



# Walt Biddle oral history interview transcript 2113

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Manuscripts and Archives
<b>Creator - ive:</b>	Biddle, Walt (Walter Arthur), 1925-1995
<b>Creator - ivr:</b>	Hughes, Debra (staff)
<b>Creator - ivr:</b>	Howard, Robert, 1943-2012 (staff)
<b>Title:</b>	Walt Biddle oral history interview transcript
<b>ID:</b>	2113
<b>Date:</b>	1994
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 item(s)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Walt Biddle (1925-1995) was a gardener in the household of Louise du Pont Crowninshield (1877-1958) and Francis B. Crowninshield (1869-1950) at Eleutherian Mills in Greenville, Delaware. In his oral history interview transcript, Biddle describes the Crowninshields and life at Eleutherian Mills in the 1940s and 1950s.

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## Biographical Note

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Walt Biddle (1925-1995) was a gardener in the household of Louise du Pont Crowninshield (1877-1958) and Francis B. Crowninshield (1869-1950) at Eleutherian Mills in Greenville, Delaware. The Crowninshields occupied Eleutherian Mills, the oldest of the du Pont mansions, in 1922 and resided there for several months every spring and fall. When the estate became part of the Hagley Museum and Library after Louise Crowninshield's death in 1958, Biddle joined the Hagley staff. He retired on June 30, 1985.

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## Scope and Contents

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Walt Biddle's (1925-1995) oral history interview covers his years of employment as a gardener with Louise du Pont Crowninshield (1877-1958) and Francis B. Crowninshield (1869-1950) from the 1940s through the 1950s at Eleutherian Mills in Greenville, Delaware. His recollections include information about the Corwinshields' personalities, social activities, and interests; the domestic staff and their specific duties; and the domestic furnishings. His reminiscences provide a glimpse of the lifestyle of a wealthy American couple as well as the duties of their household staff. Biddle was interviewed by Debra Hughes, Curator of Collections & Exhibits, and Robert A. Howard, Curator of Industry & Technology, on October 4, 1994.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Revision Description

Ashley Williams 2021

### Access Restrictions

No restrictions on access; this collection is open for research.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Oral histories
- Domestic relations

- Horticulture
- Crowninshield, Louise du Pont, 1877-1958
- Eleutherian Mills (Greenville, Del. : Estate)
- Du Pont family
- Crowninshield, Francis Boardman, 1869-1950