

### **Childhood**

I would like to begin by briefly discussing your childhood before you attended college at La Salle just as background information

When were you born? Where?

Did you have any brothers or sisters? If yes, did any of them attend La Salle or other institutions?

How many years did you live in that area? If moved can you remember why? When?

Did religion play a role in your childhood? Did you attend church regularly? What denomination?

When did you first begin school?

What schools did you attend prior to La Salle? Elementary, high school/? Were these public or private institutions?

### **La Salle: Bachelor's Degree**

Before we begin discussing your college years I was hoping you could give me a time line of your schooling so I can better understand how long the process took and then I would like to go through each one individually. When did you attend La Salle, 1952-1956? Notre Dame? University of Pennsylvania?

How did you come to choose La Salle for your college educations? Locale, financial, religion, parents?

What was your major? Did you declare right away or did you need time to think about it? Did you change your major ever? Do you remember how you came to choose history/education?

How large was the history department while you attended La Salle? A lot of majors/few majors? How many teachers? What kind of courses were offered?

When did you first take an interest in Irish-American and immigrant history? Was there anyone or anything that influenced this decision? Teachers, travel, parents ect?

Could you please tell me what the classes were like while you attended La Salle? Were they lecture classes, group discussions?

What were some of your favorite subjects during this time? History and other disciplines?

Who were some of your favorite professors/teachers?

What kind of grades did you receive?

What activities were you involved in while at La Salle? I have a whole list here but I am not sure what some of the groups/abbreviations mean.

Were there specific reasons for joining these groups? Just for fun? Academic advancement?

How large was La Salle when you attended? Student size? Campus size?

Where did you live, in dormitories? Where was that located?

Where were your classes? What buildings?

During the time you attended it was an all male institution. Did you enjoy the experience? Had you applied to any co-educational schools?

Was it always your plan to go onto to further schooling after La Salle and obtain your Doctorate Degree? When did you decide this, before or after began college? Who/what influenced this decision? Who helped you in the application process, any specific professors?

### **Notre Dame: Masters Degree**

How did you come to choose Notre Dame? Did any other classmates of yours accompany you there?

Did you have any other schools in mind? Did you apply to any other institutions?

Could you please describe what the application process was like? What requirements you had to meet in order to be accepted? GRE's? Paper? Interviews?

How large, well developed was the history department at Notre Dame compared to La Salle's?

What did you study while you were there? Irish-American history?

What were the classes/curriculum like there? Lecture/discussion? Similar to La Salle's style or something new?

Do you feel that your education at La Salle adequately prepared you for graduate school? How or why not?

Were you involved in any activities there? Teachers aid/assistantship? Groups/clubs?

Did you have a job while at Notre Dame?

Where did you live while you attended Notre Dame?

**University of Pennsylvania: Ph.D.**

How did you choose the University of Pennsylvania for your doctorate degree?

Did you have any other institutions in mind? Did you apply to any other universities?

What was the application process like?

How large was the history department compared to Notre Dame? Compared to La Salle?

Do you think that both La Salle and Notre Dame adequately prepared you for a doctoral program? How, or why not?

How did you decide on a topic for your dissertation?

Were you involved in any activities, programs, groups while at Penn?

Where were you living at this time?

**Return to La Salle**

I understand that you also taught at La Salle while completing your degree. Please tell me a little bit about that. How did you get the position, was it offered to you or did you go through the application process? Why did you want to teach at La Salle instead of another college or another job at that time? What year was this?

What kind of courses were you responsible for when you first began? General requirements? Seminars? Upper level courses?

Did your course work change over the years? Were you able to select specific topics and courses that you wanted to teach?

What were some of your favorite courses to teach? Irish American? Foreign Relations? Immigration?

Could you describe to me how you ran your class? Was it a lecture style class or discussion based? Did that depend on the course being taught?

How did you learn to organize and teach the material covered in your courses? Something you learned yourself or while studying at Notre Dame/Penn?

