Disclaimer for Oral History:

The University has conducted oral history interviews with the dual aims of accuracy and context. The audience must understand that owing to the complexity of human experience and pitfalls of source memory, oral history interviews are not necessarily infallible. Oral history offers divergent history and sometimes oppositional history. It can lend perspective to a topic and in the instance of marginalized or disenfranchised social groups or ethnic groups, oral history may offer a story that was missing from the record of public history. Many of the Latvian immigrants to Alberta were refugees whose stories were not recorded in their homeland because their nation was occupied by aggressive foreign powers. Some people arrived here with the explicit intention of moving forward in their new country, trying to forget the suffering of World War II and the threat of Stalin. Others made certain that the story of the Baltic peoples was shared in Canada and throughout the world. Still others have discussed amongst their peer groups and yet not put pen to paper nor voice to public record until this project asked their participation. The public history of the Latvians in Alberta begins here...