

Oral History Interview
Rev. Ray I Witter
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MR. BARBASH: Rev. Witter, do the male members of your Church still wear beards and cut their hair a special way and wear very plain clothes?

REV. WITTER: No, very little, some of the older ones do but beards had been discarded. It's [a] very rare thing to find anyone any more, naturally, in the years gone by that didn't even mean as much. If you follow up the army records, you will find that it was a case of "have to" back in the Civil War back in through there, it was considered as a case of dignity and it didn't mean as much back in those years but it's rapidly being lost sight of, you may go quite a while now until you find one that does any more and the Church is changing on this line.

MR. BARBASH: Rev. Witter, I think that concludes our interview and unless you have anything to add, any thing that you have thought of, since the interview began that you think would be worth leaving to the historians who will use this interview, I would like to end this interview and express to you the most heartfelt thanks of the staff of the Eisenhower Library for giving them the opportunity to interview you and giving us the opportunity, let us say, of interviewing you and giving the historians a little piece of something to work with.

REV. WITTER: I think I could say this with all due respect to any other groups—that the group that came out here from Pennsylvania and the elderly people will substantiate my statement, were very progressive people and they were industrious and were great farmers and they made contributions to the county that are, I think I can say, are enjoying the impact of it yet today. We have had a very good heritage from those that come out from the East and settled up this country and I think some of the cooperation and some of the commonness that gave service to all men under, some times, sacrifice could be renewed but I appreciate my heritage and I'm glad for my background.

MR. BARBASH: Rev. Witter, I'd like to thank you very, very much.