



MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL
FOLK ARTS & HERITAGE PROGRAM

FIELDNOTES

Fieldworker(s) [(Initials) Name]: (MH) Maggie Holtzberg, (MR) Millie Rahn

Accession Numbers:

MH-12-12-FN

Fieldnotes

- - -D

Audio recordings

MH-12-12-D

Photographic documentation

- - -M

Additional materials

Initial Contact: _____ Contact Date: 3/17/2012

Related Accession Numbers: MH-12-14, MH-12-15, - -

Individual/Group/Event: "Crowning Glories: Hat Show and Contest"

Address: _____

City: Roxbury

Zip: 02119

County: Suffolk

Phone: Daytime: _____

Evening: _____

E-mail: _____

Website: _____

Contact person: Sarah Ann Shaw

Title: _____

Location of Interview: Event room at Dudley Branch Library

Street Address: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

County: _____

Special Needs (including translation): audio recorder malfunctioned

Traditions documented on visit (traditional art/skills, occupational experience, ethnic or religious community): making and modeling of fancy hats

Traditions noted for follow-up: Lindzey's on Washington Street ; Easter Sunday at New Hope Baptist

Other Possible Contacts: Smiley Q. Haynes; Mrs. Lindsey

Summary Description: see attached

MH-12-12-FN summary

Attended "Crowning Glories: Hat Show and Contest" March 17, which was hosted by the Friends of Dudley Branch Library. The library is located at 65 Warren Street, in Roxbury. The event was organized and moderated by Sarah Ann Shaw, (mother of Klare Shaw, who alerted me of the event). Though scheduled to begin at 1:30, the proceedings really didn't get started until 2:00 p.m. It was the first hat show they had organized. It appeared to be modeled on traditional African American hat shows and contests, but had the feel of a staged reproduction, rather than the real thing.

Approximately 30 women attended. All but four were women of color. The white women there included Millie Rahn, myself, a woman who worked at the Children's Museum and whose mother had modeled for Marshall Fields, and her friend who works at the Harvard Film Archive. Nearly everyone who came was wearing a hat. There was a table up front with five hats on it from Lindzey's a local hat shop. At the back of the room were refreshments.

Most everyone took turns coming to the front of the room to model her hat, while describing its provenance, what it was made of, and variations on ways of wearing it. Some of the hats were crocheted, some embellished with brooches.

We met the very striking and stylish Smiley Q. Haynes who used to model for the Barbizon Agency. She specializes in fashion and used to have a salon on Gainesborough Street. Haynes is originally from West Virginia.

Also met a milliner whose husband owns Lindzey's on Washington Street in Roxbury, a hat and accessory store. The shop is located within another business. Although she didn't bring any of her own hats, Mrs. Lindsey does construct them from scratch, when she gets a commission.

Need to go interview both Haynes and Lindsey to see if they would be good candidates for the Lowell Folk Festival this summer. As for seeing more elaborate hats, several folks suggested we observe what women are wearing on Easter Sunday. They recommended New Hope Baptist Church in the South End on Tremont Street.

Contacts for follow-up:

Smiley Q. Haynes, model, actress and former fashion teacher

[REDACTED]
Dorchester, MA 02121

[REDACTED] (doesn't work)

Mrs. Lindsey (Reuben Lindsey)

Lindzey's - wigs, accessories, hats, jewelry, hairproducts
[REDACTED]

Roxbury MA 02119

Facebook has some photos, including several of "Queen Lindsey, the strong woman behind the man."

Mrs. Lindsey