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## **Durden, Bobby collection**

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Havana History and Heritage Society

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Havana History and Heritage Society
<b>Title:</b>	Bobby Durden collection
<b>ID:</b>	21.0008
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1938-2021
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Files 1 file
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Mixed Materials [Box]:</b>	Single Folder Collections - 2021 Box 1
<b>[Folder]:</b>	21.0008-Folder 1

### Preferred Citation

Bobby Durden Collection, Havana History and Heritage Society, Havana, FL.

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## Biographical / Historical

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Bobby Durden was born February 14, 1938, in Bainbridge, Georgia. He worked as the county extension director and is married to Carrie Durden with four kids. He has lived in Havana for over 80 years and has been an active member of the community. Durden played on the Havana Wrappers baseball team in addition to partaking in agricultural activities.

Durden grew up out in the Coonbottom area. His father eventually started his own farm out there when Durden was in the 1st grade in the 1940s, previously having worked for Potter Woodberry. Most of the Durden employees were families in the Coonbottom area. On the farm, they grew primarily tobacco, alongside sugarcane and pole beans. Durden's family had been in the area since the 1800s - primarily on his mother's side, the Walsh family. His grandfather had died before he was born, but he was the town constable.

Durden went to school in Havana starting in 1944, graduating in 1944. While growing up, Havana was incredibly active. Everything was intertwined. School activities were not limited to just students, and the entire community would come together. Durden attended Havana High School, a school of about 400. While in school, Durden participated in the most popular club, the Future Farmers' Association, or FFA. Through FFA, he showed cows and eventually got an American Farmer degree. He also participated in 4-H and kept dairy calves. Because of his dairy calves, Durden was able to sell the milk and did not need to get a job, though at one point, he did work at Morgan Brothers Grocery Store for a day. While in high school, Durden was asked to play for the Havana Wrappers fast-pitch softball team.

Later, when Durden lived in Gainesville for school, he was asked to play for a baseball team on purely the basis of having played on the Wrappers. Before he moved to Gainesville, Durden went to a junior college in Tifton, Georgia - Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College - to play baseball. After two years at junior college, he went to the University of Florida to major in agriculture. He eventually got both a Bachelor's of Science and a Master's degree in Agriculture from UF. While attending school, Durden was part of Alpha Gamma Rho, the agriculture fraternity.

After returning home, Durden's tobacco farmer father encouraged him not to become a farmer, so Durden entered the field of extension. The field is part USDA, part federal. He was hired in Leon County out of college in 1961 and worked in Tallahassee for six and a half years doing 4-H and agricultural work. Durden was then recruited to work in the then-rural Wakulla County. At the time, 67% of the county was owned by the federal government for national parks and other ventures. Another 20% was owned by St. Joe Paper company, so very little of the county was left for private ownership. He worked in Wakulla County for 10 years before returning to Gadsden County in 1979 to work as Assistant County Director before being promoted a few years later. He retired in Gadsden County after years of working as County Extension Director. Additionally, Durden has a series of scrapbooks detailing life in Havana over the past decades.

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## Content Description

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This collection relates to Bobby Durden, a long-time Havana resident and retired County Agriculture Agent, who has expertise in the tobacco field. This collection contains an interview registration form and a digital video disc interview of Durden.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Havana History and Heritage Society

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open to all researchers.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Tobacco industry -- United States
- Gadsden County (Fla.)
- Havana (Fla.)
- Agriculture