

**Oral History Interview**  
**with**  
**Jamie Dunn**

Interview Conducted by  
Jerry Gill  
August 25, 2010

O-STATE Stories  
Oral History Project

**Special Collections & University Archives**  
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# O-State Stories

An Oral History Project of the OSU Library

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## Interview History

Interviewer: Jerry Gill

Transcriber: Adam Evans

Editors: Miranda Mackey, Latasha Wilson, Tanya Finchum

The recording and transcript of this interview were processed at the Oklahoma State University Library in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

## Project Detail

The purpose of O-STATE Stories Oral History Project is to gather and preserve memories revolving around Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (OAMC) and Oklahoma State University (OSU).

This project was approved by the Oklahoma State University Institutional Review Board on October 5, 2006.

## Legal Status

Scholarly use of the recordings and transcripts of the interview with Jamie Dunn is unrestricted. The interview agreement was signed on August 25, 2010.

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## About Jamie Dunn...

Jamie Dunn grew up in Perkins, Oklahoma, and is very proud of her five-generation Oklahoma State University family, a heritage not many can claim. Her mother also grew up in Perkins, and began the family tradition when she enrolled at OSU (Oklahoma A&M College then) in the early 1900s, when it was rare for women to be in college. She became a teacher, and instilled in her children the importance of education. Jamie followed her mother's footsteps and her advice, and enrolled at OSU in 1933.

With little money and a lot of determination, Jamie took a job with a local lawyer to help with college expenses. Primarily, her time was spent working and taking classes in secretarial/administrative studies, but she made time to date, see movies, go to sporting events, and go to dances, even winning a Charleston contest. During college, she met her husband to be, and after earning her degree, they married and started a family. Two of her three children also graduated from OSU, and the tradition continues. Jamie cherishes her time spent at the university, and her great-grandson is the fifth generation to attend OSU. She and her family still get together on occasion and reminisce about their OSU experiences.

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## Jamie Dunn

Oral History Interview

Interviewed by Jerry Gill  
August 25, 2010  
Stillwater, Oklahoma



**Gill** *My name is Jerry Gill. Today is August 25, 2010. I'm visiting with Jamie Dunn here in Stillwater, Oklahoma, [and we are joined by her daughter, Gay Lynn Bullock]. This interview is for the O-STATE Stories Project of the Oklahoma Oral History Research Program. Thank you for taking time to visit with us this afternoon. We appreciate it very much. Ms. Dunn, your family has a proud Oklahoma A&M and Oklahoma State University tradition, beginning with your mother, Gaione Albright Clark. Five generations of your family have attended Oklahoma State University.*

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *I understand that your great-grandson Matthew is in school at OSU now.*

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *Isn't that wonderful? Five generations. Is that a source of pride for you?*

**Dunn** I'm real happy about that. (Laughs)

**Gill** *Maybe we can start out and talk about your mother. First of all, where did she grow up?*

**Dunn** She grew up in Perkins, Oklahoma.

**Gill** *A big town south of here?*

**Dunn** Yes, on a farm. She went to Oklahoma State University and became a

teacher.

**Bullock** Oklahoma A&M.

**Dunn** Oklahoma A&M.

**Gill** *So, she grew up on a farm. Did she have some brothers and sisters?*

**Dunn** Yes, she had three brothers and four sisters.

**Gill** *So, she learned about discipline and hard work.*

**Dunn** You bet.

**Gill** *Do you remember what year she was born?*

**Dunn** Oh, I don't remember.

**Bullock** 1893.

**Gill** *Do you remember a little bit about her? Did she ever tell you stories about her early life, about her mom and dad? Other than on the farm, did they work outside of the home and outside of the farm?*

**Dunn** No.

**Gill** *And they farmed. They had a quarter section of farm around Perkins?*

**Dunn** Yes, that's right.

**Bullock** Great-Grandpa Albright was county commissioner for that area.

**Dunn** Yes, he was county commissioner.

**Gill** *This was your mother's dad that was county commissioner?*

**Dunn** My grandfather was the county commissioner. And my grandmother had been a teacher.

**Bullock** She's also half Indian.

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *So, did she attend high school at Perkins High School?*

**Dunn** No, she taught at a country school. Gosh, I can't remember...

**Bullock** You're talking about Great-Grandma Albright?

**Dunn** I'm talking about Grandma Albright.

**Gill** *Okay, did your mother attend school at Perkins High School?*

**Dunn** Yes, my mother taught.

**Gill** *At Perkins.*

**Dunn** Yes, and she attended Oklahoma State University.

**Gill** *Do you remember what year your mother enrolled at Oklahoma A&M, Oklahoma State?*

**Dunn** Oh, I don't remember.

**Bullock** Around 1911.

**Dunn** 1911, something like that.

**Gill** *Do you know the story about how she enrolled at Oklahoma State? At that time not very many women attended college.*

**Dunn** That's right.

**Gill** *Was there a special story about how she decided to enroll at Oklahoma State?*

**Bullock** What's the story about Mom going to school?

**Dunn** About Grandma Gay?

**Bullock** She just told Grandpa she wanted to go.

**Dunn** Yes. There were seven children in that family. One was a doctor, one was a farmer, and one was a salesperson.

**Gill** *So, she had some brothers and sisters that went to college also, then? You said there was a doctor in the family?*

**Dunn** Yes, she did. She had two sisters that went to college.

**Gill** *That was pretty unusual...*

**Dunn** Geneva and Iris.

**Gill** *So, three of the girls in the family went to college?*

**Dunn** Three of the girls in the family went to college.

**Bullock** What about Massey?

**Dunn** Massey didn't go. She got married.

**Bullock** Shame on her for getting married!

**Gill** *This was unusual for three of the girls, back in that era, to go to college.*

**Dunn** It was.

**Gill** *Do you remember what her major was?*

**Dunn** My mother was a teacher.

**Gill** *So she majored in Education.*

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *Do you remember where she lived? Did she live on campus? Did she live in a sorority or in a residential hall?*

**Dunn** Gosh, that's kind of hard to remember.

**Bullock** I don't remember.

**Dunn** I believe she lived in a residence.

**Gill** *Did she ever talk to you about any of her OSU memories or OSU experiences? About the time she was a student at Oklahoma State? Did she ever tell you about what she did or some of the activities?*

**Bullock** I don't think she did.

**Gill** *After she graduated, did she come back to class reunions and Homecoming? Was she proud to be an Oklahoma State graduate? Did she try to get back on campus whenever she could?*

**Dunn** No, I don't think she did. We moved to Kansas, Arkansas City, Kansas.

**Gill** *Can you share a little bit about after she graduated from Oklahoma*

*State, different places where she lived and where she taught school?*

**Bullock** Didn't you all live in Kingfisher? I don't remember where Grandpa... She married pretty young because she had your brother pretty young.

**Dunn** Yes.

**Bullock** So, I remember he worked on the railroad. I remember that.

**Gill** *She got her teacher's certificate.*

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *She was a teacher, and she taught in different places?*

**Bullock** She taught in Perkins, and then she went and taught in Arkansas City.

**Gill** *Did she teach grade school or high school, do you remember?*

**Bullock** Grade school.

**Dunn** In those days, they had the...

**Gill** *Was it eighth grade?*

**Dunn** Yes, had the whole thing together. She taught all the grades.

**Gill** *She taught in some of the country schools.*

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *Let's talk about you a little bit. Where did you grow up?*

**Dunn** Perkins.

**Gill** *On the family farm there in Perkins?*

**Dunn** Yes. My father had a truck farm.

**Bullock** Tell him how you got to college. How you raised money. You did something to get some money to go to college, because you all didn't have much money because you were farmers.

**Dunn** Well, I picked cotton and chopped cotton.

**Bullock** And you also shooed the crows off the peanuts.



**Dunn** Oh, yeah. I shooed the crows off the peanuts.

**Bullock** And they never minded her. (Laughter)

**Gill** *You got paid to do that? That's good! (Laughter)*

**Dunn** Caw! Caw!

**Gill** *Were there any high school activities that you remember? Were you in sports or in drama or band or music or anything?*

**Dunn** Drama. I was in plays. And I liked to dance.

**Gill** *What influenced you to enroll at OSU?*

**Dunn** Well, my mother had gone, so she wanted me to kind of follow in her footsteps. She was a teacher.

**Gill** *What year did you enroll? Do you remember?*

**Dunn** When did I enroll?

**Bullock** 1933.

**Dunn** You remember those dates, I can't remember the dates.

**Bullock** It's a date to remember.

**Gill** *You had school during the Depression at Oklahoma State. That was pretty hard times and so...*

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *Other than shooing the crows during school, how did you get money to attend OSU? Did you work part-time as a student, or work in the summers?*

**Dunn** Yes, I worked for a lawyer. Secretarial training and went to school.

**Bullock** And wore high heels.

**Dunn** And I wore high heels, yes.

**Bullock** Walked all the way to campus. (Laughter)

**Gill** *What was your major?*

**Dunn** Secretarial Training.

**Bullock** Business, kind of a business/administrative.

**Dunn** Business, yes.

**Gill** *Ms. Dunn, what do you remember about the OSU campus? Can you tell me about the buildings you remember, and what the campus looked like when you were there in the 1930s?*

**Dunn** Well, there weren't very many. There certainly weren't many buildings there.

**Gill** *Where did you have most of your classes? In Morrill Hall or Old Central?*

**Dunn** Morrill Hall, in the School of Business.

**Gill** *Most of the business classes were taken there at Morrill Hall at that time?*

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *Were you involved in any school activities or organizations?*

**Dunn** I don't believe so. I worked and went to school. That kept me pretty busy.

**Gill** *Kept you out of trouble, too, didn't it?*

**Dunn** Kept me out of trouble. (Laughter)

**Gill** *Did you live on campus?*

**Dunn** No.

**Gill** *You drove back and forth from home, or...?*

**Dunn** Yes. I walked a lot. I walked to class a lot. They did in those days. They didn't have so many cars on the campus like they do now.

**Gill** *Did you go home [to Perkins] every day?*

**Dunn** No.

**Gill** *So, you didn't stay in Stillwater at all?*

**Bullock** Yes, she was in Stillwater. She had a little apartment.

**Gill** *So, you lived off campus in Stillwater.*

**Dunn** Yes, yes, yes.

**Gill** *Do you remember where that was? You probably don't, but I thought I'd just ask in case you did.*

**Bullock** I believe it was on Duncan.

**Dunn** I believe it was on Duck Street, wasn't it?

**Gill** *What were some of the favorite student hangouts at that time, where students would go? Did they go to Swim's at that time?*

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *Campus Corner?*

**Dunn** Campus Corner, Swim's. Actually, I didn't hang out a lot.

**Gill** *You were busy working and going to class, huh?*

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *Was it Pop McGruder who had the food place about where the Student Union is today? Do you remember that?*

**Dunn** I remember Swim's.

**Bullock** When you dated boys, where did they take you?

**Dunn** Well, they took me to the theater. That's about all there was for entertainment. And we went to dances. They had a dance hall over Swim's, and we went to those. I loved to dance.

**Gill** *What was your favorite kind of dance? Waltz or what?*

**Dunn** Waltz, and the Charleston.

**Gill** *Oh, you knew the Charleston? Oh my gosh! (Laughs)*

**Bullock** She won a prize for Charleston dancing, a contest. (Laughter)

**Gill** *Could you still do the Charleston today?*

**Dunn** Yes!

**Gill** *We won't ask for a demonstration, all right?*

**Dunn** I love to dance!

**Bullock** Everybody got that from her. We all love to dance.

**Gill** *Ms. Dunn, what were some of the favorite social activities that students did? You said dances...*

**Dunn** Dances.

**Gill** *Did they ever get on the train and go out to [Yost Lake], north of Stillwater?*

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *Did you ever go to Horsethief Canyon?*

**Dunn** I remember that.

**Gill** *It was by your hometown there, by Perkins.*

**Dunn** I sure do remember that. I remember that, yes.

**Gill** *Were there any student traditions then? Like you said, the freshman beanies you'd have to wear? Did you have to wear a freshman beanie?*

**Dunn** I don't believe I did, messed up my hair. (Laughter)

**Gill** *Maybe it was just the guys that did it then. Did you ever hang out around Theta Pond? Was that a place?*

**Dunn** Oh, yes. That was a nice place to be.

**Gill** *Did they still have the tug of wars? They used to have the tug of war across Theta Pond, where they put the rope and a team on each side will pull on it.*

**Dunn** I don't think I did that. Oh, I did too. It seemed like I did.

**Gill** *Ms. Dunn, what was it like in the thirties? I guess most students didn't have money. Like you said, there weren't cars.*

**Dunn** No.

**Gill** *Was it pretty tough to get by, at that time?*

**Dunn** It was pretty tough, yes. I didn't have a lot of money, but I was determined to go. I worked part time for a lawyer.

**Gill** *How much did he pay you?*

**Dunn** Oh, gosh. Well, I could pay my rent with it. I don't remember how much he paid me. I don't remember, but it wasn't a whole lot.

**Bullock** It's all relative.

**Dunn** Yes, it wasn't a whole lot.

**Gill** *As you look back on it, are there some favorite memories, some special times you remember while you were at Oklahoma State?*

**Bullock** Dancing was one of them.

**Gill** *Dancing was one of your favorite memories?*

**Dunn** Well, that's one of my favorite memories. But I remember one time, I took speech, and I remember the teacher called on me to give a speech. I gave one out of the top of my head, and she said, "That was very, very good." I remember that. (Laughs)

**Bullock** Right, impromptu is hard. (Laughter)

**Gill** *Did you go to any sports events? Football, wrestling, or basketball?*

**Dunn** I went to some of those, but let's see...

**Bullock** Did you watch Henry Iba? Hank Iba?

**Dunn** Yes.

**Bullock** You knew him.

**Gill** *Did you enjoy wrestling? Did you watch Coach Gallagher and his team?*

**Dunn**

**Bullock** I watched it, I watched it. But I'm not saying I particularly enjoyed it.

**Gill** Not wrestling.

**Bullock** *What year did you graduate from Oklahoma State?*

**Gill** She had an associate's degree, so I don't know.

**Bullock** *She went to school at OSU two or three years then?*

**Gill** Yes, got married and had a baby.

**Dunn** *Did you meet your husband at OSU, or in Stillwater?*

**Gill** I did.

**Dunn** *Was he a student at OSU?*

**Bullock** Yes, he was a graduate.

**Dunn** He was a student. Was he a student when you met him? Or he went back later?

**Gill** Oh, yes, he did. He went back later.

**Dunn** *What was your husband's name?*

**Gill** He was an accountant and his name was Warren Dunn.

**Bullock** *Warren Dunn?*

**Dunn** They called him Dunny at the golf course.

**Bullock** Called him Dunny.

**Dunn** He was a big golfer.

**Gill** He was an awfully good golfer. He had his picture in the big book, the big annual books.

**Dunn** *The Redskin yearbook?*

**Gill** Yes, yearbooks. He was an awfully good golfer.

**Dunn** *You were telling me earlier he golfed with some OSU people?*

**Bullock** I don't believe so.

**Dunn** Labron Harris, all those other guys, huge guys.

**Gill** Oh, yes. Labron Harris.

**Bullock** *Was he on the OSU golf team?*

**Gill** Yes.

**Dunn** *So he even golfed with Labron Harris?*

**Gill** Yes.

**Dunn** *That's a pretty famous person in OSU history.*

**Gill** Yes, that's right.

**Dunn** *Our first golf coach.*

**Bullock** Yes, sure was. He was an awfully good golfer. He had trophies.

**Gill** There were a lot of people he played with that I can't recall.

**Dunn** *Well, can you tell me a little bit about your career and your life? What did you do after you left OSU? You said you got married, and then...?*

**Gill** I got married and had my family. I had three children, two boys and her. I was pretty active in music clubs, and I gave book reviews. Gave a lot of book reviews around the state.

**Dunn** *Where are some of the places you lived in Oklahoma?*

**Gill** Well, let's see now. Stillwater and Perkins, and there were other places, but I can't seem to remember.

**Dunn** *Your husband was an accountant?*

**Gill** Yes.

**Dunn** *Did he work for a company, or was he an independent practicing accountant?*

**Bullock** He worked for the government.

We lived in Texas for four years.

**Dunn** Yes, he had a very good job.

**Gill** *In addition to your daughter, who went to Oklahoma State, did either of your two boys attend OSU?*

**Bullock** My older brother, Warren James Dunn.

**Dunn** Yes, my older son went. But now, Bill only went a couple of years.

**Bullock** Bill is a person in his own way. (Laughs)

**Dunn** Bill is my younger boy.

**Bullock** He's an artist.

**Dunn** William Clark Dunn.

**Bullock** He did not go to OSU.

**Gill** *But he attended school here a couple years? Just didn't graduate?*

**Dunn** He did. He did.

**Gill** *Ms. Dunn, how has attending Oklahoma State University influenced your life? Was that an important time in your life?*

**Dunn** Yes, I liked school. I liked college. I liked English and...

**Bullock** The atmosphere.

**Dunn** That was my main... I liked history. And I made pretty good grades.

**Gill** *Do you remember any professors that influenced you, that were important to you in your student development?*

**Dunn** There was a teacher or two, but I can't seem to remember their names. Boy, there's a lot I can't remember.

**Bullock** They were old, or I don't know who they'd be. Your English teacher...

**Dunn** I liked history and English. Those were my main subjects.

**Gill** *How special is it for you that in your family, five generations of your family have attended Oklahoma State University? Is that a source of pride for you?*



**Dunn**

Oh, heavens. I think it's great. I tell everybody. (Laughter)

**Bullock**

Brag to people.

**Dunn**

Yes, I'm real proud of that.

**Gill**

*In years passed, and maybe even currently, does the family ever get together occasionally? If they do, do they talk about some of their OSU experiences through the years?*

**Dunn**

Well, yes. Sure.

**Gill**

*Are there some favorite stories that they tell that you can share with us?*

**Dunn**

I can't seem to remember.

**Gill**

*Going back to your mother again, Ms. Dunn, did she ever talk about OSU to you? Was she proud to be an OSU graduate? Was she proud of the fact that she'd gone to school and got a college degree?*

**Dunn**

Oh, yes. She was a wonderful teacher.

**Bullock**

Education was very important to our family.

**Dunn**

Education really was important to her, and she used to take those little kids—sometimes they'd come to school with dirty faces—she'd put them on her desk and clean them up.

**Gill**

*That's great. (Laughs)*

**Dunn**

Of course, she was very popular with their parents.

**Gill**

*How do you feel about Oklahoma State University? The time you went to school in 1933, was Dr. Henry G. Bennett president of Oklahoma State University while you were there?*

**Bullock**

Yes, Dr. Bennett.

**Dunn**

Oh, yes. Yes. A good one.

**Gill**

*It was small, just a few hundred, maybe a couple thousand students or so. Now we've got twenty-some odd thousand students.*

**Dunn**

Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

**Gill**

**Dunn** *Are you proud about how OSU has grown over the years?*

Oh, yes. I'm very proud of that. I remember Dr. Bennett. He was a good one. He was a good man.

**Gill** *Did you ever get a chance to meet him? I understand that he met a lot of the students personally. Did you get a chance to meet him?*

**Dunn** Yes, I did, Yes. I knew a couple of his sons.

**Bullock** And his granddaughter. His daughter married Joe Preston. Her name was Liberty or something, his daughter.

**Dunn** Yes, oh yes. He was a very friendly man, good with people.

**Gill** *Did you ever meet his wife Vera? She taught Sunday school class at the Baptist Church here in town.*

**Dunn** Yes, she did.

**Gill** *Did you ever go to one of her Sunday school classes?*

**Dunn** I don't think I did. I'm a Methodist.

**Gill** *No wonder you didn't go to the Baptist church then! (Laughter)*

**Bullock** I knew the granddaughter, Vera Alma.

**Dunn** Yes.

**Bullock** She went to school with me.

**Dunn** They were good Baptists.

**Bullock** Right, she's a good Baptist.

**Gill** *Looking back over the years, Ms. Dunn, what do you remember most about your time at Oklahoma State University? That was a young time, an informative time in your life. What did it mean to you? What do you remember about it?*

**Dunn** Well, of course, I met my husband. That was a very important time. I enjoyed people, and that was the main thing.

**Gill** *Did you go back to sporting events in years later?*

**Dunn**

**Bullock** No, I didn't. I didn't go back.

**Bullock** You and dad didn't. Dad would go once in a while, but you didn't go back.

**Dunn** I didn't go back.

**Gill** *A lot of people come back, and the family gets together for sporting events, go to Homecoming parades and stuff like that.*

**Dunn** Things like that.

**Bullock** Yes, I came back.

**Gill** *Kind of stay connected to OSU.*

**Dunn** Yes.

**Gill** *Were you a member of the Alumni Association? I've got to ask that because I used to work with the Alumni Association. (Laughter)*

**Bullock** I think Dad was. I don't know, but he took care of all the money stuff.

**Dunn** Yes, he did.

**Bullock** He was the accountant. So, I'm sure he was.

**Gill** *What would you like to talk about that we didn't cover? Are there some things about OSU that you remember that you'd like to share? Is there anything you'd like to bring up that we didn't talk about?*

**Dunn** I lived in an apartment.

**Gill** *So after you got your independence established, you were able to live in an apartment by yourself then?*

**Dunn** Yes, yes. After my parents told me to behave myself. (Laughter)

**Gill** *Did you encourage your kids and your grandkids to go to school at Oklahoma State?*

**Dunn** Oh, boy, did I? I sure did! I thought, you can't get a really good job without an education. You just have to have it anymore.

**Gill** *So one of the things that you mentioned that was real valuable to your family, your parents, to your brothers and sisters, and then to your kids,*

*was education. It was the real key...*

**Dunn**

Yes. It's very important.

**Gill**

*Ms. Dunn, I really appreciate it. It's great to get a chance to visit with you and listen to your stories about Oklahoma State. It's just a privilege for me to get a chance to visit with someone that's part of a five generation OSU family.*

**Dunn**

Yes. (Laughs)

**Gill**

*Thank you very much.*

**Dunn**

You're welcome.

*----- End of interview -----*