FIELD NOTES

The interview was conducted in the home of the Nguyen family. Present during the interview were the Narrator, Mr. Jonathan Nguyen, and his daughter Nadia Nguyen. We followed protocol and signed all consent and release forms prior to beginning. I was unable to take some photos due to the Narrator feeling uncomfortable being put on the spot.

Mr. Jonathan Nguyen was fixing his son’s watch and asked to be interviewed as he continued to do so because that would make him feel comfortable. He was dressed in sweat pants and a loose t-shirt. He seems a bit nervous and not knowing what to expect of the interview. After he was shown the list of questions, he quickly crossed out the ones he did not want to be asked. The interview was a little over an hour long and he seemed to pause quite often to think about what he wanted to say. The rationale he gave was his experience of survival and the lessons he wants his children to remember.

It was very helpful that Mr. Nguyen loves to talk and did not mind sharing his stories. There were some parts where he repeated similar experiences and other parts where he did not quite understand the question. He did not seem too nervous but I sensed that this whole interview process for the project was very new to him and he was confused until I cleared it up for him.

After the interview was completed, he was thankful that I decided to participate in the project and ask him to be the narrator. It was something he had not experienced before and it was interesting to him to know that this project is taking place to preserve the histories of Vietnamese Americans. Mr. Nguyen placed an emphasis on the important lessons that he would want every individual to learn; and that is regarding survival and young adults today to know how difficult the past was compared to modern day society.

Overall, the interview process went smoothly with minimal complications with the microphone.