

**Wilmette Historical Museum  
Oral History – Abstract**

Interviewees: Lisa Gaines McDonald & Loran Gaines McDonald  
Interviewers: Lisa Gaines McDonald & Loran Gaines McDonald  
Date of Interviews: June 22, 2022  
General Topics: Description of life in Wilmette in the 1990s through current; benefits of living in this community; descriptions of West Wilmette/Avoca District; Experiences of African-American family in Wilmette

**Note:** These interviews were divided into 5 segments. The summaries below are organized by segment with the approximate length of each segment noted.

<b>Segment of Interview</b>	<b>Topics Discussed</b>
#1 1 min.	Lisa Gaines McDonald introduces herself and summarizes her reasons for moving to Wilmette.
#2 5 min.	Loran interviews Lisa in this segment. Conversation goes into more depth about why the family moved to Wilmette, and the village differed from their previous home in Minnesota.
#3 9 min.	Lisa interviews Loran in this segment. Conversation focuses on Loran’s experiences growing up in Wilmette from the 5 <sup>th</sup> grade onward, and experiences as an African-American in a predominantly white community with description of two particular incidents, one focusing on New Trier Safe Rides. Discussion of safety, of diversity.
#4 2 min.	Lisa interviews Loran in this segment. Discussion of their West Wilmette neighborhood and possible reasons they moved to West Wilmette.

#5 6 min.

Segment begins with Lisa describing some of her experiences living in Wilmette, and after that Loran interviews Lisa. Topics include Wilmette and Northfield libraries, easy access to walking and bike trails, living in Wilmette during COVID, including easy access to services and sense of safety; perceptions of, and assumptions about Wilmette by those who do not live on the North Shore differences of East and West Wilmette; perceptions/assumptions about being African American and living on the North Shore.

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