

INTERVIEW # 19

Tape: 16(A,B) (I19)

Date: March 24/75

Place: 82 Brown St., Wellesley

Participants: Michael Gerber, Andrew Steckly

#### Pre-War

- although the church taught nonresistance, when the war finally did come their thinking was that they really did not know too much about what it meant; however, they were not forced to think about it because the church leaders had made it possible for the Mennonite boys to be CO's collectively, ie. they did not have to make a stand individually; thus, CO status was simply accepted as the thing to do

#### War

- because the church had performed the intercessory role there were some at camp who were not as committed; at the same time; there were some non-Mennonites, whose churches were not traditionally nonresistant and who therefore had to stand on their own and were more committed than many Mennonites

- had many non-Mennonite friends who went into the armed services - after the war, withdrew from their circle and tried to avoid them

- did not grasp the full impact of the experience and what it meant to be a CO until years later

- brought his violin to camp - at night he (Gerber) and others with guitars, etc. would get together and make music