

## ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION

**MAIN ENTRY:** Gaustad, Edwin  
**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** May 1, 2007  
**LOCATION OF INTERVIEW:** Santa Fe, New Mexico  
**INTERVIEWER:** David Marshall  
**FORMAT:** File on Server, CD  
**IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:** 4173 2132 9897  
**LENGTH OF INTERVIEW:** 1:22  
**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE:** Dr. Gaustad, a retired history professor and renowned author of American religion talks about his life, family, education, publications and interests.

### ABSTRACT:

#### CD ONE

#### TIME STAMP

Personal Information	00:01
Father's dairy business	
Places he has lived – Iowa, South Texas	
Grew up in Houston, Texas	
Schools where he studied	
Studied Texas history grades 4, 8, 10 and 11	
No clearly defined academic interest	
Siblings – Two elder brothers	
Mother – Nurse	
Father – Driver	
Self motivated for going to college and choosing a major	
Mother – Congregational Background	
Father – Lutheran Background	
Developed interest in history on his own	
Studied at Baylor University, major - religion	
Majored in history in Junior and Senior Years	
Joined the army - 1943	
Reentered Baylor	

First reaction to Baylor University	00:10
Comfortable with Texas culture	
Impact of faculty members – positive and negative	
Teaching – professional aim	
Learned Greek from Professor Henry	
Not much freedom of inquiry	
Got good grades	
Graduate work at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island	
Married in 1946	
Scholarship	00:20
Libraries at Baptist institutions	
Research materials for completing master’s degree available at Brown	
His thesis	
His wife Virginia Morgan; met at Baylor	
His children and their professions	
Survived three children during graduate school	
Graduated in 1951 with Ph.D.	
Did research, traveled	
Went to Massachusetts Historical Society, Connecticut Historical Society	
Influences from Brown University that impacted him	
Model Professor: Prof. Edmund S. Morgan; his personality	00:30
Scholar, teacher, writer, mentor	
Periods of interest	
1960’s - interest in geography	
First Publication in 1962 - Historical Atlas of Religion in America	
Other publications	00:40
Libraries in London	
Historical atlas – career booster	
1970’s – Publications on religious dissent	
Names of his publications	
Worked in Newport Historical Society	
More publications – 1980’s and 1990’s	
1982 - Documentary History of Religion	
Published in area of Religious Liberty and American Founders	
Reasons for interest in this area	
His book on Thomas Jefferson	
Church and State	
Wrote many biographies	
Reasons for writing about Benjamin Franklin	
Other Interests	00:50
How to write church history	
Thirty-two page publication on church history in 1991	

Favorite definition of a fanatic  
Does not give an opinion on the subjects he writes about  
Admiration of Will Rogers  
Grateful to Harper and Row; long relationship

Publishers he worked with 01:00  
Baylor Publications, Oxford University Press  
Most fulfilling to work with – Harper, Oxford  
Changes in Baylor – Scholarships  
Contributions to the history of America  
Publication that made a difference – Historical Atlas  
About James Wood’s personality

William Estep 01:10  
Other Colleagues  
About Thomas Jefferson  
Perspective on Separation of Church and State in America  
Attitude toward the Southern Baptist Convention  
Adventist Leadership

**DATE OF BIRTH OF INFORMANT:** 1923

**GENDER OF INFORMANT:** Male

**ETHNICITY OF INFORMANT:**