

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, Oral History Project Transcripts A&M 3394

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1996-1999



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Kline, Michael Nobel

source

Kline, Carrie Nobel

Creator

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Huntington District. Oral History Project

Creator

Kline, Michael Nobel

Creator

Kline, Carrie Nobel

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Biographical / Historical

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, founded on 1775 June 16, was founded to develop the nation's infrastructure. The Huntington District is one of 44 Districts that make up the Corps and is responsible for a geographic area in the Appalachian hills and mountains of southern and central West Virginia, eastern Kentucky, western Virginia, and northwestern North Carolina and southeastern and central Ohio. Within this 45,000-square-mile area, the Huntington District Corps has designed and constructed more flood-control dams, levees, and floodwalls than any other Corps District. It developed the navigation infrastructure on the middle Ohio River and on the Kanawha River in West Virginia. This work has saved billions of dollars in flood damage, allowed cities and towns to develop free from flooding, and aided regional development through the transport of bulk commodities.

Scope and Contents

Facsimiles of transcripts of oral history sound recordings regarding the history of the Huntington District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the period 1970 to 1995. The 64 interviews were conducted by Carrie Nobel Kline and Michael Nobel Kline. Interviewees include Corp of Engineers administrators and other workers, engineers, and scientists. Each provides background information including their family history as well as details regarding their work with the Corps providing a rich history of the work and impact of the Corps on West Virginia waterways, communities, environment, culture, and economy. Specifically the interviews discuss aspects of engineering including navigation systems, automation, geotechnical factors, mapping, locks and dams, flood walls, and construction; natural resources including fish and wildlife, floods, and hydrology; public affairs including programs such as diving, community relations, planning, impact on cultural resources, and recreation such as white water rafting; and management including employment,

lockmasters, human resources, internships, and labor unions. West Virginia communities impacted by the Corps are also discussed.

Keywords

Kline, Michael Nobel

Kline, Carrie Nobel

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Huntington District. Oral History Project

Existence and Location of Originals

The cassette tapes and the original transcriptions are available in Series 20 and 58, Michael and Carrie Nobel Kline Collection, BCA 0258. Berea College Special Collections and Archives.

<https://bereearchives.libraryhost.com/repositories/2/resources/38>. Accessed July 10, 2025. Digitized recordings and transcripts are available from Berea College's digital collections archive.

Description of Subordinate Components

Anderson through Keeney and draft index

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