

Interviewee: Lilly Martin (kept maiden name but sometimes hyphenates)

Interviewer: Gracie Rennecker

[Intro and consent] *The first question is kind of broad and so you can talk about it in whichever way you like, but what is your last name story?* My last name story is that, you know, because the parents are from Spain, you see them keep their full name, the way they were born, right? So, I really liked Martin and just I had no problem with honoring of that part of my heritage and it wasn't a problem for my husband, because some people you know, some husbands have a problem with it. *Yes.* And he didn't mind it, and I really liked it so I went with Martin, when I got, I didn't change my name when I got married. The only time that, for me, it became more of an issue is when the kids came along. And then I just wanted to honor that part that we were married and we were family and so I did the hyphenated Martin-Hurst for their sake. But for the most part, you know, even now that I am getting away from stuff with the kids, I am back to Martin.

*You talked about this a little bit but if you could go into a little bit more detail, have there been any effects on your children?* Um... I don't think they have ever said anything, voiced anything or that they care. And I think even more so, when you explain it to them, that, you know, that Mom's heritage honors that part and that that's why I did it, that it wasn't a dis on Dad or anything and that I liked it. I liked my last name, and it was my identity.

*Did you have any role models for your decision? You talked a little bit about how it was kind of an ethnic history thing but were there any specific people that were role models?* No, no because, I'll tell you why, because my parents left that country that did it, um I mean yes I would have said my, you know my heritage in the sense of, you know, uh... the grandparents and the parents, but, then when we came to America, which is where I came along, or Canada, it was just part of my past but I didn't watch people do it here...

*What did you hope for in choosing this name and has that worked out well.* Um... just, it just felt like who I was and it's been fine, I have had no issues with it. *Have there been unforeseen consequences for problems that have arisen?* Um... I would say for the most part no, every now and then people say to me, "Why? Why didn't you use your, why don't you use your married name?" But I wouldn't say that it's a consequence; that sounds heavy to me. *Ya it is, it's been more of, ask for stories such as issues with hospital visits or something.* Right did it cause problems, no and I would say that for the majority of my life people have been absolutely fine with that. *That's awesome.*

*Are there times where you get called by names other than your birth name?* Other than my first name? *No, other than your first name. Like do you get called Mrs. Hurst?* O, ok yes. *Ok, and what is that like?* You know, it's Mrs. Hurst and I'm fine with that. *Would you make the same choice all over again?* Yes. Most definitely. *So, is there any other part besides the heritage behind Martin that you like, like the length, the pronunciation, or the spelling?* Yes, yes, all of the above. It's just simple; it's easy, it's not like a name like Smith, where there are just so many of them. And I just like it. It was just easy, simple, and it was my identity. *Right. What kinds of reactions have you gotten from other people, like your family or your friends about your name choice?* Um... you know, family, no issues, friends, like I said every now and then people say to me, "Why didn't you go with Hurst?" But I would say very small percent of people do that. For

the most part, I don't think they care in my opinion. And then those that do, you know they might write on a card, you know, Mrs. Hurst or Lilly Hurst. It bothers them more than it bothers me [laughs].

*How effective do you think your choice in intervening in women being erased in this idea of feminism as we've defined it, how effective do you think your choice has been?* Well... I guess I, let me explain and you tell me how much you want to use. I guess for me I have a real, I have a real problem, in other words, I don't consider myself such a feminist that it was for that reason. I was just comfortable with it, I like it, it was part of my heritage, but I wouldn't sit there and say, "Oh my gosh, women have to do that because if not you are not identifying with who you are." You know what I mean? *Yes, I do.* So, to me, let's not put too much on the feminism part for me personally, just be comfortable with who you are, and if there is something in your heritage that makes you want to go that way, or your beliefs, then go for it! But if not just don't get hung up on that.

*So, a little bit more speaking on the feminist side of things, I just want to see what you think about this, how meaningfully does, for a woman who keeps her maiden name versus taking her husband's name for more of the feminist side of things, how meaningfully does a woman keeping her father's name speak to feminist goals? She is not taking one man's name just to keep another man's name.* Ya, ... If you have strong feelings about it, for that reason because you feel you're a feminist then fine! But, again, I did not choose to go that route because of that reason. It was more, like I said the roots and the heritage of my parent's country that did it. But, you know, if that were Natalie today, would I sit there and go, "Natalie, you absolutely have to keep Hurst because that's a real dis on your Dad." No, I think that's silly. Just honor your marriage if you are comfortable with it, that's fine!

*Can you talk to me a little bit about how Natalie and Adrian took Hurst versus taking Martin or Martin-Hurst?* Um... you know there was never any question about it, it was just Hurst, and you know, Adrian's middle name is Martin. And again, we didn't go with my father's name, Andres, and we just didn't go with that because it was almost too, you know people struggle with how to pronounce it and what have you, so we honored my dad in the way of doing the Martin part instead of the other. But the kids have just been Hurst and there has just been no question about it and I don't know, I have heard them identify me as both Hurst and Martin-Hurst.

*Kind of a summation question, is there anything else you want to say about your last naming choice that you feel we didn't go over?* No, nothing except that, no! I don't think, to me the emphasis, in other words, for me personally is it shouldn't be, unless you just really, really are just feel strong about that, it's not to me was not because of that. I am not that much of a, I like parts of you know, manners and guys opening doors and I'm not that much of a feminist that I can't take a guy's last name. So I just want to emphasize that that would be my story. It has more to do with the roots than it had to do with anything else. But like my sister, Doug didn't want her to do it and she had no problem, she just went with Kirk.