get her and she will marry you.

It was difficult for me at Ellis Island because I was "advanced in years", could not read or write and had no one who would provide for my support. I really didn't need anyone to support me. My brother was here; he had been here 7 or 8 years. But Americans would not allow anyone in who was not educated (literate?).

There was a man from the Biqa'a behind me who prodded me saying tell them Maryam at least the ABC in Arabic--I couldn't. All he wanted was for me to say the ABC in Arabic. I couldn't.

They kept cautioning me lest I make a mistake. My brother was ahead of me with his wife who could read and write. She was Christian. My brother married her in Saida and she converted to Islam and she was a sister among us.

Informant Mrs. Mary Agemy | Sex F | Age 83 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin Lebanon | Immigrant Age 23

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Dearborn, Michigan | Date June 5, 1980

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

I was never educated--they never educated girls. It is "'ayb" or a disgrace to educate girls--a girl should be the "mother of the house". A man should be educated because he works and trades outside the house.

Informant Mrs. Mary Schervish Sex F Age 88 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Maronite* Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa 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/A/1

Village of Qa'al Rim:

Near Zahle; source of Bardouni river. Small village, 2-3,000 people; farming is main occupation, for own use, self-sufficient; no shops; purchased non-agricultural products from Zahle; small crafts; common ovens (2 or 3); also a flour mill; grew own wheat; made burghol; family owned land, not large plots; farm equipement owned by few who helped others who did not own same; made dibs (a kind of molasses) from own grapes, also 'araq (hard liqueur); cows for milk mules, goats, sheep; common shepherd.

Three sects: Melkite, Orthodox and Maronite; each with own church; Maronites most numerous.

II/7
II/9

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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 _____

II/B/543

How did peddling get started? He speculates on human nature and suggests that early Syrian immigrants got into peddling because they had little money, few skills, no education, but they had ambition and so small time retail was the only thing they could do.

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code III/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

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

I/A

Village of Mhaithie:

Description of village and location.
Village shared with Druse (mixed Orthodox and Druse)
Father was shoemaker and owned land; land worked by farm labor.
No major crops in village.
Home faced a courtyard--10 homes(?)
Orthodox church only
Church school--attended by Druse and Christians; paid village teacher.
Animals kept in basement of home.
Goats and sheep kept in common village area; shepherded by village shepherd.
Extended family lived in separate homes in village.

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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 _____

A
I-184

Describes how he was interested in education. . . . At age 12 he subscribed to a newspaper and read the news to a group of people. The paper was from another town. It was a Druze paper, al-Saffa; publisher was Nasr ed-Din (Nasrudin).

II/7
II/8

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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-A-323

A little house: a very good teacher. He went for a while to a neighbor Christian school.

No grades.

Describes the relationship between education and European countries--French for the Maronites, Turkish or English for Sunni, Shi'i or Druze, Russian for the Orthodox. . . .

He points out that the Druze are more Arabic and don't take to English teacher. He goes on to say that the Druze came in the 9th or 10th century; an Arabic tribe on the border between Syrian and Iraq. During the Crusader wars . . . tribe Bani Mundhir (?). (Also explains the origins of the Orthodox).

Informant Mrs. Mary Agemy Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 23

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 5, 1980

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

At that time (1921 era) a wife would be a complete citizen. I am a complete citizen--then I got another citizen (presumably her own papers) after my husband died. Someone said I should go to school. I asked her--me? Want to put me in kindergarten? No--sent me to immigration office she called--1921--I went to school in Highland Park. There were 37 Syrians and 7 were Armenians. Three women taught. My brother and all others learned except me. I could write but could not understand.

My husband had already learned; he was intelligent, he was self-taught. He couldn't understand how I could write and not understand. No I couldn't understand because I never learned Arabic. They gave him the primer and he went right through it.

He had that pencil and was greatest (?) in Fort Hospital (?) and was greatest inspector in Highland Park. Because he read and wrote Arabic. He learned Arabic in village.

VI/6/6
II/7
VI/8

Informant Mrs. Mary Schervish Sex F Age 88 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Maronite* Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa 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/A/1 Girls didn't go to school much or get around so don't know much. There was a school for boys; informant only girl to attend for about 5 months; parents took her out, so had no more schooling; forgot everything; priest taught Arabic. Also brought teacher from other village because no experienced teacher in village; no grades; begin with bible; not really school, just rooms.

I/A/2 About half of the males learned some Arabic, but only a few girls did.

III/7
VI/7

Informant Mr. As'ad Schervish Sex M Age 80* Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Grosspointe Park, Michigan Date May 14, 1980

* inferred from abstract

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

One newspaper published by the English in Arabic in Bloudan; news about Beirut, Europe and U.S.,also one from Damascus--English school provided the English paper once a week.

II/8
II/7

Informant Mr. As'ad Schervish | Sex M | Age 80* | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Grosspointe Park, Michigan | Date May 14, 1980

* inferred from abstract

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

Informant immigrated from Bloudan, Syria, had 2,000 people in 1913, Orthodox and Sunni Muslim; had church and mosque; attended Orthodox school and there was also an English Presbyterian school; some farmers. Village was reknowned mountain summer resort.

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa 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/1

Had 2 Russian missonary schools in Aytha al-Fakhar (Aita el Foukhar). One for boys and 1 for girls; studied Arabic 5 years and 3 months of English with villager returned from U.S.; knew alphabet only; was considered among top students in his class--has good memory.

Informant Mr. H. K. Igram | Sex M | Age 84 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Sunni | Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon | Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa 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/1

Jub Jinine has 1 school for Arabic and Koran; no educated teachers to teach. No school for girls.

Informant Mrs. Laila Igram Sex F Age 73 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 21

Interviewer Alixa 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/1 | Sultan Ya'qub has Koran school for boys only. |

Informant Msgr. Aghabius Riashi Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 26

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 15, 1980

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

I/A/2

15-30

Continues hospital story; emphasis is on his role; took place in 1960's. Built in Zahle, not Khonchara because Zahle largest Melkite center; no hospital in Khonchara; 1 school--old one; his role in building school in Khonchara after he came to U.S. Then built school of higher education--monestary-- 1960's;

2,000 people in Khonchara; old school was for girls and boys. Talks about current school for girls and boys in Zahle. Talks about his recent visit to Zahle; finished training just before WWI; planned to go to Belgium for further traiing but prevented; came to U.S. in 1918 from Beirut; arranged by broker at Beirut; planned to visit sister in Colorado for one year only; swindled by broker; came to see sister in Colorado for one year.

II/7

VIII/1?

Informant Mr. Mose Nasser | Sex M | Age 87 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

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 _____

He went to a village school; he went to the second class (grade).

But he heard lessons by overhearing the lessons of the nearby seminary. Specifically her learned the Byzantine chant. His father was a watchman and he would go with him and listen to the Byzantine chant at night. He remembers that one time the students at the seminary were trying to learn a certain chant, the teacher got mad at the students, but from 3 stories down, he san the note.
The teacher ran down and got a hold of his father and they took him to Damascus for religious training. But when they found out he didn't speak Arabic, they had him run errands, he went two years and started chanting. ???

Then the Patriarch was invited to Russia to the bicentennial of the Romanoff family. On his way to Russia, the Patriarch stopped in Damascus in 1909. Mr. Nasser was made a grade school teacher at the age of 14-15. He quit Damascus.

Informant Msgr. Aghabius Riashi Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 26

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 15, 1980

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

I/A/3

Scranton, Pennsylvania--or Colorado--see above (???)

Scranton, Pennsylvania; recoverd from pneumonia; merchants from Akron met Shikri al-Bakhash (editor of newspaper: Zahle al Fatat who was in exile in N.Y.--Asked for priest, recommended Riashi; they invited him; no people from Khonchara and maybe none from Zahle in Akron.

end of I/A

I/B

Begins to tell of conditions in Lebanon during war. People suffered because of increased taxation in lieu of conscription for military. Turks abrogated special status of Lebanon and appointed Turkish governor.

Informant Msgr. Aghabius Riashi Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 26

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 15, 1980

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

I/A/1

(first 5 minutes contains pre-interview information)

1-15

Came from Khonchara, Lebanon; village of builders and landowners; came from large family, one of 4 major families of village: Kasoof, Kfury; Samaha; Riashi.

Has large monestary of large Melkite order with large library and original Arabic printing press (explains religious order and history of monestary).

Entered religious order at 17 years of age; became Msgr. at 33 (in U.S.); studied at Eastern College (Oriental Seminary), (Order of al-Hanawiyyi al-Shwayriyyi), Zahle.

Explains how he helped raise money to build Tarshiha Hospital in Zahle while he was a priest in Akron, Ohio.

Informant Msgr. Aghabius Riashi Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 26

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 15, 1980

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

I/A/3

Scranton, Pennsylvania--or Colorado--see above (???)

Scranton, Pennsylvania; recoverd from pneumonia; merchants from Akron met Shikri al-Bakhash (editor of newspaper: Zahle al Fatat who was in exile in N.Y.--Asked for priest, recommended Riashi; they invited him; no people from Khonchara and maybe none from Zahle in Akron.

end of I/A

I/B

Begins to tell of conditions in Lebanon during war. People suffered because of increased taxation in lieu of conscription for military. Turks abrogated special status of Lebanon and appointed Turkish governor.

Informant Mr. Peter Aref Solomon Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Grant Farr City Sterling Heights, Michigan Date May 28, 1980

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

There was no school while he was growing up in Syria, because of the war. When his father returned in 1919-20, he hired a teacher to teach him, but he only went to school a few weeks before they left for the United States.

IMM
4/II

Informant Mrs. Zahdi Barsa Sex F Age 81 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14

Interviewer Alixa 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/1

On and off, she went to school as child in Damascus; can read Arabic but can't write; didn't learn much; speaks Arabic, learned English from newspapers and silent movies. No education in English--self-taught--Had begun to learn French in Damascus and that helped with English. Also from talking to people at work. School was attached to Melkite church (St. Joseph's). Also taught arithmetic but she didn't have a chance to really learn it.

Informant Mrs. Bahieh Kappaz | Sex F | Age 83 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Detroit, Michigan | Date May 16, 1980

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

I/A/1

Educated to about 7th grade in Damascus. learned religion and reading and writing in Arabic; learned to talk Russian. School in her district in Damascus. Also attended night school for citizenship in Boston about 1918 or 1919. Word of father is supreme: father desciplines children more than mother "because he's a father"; it is particularly difficult for a stepmother.

I/A/2

Many boys and girls attend school in her neighborhood; Russian school was free including books; French was more expensive; she couldn't attend French because she was Orthodox; "medium" class attended her school.

Informant Mr. Osman Mohammed Chamie Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

Interviewer Alixa 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/A/1 Attended school to approximately 8th grade.

I/A/2 In 1913 when father took Mr. Chamie with him to the village with intent to stay 2-3 years, WWI broke out; American Consul advised U.S. citizens to return. Mr. Chamie left in U.S. Father feared would lose citizenship. Many returned with father from his and other village. Turkes now ruling; stepmother palced him in school 2 yrs. Turkish teacher; didn't learn much; too strict, taught Koran and Turkish; many days absent; letters came from U.S. from father inquiring about his education. Mr. Chamie couldn't read letter; angered mother; changed his school to Christian; Sheikh taught Koran poorly; In Christian school learned better. American protestant school. In 6 months mastered Arabic, could read well. Christian teacher's name Mikhail Mansour. Probably connected to AUB. When father returned in 1921, ended son's education to work.
Mrs. Chamie learned neither English nor Arabic. In her day they didn't teach girls.

Informant Mr. Harry As'ad Bousamra Sex M Age 85 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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/A/2

The school was a religious school and was funded by the Germans.

The Muslims had their own school.

The teacher was local.

(Here he explains that the Maronite associated with the French... but the Kaiser saw that the Melkites were a minority, so he funded the school.)

The school had 8 grades.

He explains here how he got along in school.

Informant Mr. Woodrow W. Woody Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 4

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Mt. Clemens, Michigan Date May 22, 1980

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

Parents could read and write Arabic; mother educated in convent.

II/7

II/13

Informant Mr. As'ad Schervish Sex M Age 80* Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Grosspointe Park, Michigan Date May 14, 1980

* inferred from abstract

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

| | |
|---|---|
| I/A/2 | Informant's mother and father could not write, but 3 uncles were literate. |

Informant Mrs. Nellie Khouri Jacobs Sex F Age 71 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 7, 1980

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

IA3 Her father, in preparation for priesthood, learned to read Bible.
IA3 Father can read and write Arabic very well.
IA3 Mother could not read nor write Arabic of English.

Informant Shaikh Kalil Bazzy Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date June 9, 1980

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

I/A/1

Village of Bint Jubail, Lebanon:

Bint Jubail was neither a large town nor a small village--in between. Had market on Thursdays to which people from nearby villages came to buy and sell. All residents were farmers; planted grains and vegetables and had vineyards.

All residents were Shi'i Muslims. Village had several mosques. Ain Ibl, a village very close to Bint Jubail, was all Christian with churches; doesn't know sect. Another village, Rmaise was also Christian.

There was no public school; only sheikhs taught 20-30 boys Arabic from the Qur'an.

Informant Mr. Oscar Alwan | Sex M | Age 65 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Maronite | Country of Origin Lebanon | Immigrant Age 13

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Peoria, Illinois | Date July 16, 1980

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

I/A/1 Informant has the equivalent of an 8th grade education from Itoo. He learned Arabic and French, because of the mandate period--classes halfday in French/halfday in Arabic. It was a Lebanese boarding school, non-parochial teachers and some French freres.

I/A/2 Informant's father could read and write well, had vision/foresight, "could see things we could never see".
Mother was not well educated, could read and write letters.

All villages had primary schools.

III/7

Respect for father

Informant Louis & Claire Ajamy Sex M & F Age 94 & 77 Interview Schedule Code II / 7

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 _____

Re: neighborhood.

IA1 In Damascus lived not far from Maryamiya Orthodox Church in Christian section. Believes no Maronite in neighborhood, only Melkites and Orthodox. Lived in beautiful house facing courtyard. Many doors faced courtyard containing fountain, a big house with tall trees. Also had a liwan, a stage used for entertainment. Upper class residence, occupied only by nuclear family. Later moved to more modern house near English hospital. No relatives in immediate neighborhood.

IA2 In the evening people would promenade on the streets. He played the fiddle in the evening as he walked, they had a singer also.

IA2 There was a French school in the neighborhood - St. Vincent De Pauls and an English missionary school also. (elementary)

IB2 Vendors came to the door to sell food. Milked goats right at the door.

IB2 Bathed in public baths, men in morning, women and children in afternoon.

Informant Mr. William Darwish Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox/Baptist Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 7, 1980

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

| | |
|---|---|
| I/A/1 | Informant attended Catholic school in Rashaya 5 years; learned to read and write Arabic and French, math and spelling. |
| I/A/2 | Mother and father could read and write Arabic although father never attended school. |

II/7
III/7

Informant Mr. William Darwish Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox/Baptist Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 7, 1980

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

I/A/1 Learned to read and write French and ARabic in Catholic school in Rachaya; attended abouve 5 years; learned arithmetic, spelling. Didn't learn English because school was French sponsored.

I/B/2 8 years of grade school, 4 years of high school, 4 years of college at Loyola in Chicago; never finished his law degree; quit because he had a good job with government and got married.

II/7
VI/7
III/8

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey | Sex M | Age 75 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 8

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Cedar Rapids, Iowa | Date June 20, 1980

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

I/A/1 Informant went to Qur'an school; learned to read and write (in Arabic). Christian boys went to this school too, but did not learn the Qur'an, just Arabic.

I/A/2 Was taught by a private individual paid by parents of students; had 3 teachers; no girls in his class.

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapid, Iowa Date June 20, 1980

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

I/A/1 Informant completed reading Qur'an in the homeland; reads and writes Arabic.

Informant educated himself; went to school for only 6 weeks in Urbana, Iowa; then moved to Quasqueton, Iowa and studied for only 4-5 more weeks. He continued in night school in Cedar Rapids and at the Ford Trade School in Dearborn, Michigan, where he learned electrician skills. Informant learned English at night school in Dearborn also.

I/A/1 Informant sent his children to public schools.

Informant never heard of the Jane Boyd Community Center.

II/7
VI/8
X/2/2

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 20, 1980

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

I/A/2

Informant's father died when informant was 2 years old; he has 6 brothers and 1 deceased sister. He is the second youngest son. Brother and mother worked the land. Heard that his father taught Arabic.

Informant Ali Turfe | Sex M | Age 77 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

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 ____

IA1

In the Homeland:

Didn't go to school, because he was helping his father.

Said that the Turks wanted the people to be dumb so that they wouln't ask for their freedom.

Informant Shaikh Kalil Bazzy Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date June 9, 1980

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

I/A/1 Informant was not educated in the homeland.

Informant Mr. Alex Ecie Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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/2 | Informant attended a religious school in Majdal; read the Qur'an. Rich people sent their children to Damascus or Beirut to high schools. |

II/7
II/18

Informant Najla Nouhan Simon Sex F Age 82 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Mich. Date May 23, 1980

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

IA2

Informant started school at age 5 at French school, taught by French nuns and Arab teachers. Loved school, remained there until age 12. Two uncles living in U.S. told her parents to send the children to English school, because they hoped that the rest of the family would emigrated also ultimately. Attended English school for 2 years, British school, but with Arab teachers. When she left for the U.S. she could read and write French, Arabic, and some English. Memorized much poetry.

Informant Najla Nouhan Simon Sex F Age 82 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 23, 1980

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

IA2

Had no newspapers in the Midan section of Damascus. Hardly anyone could read. Her mother could read letters and her prayer book and her father thought that was enough.

Informant Afif I. Tannous Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 33

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Annandale, Virginia Date September 10, 1980

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

IA2 During the winter, the family went to Tripoli, 15 miles away where his father had a business. The informant went to the American grade school there and to the village school in the summer. His school in Tripoli and ten or fifteen other school were set up by the Presbyterian Board of Missions. Speaking of the Ayube School: it began as a mission school but later during the mid-1920' it had its own board of trustees and became non-sectarian.

IA3 "The American mission school rendered tremendous interest to the villages of Lebanon."

Informant's mother in the mid'1880's was one of the first girls to go to the mission school in Tripoli. His sister also went to the mission school.

Informant graduated from the American mission school in Tripoli and went to the Ayube School, where he studied biology and agriculture. Because he was interested in the human side of development he took social sciences. After several years working in the rural areas of Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine, and teaching in the university he came to the U.S. to finish his graduate work in 1937.

Informant Afif I. Tannous Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 33

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Annandale, Virginia Date September 10, 1980

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

IB3

Informant came to the U.S. to study and then return to Lebanon. Informant didn't believe that it was economic depression in Lebanon that was the reason for emigration, and there was no religious oppression because of the protection of the western powers. There was democracy there, no political oppression either. The people voted for whom they wanted. Informant once joined his fatherin a political campaign. Rather, it was education and exposure to the west that made people emigrate. And when some started emigrating others followed. Interviewer mentioned that Hitti's book indicated that economic severity was the reason for emigration, the informant said he doesn't know where he got his facts from.

Informant stated: "I was not planning to start roots here" but when WW2 started he offered his services although he wasn't an American citizen. He was sent to Washington to work for the government and then decided to stay in the U.S.

III / 2

III / 1

II / 7

Informant Afif I. Tannous Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 33

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Annandale, Virginia Date September 10,1980

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

IA1 Informant went to a 'community school' in the village. There was one teacher who taught everything. Besides being a teacher this man was a tradesman. Boys and girls went to the same school, but to different classrooms. Informant learned English, French and Arabic.

IA2 "It was the spirit of emigrants to the U.S. that developed that school." Before the teaching was very primitive, pupils learned "how to write a little, how to read a little, subtract and multiply but not division." Emigrants who went back to the village spread the American idea of education. This happened in other villages also. The influence of emigrants was tremendous on village life and on education. The emigrants sent money and ideas back to the village.

Informant remembers hearing one emigrant who returned talking about the rights of the individual, "human beings in America are highly respected."

Informant Mr. Nafe Katter Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 22

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Saginaw, Michigan Date June 13, 1980

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

I/A/1 One Christian lady and her father were teachers in the village.

Informant George F. Addes | Sex M | Age 70 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Melkite | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff & Grant Farr | City St. Claire Shores, Michigan | Date June 14, 1980

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

IA1 Father knew Arabic and French. Father was taught by a priest; French and"Lebanese" in Melkite School. (Didn't say where but I assume in the village: Rachaya - al - Fukhar.)

Conversation with:
Informant Mary Agemy Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code II/7
Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 23
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 5, 1980

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

She went to school in Highland Park. There were 37 Syrians and 7 were Armenians. Three women taught. Her brother and all others learned except her, she could write but not understand. Her husband had already learned, he was intelligent, he was self-taught. He couldn't understand how she could write and not understand. She couldn't understand because she had never learned Arabic. Her husband had learned Arabic in the village.

VII/8
VI/7
II/7

Conversation with:

Informant Zenib Sabaugh | Sex F | Age 75 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Dearborn, Mich. | Date May 30, 1980

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

She has never had any education. There are no schools in her village, also Arabic was taught to boys. Girls never got educated. She did not believe that Christian girls were prevented from going to school. She thought that Christians had more education than Muslims. She can't sign her name in Arabic or English.

Her children have all graduated from high school. She and her husband believed firmly in having their children educated. Her sons have done well. One built a lucrative business by salvaging metals. Used to use old autos and scraps from Ford Motor Co. His friends laughed at him at first but now he is sucessful they don't laugh any more. Another son is skilled in repairing television sets. He has his own business and likes to gamble on horses.

Informant Mrs. Helen Dow | Sex F | Age 67 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Druze | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Fenton, Michigan | Date June 13, 1980

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

I/A/1 She claimed that she went with her family to Lebanon because her parents wanted their children to be educated in the homeland.

Informant was educated in Beirut, first in an English school and then spent 2 years attending the Mary Kassah school where she was taught French and Arabic. This was a private school. She did not complete school there; during her last year in high school (i.e. the equivalent of high school), she got married; she was 16.

I/A/3 Since her father was a Mason, after his death, the Masons took care of his children's education, paying for the cost of schooling.

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

II/A/1

When he returned to Lebanon in 1921 at age 9, he went to a French school. He learned French, Arabic, and read the Qur'an in (Tebnine).
When he came back to Dearborn in 1921, he went to Salina school, 5th grade. Because he didn't speak or write English well, kids made fun of him and he hit them, so he was thrown out of school. Uncle who lived near the school, returned him to school and with special attention, he caught up with English.

II/7
III/7
III/8
III/3/f

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

I/B/3

When informant went back to Lebanon in 1921, he spoke no Arabic (because he was born in Michigan City, Indiana). "At that time French took over Lebanon" and opened French schools that also taught Arabic. He learned Arabic and the Koran. He learned to read and write Arabic in 3 months.

II/7
III/7
VII/8

Informant Mr. Kamel Osman | Sex M | Age 68 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Taylor, Michigan | Date June 4, 1980

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

| | |
|---|---|
| I/B/2 | Went to Lebanon at age 9 in 1921; stayed for 7 years, learned Arabic. |

Informant Mahomed Wazney Sex M Age 90 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 25

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 3, 1980

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

IA1 He learned to read and write Arabic in an elementary school in Lebanon at age 5. Also studied Qur'an in the school. Also went to elementary school in the U.S.

IA2 The teacher of the school in Tebnine opened his own school and taught in it, it was not a religious school. However, "the Christians had a school and the Muslims had a school, but the Christian one has better teaching than the Muslim one." Informant went to both.

The teachers were given money or some of the crops after the harvest.

II/7

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

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

Speaks excellent Arabic.

Attended Arabic-Russian Missionary School, in homeland, for 5 years.
Learned English in homeland for 3 months, knew alphabet.

4/II
4/IA

Informant Jack A. Hamady Sex M Age 71 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 11

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Flint, Mich. Date June 13, 1980

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

IA1 Informant went to school in the village until age 10. School attended was for boys only, both Christian and Druze. Only a few girls went to school

IA3 There was a Presbyterian school in the village.

Informant Wagha Sophiea | Sex F | Age 80 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Lebanon | Immigrant Age 20

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Royal Oak, Mich. | Date May 28, 1980

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

IA1

Informant was one of the few women in her village to attend school, others had to work on the farms.
She attended school with her 4 sisters which was run by a Syrian who had returned from South America. One sister "didn't make it so they told her to go home." Informant's mother sent them to school because she wanted them to learn. Paid $1. for a whole year. It was a one room classroom for children of all ages. They learned Arabic, math and the bible. School sponsored by the English Presbyterians.

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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/1 | Informant attended church school; learned rudiments of Arabic. |

Informant Hasibe & Abe Aossey Sex F & M Age 74 & 82 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Muslim Shi'i Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 21 & 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

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

IA2

-Her father was one of two shayks in the village. His duties were traditional religious ones dealing with personal law and private matters and interpreting the Qur'an.

Her father taught school. Informant went to school about 5 years. Doesn't write Arabic well. Only 4 or 5 girls were educated. Her mother could read some Arabic and her sister also went to school. Her father taught Arabic, Qur'an and history and general knowledge. He had taught in Egypt for 5 or 6 years.

Informant Najem & Bahia Basheer Sex M & F Age 84 & 64 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17 & 24

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Richmond, Va. Date Sept. 21, 1980

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

IA1 He went to an English school in Beit Mary, Lebanon but only learned Arabic for 4 or 5 years. His aunt was a teacher at the school. He was taught religion by his father who was a sheikh.

She graduated from high school in Beit Mary in 1936. Then she went to the Lycee Francais and learned French and English.

IA3 The village had elementary schools, a high school, a French school and the American Friends school.

Informant Christine La Hood Sex F Age 85 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 5

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 15, 1980

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

IA2

They had a one room school in Itoo, Lebanon, which taught Arabic and French. Had one teacher from the village plus 2 nuns. "Everyone knows French in our town."

Her mother never went to school, couldn't read or write. Father could read and write Arabic.

VI/7

II/7

Informant Mrs. Edna Migala Sex F Age 70 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin United States* Immigrant Age n.a.*

Interviewer Grant Farr City St. Claire Shores, Michigan Date May 21, 1980

* parents were immigrants from Mt. Lebanon

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

I/A/2

Informant's father went to a "school under the trees".

Women did not go to school.

II/13
II/7

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad | Sex F | Age 74 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

Besides Arabic, the informant studied English and Russian in the old country. At the Russian school, realizing her ability, they gave her 3 extra hours of Russian study, from the other children, privately.

Mrs. Abdelahad says that her mind was greater than she was; she doesn't know what's the matter with her ('aqli kan akbar minni).

She never liked to anywhere, not on picnics; whenever her parents went, she stayed at home reading/at her small table.
studying
One day her mother complained to her teacher that she never helped in the housework. The informant was scared. The other children looked at her and her mother. She was embarrassed. Her mother told the teacher that her books were always on the couch and that she had to force her to do something. (with her)
The teacher responded: I'm sorry to tell you, two water/in one hand you can't carry. "Ab-btkhtan biliid ma bymisnku. melons
Either she can learn, or she can help you at home. The teacher told her to leave her alone, that she was the best in the class. The informant was so happy — over

ak r mi'n kul al-banat

Her mother wasn't so happy because the teacher sided with her daughter.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

Because her mother scared her about going to Beirut to school, the informant changed her mind. Her father still felt she was fortunate to have the opportunity; other children didn't have the chance. She would be able to come home for Xmas.... Nonetheless, her mother won out. Her parents seem to have quarreled about this. Informant, as she grew older, realized that her mother had made a/mistake, although she could understand her feelings. big

After this, the informant left the English school and attended the Russian school in Damascus. There they recognized that she was very smart, beyond her years.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney | Sex F | Age 64 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Detroit, Michigan | Date July 1962

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

Side II
503-520

Girls and boys do not play together.

They attend separate schools.

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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
121-320

Informant was a teacher in his village since he was 13 years old; he had about 13 students. He taught the children to read and write Arabic.

II/7
II/9

Informant Alexander K. Malik Sex M Age 71* Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

Mr. Malik also went to night school. He liked to study and to read. His favorite subjects were history, geography and astronomy, and languages.

When he was in college in the old country, astronomy was one of the subjects he took.

He never returned to theology.

II/7
VI/8

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age _____ Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

Mr. Shabo never went to school in the old country, because his family put him to work from the age of 7.

So he didn't know English or Arabic. Even now he cannot read and write.[1] He can sign his name and work with numbers. He keeps everything in his head.

[1]Although he says he is a businessman who has many customers and made a lot of money.

II/7
II/10
II/9
VI/7
VI/8
Values - prite
Values - success (economic)

Informant Mr. Dan Sickrey | Sex M | Age 80 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 18

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
000-047

Mr. Sickrey did not have his paternal uncle's son's address.
So he asked a carriage driver if he would take him to a Syrian so he could locate his cousin. The driver agreed, showing the informant a silver dollar, telling him this would be the charge (The informant had told him he had just arrived in the U.S..). He told the driver to speak English and that when he arrived at the destination, he would get his dollar.

Shahadi???

The driver took him to a man ('ammu Yusuf???) who had a grocery store, explaining to the man Mr. Sickrey's purpose. The man called the informant by name-- _____ Darwish. The man told him he had been his classmate in school, next to him. And something about arithmetic (perhaps they helped each other, cheated???) So the informant recognized him.

I think he said that this guy was also a coppersmith.

Informant Mrs. Latifee Cory | Sex F | Age 64-66 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 11-13

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
121-320 The informant did not know enough English when she immigrated.
The informant learned the ABC's in school in the old country, the first books, but she did not know how to speak English.
She had attended the Russian school in the village and then went to the Protestant school where she was taught by al-mu'allimi Rougina who was a Baptist.
Some man[1] came to the informant's father to criticize his sending his daughter to the Protestant school.

..

[1] her maternal uncle

Informant Mr. Peter Fawaz | Sex M | Age 73 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox? | Country of Origin Syria? | Immigrant Age 21

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Manchester, New Hampshire | Date August 1962

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

Side I
311-360

Mr. Fawaz learned English in the U.S. from books; he paid a man who taught him the alphabet to begin with. Then he managed to learn English on his own.

He says he reads English but can't write it; there are still a few words he can't _____(yithayaaha???). But if he wants to write a letter to his children, he can and does so.

Mr. Fawaz concentrated more on the Arabic language than on English. He came from the old country, not knowing Arabic well. In two years they had been taught the (Arabic) alphabet and the first book and that was it (just like the first two years in grammar school in the U.S.). So when he came to the U.S. he wanted (had in mind) to study Arabic because he didn't want to forget it and so that he could read and write it well.

I think he says that he exerted 100 times the effort (tl'aat bil-'arabi akthar ma tl'aat 100 times ala al-inkliizi) to learn Arabic than to learn English.

Informant Alexander K. Malik Sex M Age 71* Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

After receiving his degree in Nazareth in theology and teaching, the informant became the head of a public school in Lebanon (over 500 students) for one year.

After that, the informant's church, the Orthodox Church, or more specifically the Patriarch Alexandrous asked the informant if he would like to be a clergyman. If so, he would send him to Mt. Athos in Constantinople (sic) which had a great school of theology.

But the Turkish government wanted the informant to study international law and the informant chose to come to the U.S. to study at the expense of the Turkish government, through their ambassador.

The informant entered university in Washington, D.C. to study international law and studied for about one year, until the outbreak of World War I. Then, he was not able to continue his study.

Informant Mrs. Rose LaBa | Sex F | Age 84 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Catholic* | Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon | Immigrant Age 14

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Ft. Wayne, Indiana | Date July 1962

*possibly Orthodox

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

Side I
499-545

Republican

Mrs. LaBa remebers ten/American presidents, including Grover Cleveland, who was in office when she arrived in the U.S.
She didn't like Theodore Roosevelt because he deserted the country after one year in office to go to Africa[1] and fight, and talked to the German Kaiser, who apparently advised him badly (???)

Mrs. LaBa remembers the Kaiser, he was a ruler (???) in Jerusalem and the principal of her school was German (???) and he came to visit all the schools (Catholic) because he was Catholic. The informant shook his hand; noticed that his hands were short, otherwise he was nice-looking.

This is before he was the Kaiser, when his father was the ruler.
She never thought that he would later fight the U. S.

[1] matrah al-'abiid (the place of the blacks)

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

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

Tape II
Side II
105-300

in the Middle East mosques
When the Arabs/didn't have schools or churches or ~~organizations~~ for education, they focused on the Arabic language, and the perfection of it (the high language).[1] God gave them this language. And they used to speak poetry to each other.

Among the Arabs there are three social (economic) classes: high, medium, and low. He tells a story about a marriage between two people from different classes. The boy can't read or write, but wants to obtain the daughter who has been hidden from him; he asks someone for a poem to recite in order to obtain the girl; finally after asking for this poem day after day, he is told the name and location of the girl (I think this is the meaning of the story???).

The desert Arabs studied Arabic and recorded every detail of it.

[1]The everyday language we speak is weak (by comparison).

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

When she taught in Rashayya, she stayed with a family. The mother treated her like her daughter.[1] The informant used to cry for her mother in Damascus. This family had a son, but he never told her that he loved her because she was so young.

She loved this woman like her own mother, but she didn't realize her son wanted her as a wife.

[1]She told her she was her mother in Rashayya. She used to sleep with her. There were 3 teachers in the/apt. She washed and cooked for the informant.
2 rooms

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

Mrs. Abdelahad was educated in the English school; they were very nice; they wanted her because her father wasn't rich.

The principal recognized that Mrs. Abdelahad was very smart and wanted to send her to Beirut to school for 4 years at their expense.

But her mother, I think, did not want her to go because she was only 15 years old.

Her father, however, was very pleased; he told his wife (y'lan abuki, khaliha truuh, badun 'alimha) to let her go, that they wanted to educate her.
In 4-5 years, she would return well educated.
The informant was very happy; didn't know how far Beirut was from Damascus.

Her mother however scared the life out of her, telling her if she her stomach or head hurt (if she became ill), and wanted to come home, she wouldnt' be able to. She wouldn't see her mother for 12 months. And her mother wouldn't be able to see her.

Informant Mr. Dan Sickrey Sex M Age 80 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 18

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
000-047

Informant attended the orthodox school in his village.
He learned English, a little, in this school.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney | Sex F | Age 64 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Detroit, Michigan | Date July 1962

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

Informant learned to read and write Arabic from school in the old country and from her father. Every night, her father read with her, alternating lines, a chapter from the Bible. "Arabic isn't hard to read for a person who hears it all the time." Informant learned basic Arabic in this manner.
In the Russian school students were taught the sounds of the letters rather than their names.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney | Sex F | Age 64 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Detroit, Michigan | Date July 1962

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

Side II
267-400

In the old country as soon as an individual had finished high school (about age 14), they would be placed as teachers for the first graders.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney | Sex F | Age 64 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Detroit, Michigan | Date July 1962

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

Side I
126-331

Informant went to 4th grade in the old country (equivalent to 8th grade here in the U.S.). She went to the Russian school. There was also a Presbyterian school in the village. She subsequently quite the Russian school and attended the Presbyterian school.

She had been sent to school at 4 years of age.

Informant Alexander K. Malik Sex M Age 71* Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

Informant was sent to study theology and teaching (education) in Nazareth, Palestine. He received his degree in 1908 at the age of about 17.

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code III/7

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

In the informant's village, Bloudane, there was a Russian Orthodox sponsored school and an English Protestant school. The Muslims were sent to Zebedani to school.

III/7

Informant Mr. Jim (Najib) Azar Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

his mother would take him to school
In the old country, Mr. Azar would go to school,/but then he would run away and only go home for lunch when the other children at school did.

II/7

Informant Mr. Peter Fawaz Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox? Country of Origin Syria? Immigrant Age 21

Interviewer Alixa 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 attended school in the old country for two years; he learned Arabic, but not English.

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

When her sisters first sent for her to come to the U.S., she didn't want to.

When informant returned to Damascus from Rashayya for the summer, she had no idea she would be coming to America. She thought she would be returning to teach in Rashayya.

But her mother had written to her sisters, telling them that she could speak English. She's smart and maybe her future's better there than in Damascus.

A next door neighbor wanted to marry her that summer; he came from Paris where he went to school. But she was only a kid, didn't want to get married, even if he were a millionaire. So she told her father she would rather go to America to her sisters, who had sent a ticket. So they returned the ring and called off the marriage. They were very disappointed.

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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
121-320 Informant was educated in the Russian College (kulliyyi) in Nazareth.

II/7
II/18

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

After the incident with her daughter's school teacher, the mother sent the informant to work with her[1] paternal uncle's son in Damascus, who sold hand-painted scarves (manadiil). He would pay her each week, telling her a certain amount was to be given to her mother, and a certain amount was for her to keep.

Her mother told her not to go to school but to go to her cousin's to work, but she packed up her books and went straight to school.

[1] or her mother's

Informant Mr. Peter Fawaz | Sex M | Age 73 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox? | Country of Origin Syria? | Immigrant Age 21

Interviewer Alixa 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

On arrival in Ellis Island, he was asked his name and where he was going. He translated for himself as he knew a few words. There was an interpreter there, but the informant he completed his transaction translating for himself in English. He knew a little English, which he had learned from his brother who had graduated from Beirut College; his brother taught him some words before he came.

Informant Alexander K. Malik Sex M Age 71* Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

Informant's father was a government official of the Turkish government, in Rashayya. Informant's brother was also working for the Turkish government in the courthouse in Rashayya. The whole Malik family were officials at that time and had always been officials. They had always been in the government house. They were statesmen and saw that their children received the best education.

II/7
III/6

Informant Mrs. Rose LaBa | Sex F | Age 84 | Interview Schedule Code II/7?

Religious Sect Catholic* | Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon | Immigrant Age 14

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Ft. Wayne, Indiana | Date July 1962

*possibly Orthodox

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

Tape II
Side I
623-78

Mrs. LaBa remembers playing with pebbles used as jacks, and marbles with pennies as a child in school.

II/7?
III/8?

Informant Mrs. Ramza Abdelahad | Sex F | Age 74 | Interview Schedule Code II/7

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
000-491
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

Informant Mr. Edward Ellis Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code II/7

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

Informant was in the 4th grade in Lebanon (Syria) when he immigrated. His own parents did not know how to read or write, and his father couldn't teach them all, so he wanted one of his children to learn. Mr. Ellis was the oldest child in the family and his father wanted him to be educated.

"I guess it was fate that I didn't go to Nazareth; I'd probably, I intended to go there and study for a ministry, for a ministry for a priest."

Values – education
II/7

Informant Mrs. Selma (Salimi) Salhaney Sex F Age 84 Interview Schedule Code II/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 32

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 II
0-86

There were 10 girls who used to come to the informant (and others) to learn how to sew.

II/7
II/13

Informant Widad Naff Frenn Sex F Age 47 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6

Interviewer Alixa Naff City North Hollywood, Calif. Date 1962

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

IB1

In Detroit her father went into grocery business, a small store on Elliott St. This first store didn't suceed in the Depression so he bought another on Brush St. which did better, enough to require a butcher, himself, the informant and 2 aunts to work in it. He lost this store when an unscrupulous real estate man had him sign some papers on the pretext of showing the store when in fact he was having him sign papers to sell it for a paltry sum.

Later opened a store in Highland Park where he stayed until retirement. in 1946. During the Depression they could barely make ends meet.

VI/11

IX/2/a

VI/7

Informant Joe David Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 21

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date 1962

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

IA2

Could speak English when he arrived, had gone to the Protestant school in Rachaya. He also learned Portuguese and Spanish in Brazil.
He worked as an interpreter for recruits for the U.S. Army in 1918. He would convince them in their own language that they should join up.

Informant Mrs. Latify Cory Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code VI/7

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 _____

II/A/3

Spoke Arabic at home all the time; all of her children understand it well; Canadian-born do not speak it.

Informant Mr. Slayman Nimee  Sex M  Age 70*  Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox  Country of Origin Syria  Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff  City Spring Valley, Illinois  Date August 1962

* deduced from information given

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

I/A/1

He spoke a few words of French because French was spoken in the village school and he picked up some French; it was 'catch' French. He learned Arabic. His English is "catch" too as it is now.

Informant Harry & Sadie Unes | Sex M & F | Age 83 & 74 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Maronite | Country of Origin Lebanon & U.S. | Immigrant Age 4 & N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Peoria, Ill. | Date July 14, 1980

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

She speaks Arabic poorly, he speaks good. She however understands much.

TB1 They spoke mainly English at home when their children were growing up.

Informant Mr. Matt Iube | Sex M | Age 78 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite | Country of Origin Syria | Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City Detorit, Michigan | Date July 1962

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

I/A/2 He learned English readily and had no problems but forgot his French.

I/A/2 "I learned English quickly and would pick up a newspaper and read it--and sometimes I read a book".

I/A/3 The reason he learned to read newspapers so quickly was because he had learned French.

Informant Mrs. Eva Frenn | Sex F | Age 56 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Melkite | Country of Origin Lebanon | Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alixa Naff | City N. Hollywood, California | Date 1962

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

I/A/2

She and a lot of others started reading the English newspapers; her French helped her learn English quickly; she didn't go to school here. They always spoke Arabic in the home because of her mother-in-law (who couldn't speak English).

From 2nd interview, March 20, 1980

Informant Mr. Abe Abraham Sex M Age 60 Interview Schedule Code ~~VI~~ / 7

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 23, 1979

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

I/A/1 Informant's father didn't know English. In Vicksburg he was tutored in English by Prof. Eure, principal at Vicksburg High School. His father taught the principal ancient history from his head; he could state dates, armies, battles, winners and losers in Middle East history. The professor checked him out and found
I/A/2 he was right; he taught his father to read and write English very good.

I/A/3 His father spoke and wrote Arabic fluently. "My parents spoke Arabic all the time at home and we learned it and I can get by speaking in Lebanon. I don't read or write Arabic". Later they spoke English--broken English--in the house if it was necessary for visitors.

Informant Mr. Johnny Nosser | Sex M | Age 81 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon | Immigrant Age 22

Interviewer Elaine Hughes | City Vicksburg, Mississippi | Date August 12, 19

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

VI/A/2

Informant went to little school; he never finished. They had English lessons, geography--where America is located--but didn't have enough (English) to get along in the U.S.; he had to learn it here. They had (a) little book (?). He went to the 10th grade (?) in LEbanon; he didn't go to high school because he had to work.

Informant Mr. Abe Abraham | Sex M | Age 60 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Elaine Hughes | City Vicksburg, Mississippi | Date August 23, 1979

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

I/A/1 Neither his father nor mother had an education; his mother could not read or write; (he later says his father had 3-4 yrs. education).

I/A/2 Informant's father had only about 3-4 years of school and could read and write Arabic and learned to read and write English.

II/7

VI/8

VI/7

Informant Mr. Abe Abraham | Sex M | Age 60 | Interview Schedule Code VI/7

Religious Sect Orthodox | Country of Origin U.S. born | Immigrant Age n.a.

Interviewer Elaine Hughes | City Vicksburg, Mississippi | Date August 23, 1979

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

I/A/2

Informant's mother worked in the grocery store. She also learned to read figures and use the adding machine. His grandmother took care of the children; She taught them to speak Arabic, "the everyday stuff".

VI/7

Informant Mr. Slayman Nimee Sex M Age 70* Interview Schedule Code

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962

* deduced from information given

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

I/B/1

"I spoke not a word of English. We'd go from house to house peddling and say "Buy somethin ya Laydie". If someone said an English word, I wrote in in Arabic. In about a week I gegan to catch on a little bit.