

Interviewer: Elizabeth Anderson

Interviewees: Clinton and Josephine Miller and Patsy Hoke

Elizabeth Anderson: It's a nice article, nice article. But he-he has all these things recorded whether he went around visiting people, what he did for 'em, how they paid him and everything. Of course that was common, common practice. My grandfather was a doctor in Washington County. I have all his diaries and that's a trip. I think he spent more time hunting than he did doctoring. I mean really. Well.

Clinton Miller: He had a house back in the woods there.

EA: What was that a tenant house?

CM: Probably a tenant house, yeah.

EA: Behind the Gardner-

CM: Yeah.

EA: -where the Gardner's are?

CM: Yeah back about half a mile and that's it.

EA: Oh, what was the meeting house, was up near Bradley Carbaugh's?

CM: I don't know that was burned down, torn down by my time, I heard them talk about it.

EA: It was like-was it like a church or?

CM: [indecipherable] like a church yeah.

EA: Or a community hall or?

CM: Something like that. They always talked about the meeting house. Before my time.

EA: You never heard anything about the fights up there?

CM: Besides the meeting house or?

EA: Well that's what Mr. Renner said. Somebody hit somebody in the head there with a stick or something one time.

CM: [indecipherable]

EA: What?

CM: [indecipherable] Someone hit him in the head one time.

Patsy Hoke: [indecipherable] made him funny.

CM: [indecipherable]

PH: Yeah. It was funny. [indecipherable]

CM: [indecipherable]

EA: No, that doesn't seem to be the name of him, Dick Reed. Who was Dick Reed?

CM: He was [indecipherable]

EA: He was one of them that was involved in this.

Josephine Miller: He was the one that him was he?

CM: No, I don't think so.

EA: They must've had some-some right rough times.

JM: That's what they did for entertainment then.

EA: Yeah that's what they did for entertainment. Did they have dances or anything.

CM: Yeah they used to have a lot of dances.

EA: Did they ever have dances and things like that up here at the Manor House?

CM: Not that I know, no.

EA: But you had that Christmas parties?

CM: No, not that I know of.

PH: We did.

CM: The people-

PH: When we was kids.

CM: The people [indecipherable].

PH: [indecipherable] and Bill used to have us kids, when we was growing up, ya know, [indecipherable] Christmas parties all trimmed up and I used to go once.

CM: [indecipherable] back in front of the [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah, but you-when you were a youngster-

PH: In his time I don't know.

EA: Yeah...well-

CM: The Wayshees lived there ya know? They used to have dances and parties [indecipherable] but I remember one time-

EA: Why did they live there? Everybody lived there.

CM: He run the furnace.

EA: Oh he did!? Who'd he run it for?

CM: I don't know that.

EA: One of the earlier, late owners that-one of those corporations.

CM: Yeah....yeah...John said that was back then.

EA: Did she-

JM: Was that Ms. Grace Wayshee's father and them?

CM: Yeah, mmhmm.

EA: And Ms. Murry's 104? So if she's 104 that means she was born in '87. Right? No, 104, she was born in '77. Yeah 1877.

PH: Yeah cause my mom was born in 18 something too.

EA: So, that would have been some of those corporations [indecipherable].

CM: Yeah.

EA: [indecipherable] the end. Well how about over at the church did they ever have many things going on, do you remember?

CM: No.

PH: What up here [indecipherable].

EA: Harriett Chapel.

PH: [indecipherable] cause I still see those, what do you call them? Little Japanese lanterns.

CM: Yeah.

PH: Oh my God that was so beautiful when we was kids. Had a big barrel of fish.

EA: But earlier than that?

PH: Oh, I don't know anything about that. The festivals when we was kids.

EA: So, you don't remember anything in particular?

CM: No, [indecipherable] had a church there and went to Sunday school. He had a Christmas tree all decorated with homemade stuff.

PH: I remember mom and them talking about that.

CM: Yeah.

EA: They lived down there.

CM: They lived [indecipherable].

PH: Yeah. I remember the festivals.

EA: You worked at the stave mill, right?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Where was the stave mill?

CM: That was up there.

EA: Where?

CM: Right across the furnace there on the side of the road.

PH: Where the trolley station sat.

CM: [indecipherable]

PH: Member you said that?

EA: Yeah, well what-what was it a big building or?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Was it built especially to be a stave mill or?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Didn't have any connection with the furnace?

CM: Nu-huh. No.

EA: And they brought lumber down out the mountain?

CM: Yeah.

EA: And made barrel staves?

CM: Throp owned the furnace then and he brought it down.

EA: Yeah.

CM: That was after [indecipherable] 1914 I guess the stave mill.

EA: Oh it moved in at '14? How long did it stay?

CM: Well it was there after the war.

EA: That's the first World War?

CM: Yeah.

EA: What did they do? Ship them out on railroad cars?

CM: Yeah....yeah.

EA: How many people worked there?

CM: [indecipherable].

EA: Who's-

CM: [indecipherable] was there at the mill the sixth man to run the saws besides the cutoffs saws and everything.

EA: It was a glorified saw mill operation then?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Oh I see.

CM: Then you had shades around the hill that went back to your place up in the hills. Two hills on the other there next to the creek. Couple next to the furnace they used that old casting house that was down there in there.

PH: We didn't have one when we was at school there. I can't see how they had that store there.

We was only six then. [indecipherable]. They might.

EA: You mean when the store was operatin up there?

PH: Yeah, but I don't.

CM: You don't remember where the store was?

PH: I don't remember that store up there [indecipherable].

CM: [indecipherable] dry and join 'em out there [indecipherable] ship 'em out to the railroad.

EA: Who's stave mill-I mean who owned the-was it a company?

CM: Yeah, I think it was Hickory Run.

EA: Hickory Run Manufacturing Company. Where were they-I mean-

CM: Allentown-Allentown down in Pennsylvania.

EA: Allentown? Which is close to Bethlehem, which is where the Moravian Church records are.

So I guess I'm going to have to go to Pennsylvania. Did you ever hear anybody talk about the Moravians having services down here? Never heard of that? Well that pre-dates you anyway.

Did you ever hear any particular stories your parents told about this area?

CM: No, that's the funny thing. My father, I don't remember, I think he told us about his family back in southern-his father. Never thought about that, I never asked, ya know? Since peoples were not around since I asked-

PH: [indecipherable]

EA: You don't know where they came from whether or not they had been here a long time or whether they came here looking for work at the furnace or anything like that?

CM: No, you want to join in Joann? You know a lot about history.

Joann: They had a lot of bit, have to get out and read it. Oh that's Mr. Ralph, oh what's his name? Waterfield?

CM: Yes.

Joann: I did some research on the Miller family with Uncle Bill and explored somethings looking like two to three years. He has it down, ya know, and no one ever questioned it so I assume he's right but down they came from, I think, Pennsylvania or New York in that area. There was two brothers that came to Maryland and everything came [indecipherable].

EA: That sounds reasonable. A lot of people came down from Pennsylvania. They came down and followed the Monocacy River and came through New York.

Joann: [indecipherable] that's about all I know. I don't know somewhere.

EA: Yeah. But an awful of people came to areas like this looking for work they followed this type of work especially if they had any history of ironmaking or in Pennsylvania where there was

a lot of ironmaking going on and so that's why I wondered if you had any particular history of that in the family. I've got to get over and talk to Bill, he's one of, gonna be one of my next-I've got to talk to him about something else, but I've got to talk to him about this. Because it takes a long time and a lot of digging.

JM: Yes, it does.

EA: Okay, well. This, no I guess that was before. The Blue Mountain Steel Company, is that what they-

CM: That's what they called the last operation.

EA: Yeah, that was long low building. I've got picture of it, that wooden building and it was one of the last furnaces.

CM: [indecipherable]

Unknown voice: [indecipherable]

EA: It was fed by the crick.

CM: Yeah [indecipherable] back here down where some of those houses are now.

EA: You mean the water ran down the raceway? From this crick up here?

CM: Yeah.

EA: From this lake up here?

CM: Yeah and had a spring there too.

EA: I wonder what the purpose was of that lake, do you-do you know what the purpose was?

CM: I don't know, they used it as a bathing house then [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah.

CM: A bathing house. That's what they called it a steel house? The house said bathing [indecipherable].

EA: But there was an old furnace down there where Commodore Smith lived. You don't remember anything being there?

CM: No, no something about [indecipherable].

EA: Did that lake have anything to do with that forge?

CM: I don't-I don't know.

EA: You think it was dammed up to provide power for something there at that forge?

CM: [indecipherable]

EA: And it was above like where those two posts are?

CM: Yeah.

EA: And that driveway went up through those two posts there and up to the house?

CM: [indecipherable] big dam there going from the house [indecipherable].

EA: And they drained the lake and took all that out when 15 went through?

CM: No [indecipherable] before that, 15, this 15 here-

EA: Yeah.

CM: [indecipherable] long before that.

EA: Wonder why they drained?

CM: I don't know they cut the water off, the water [indecipherable].

EA: But you remember the water running down the raceway?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Where-and it ran down where the furnace is now? Behind where the furnace-

CM: Yeah. Right back down here, right back well up to in the back of the Keeley's [indecipherable].

EA: Yeah.

CM: Then they had this paint mill, this flour mill back in this [indecipherable] little foundation [indecipherable].

EA: Flour mill?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Never heard about the flour mill.

CM: Yeah. [indecipherable].

EA: What'd they make at the flour mill? You mean-

CM: Ground wheat and stuff. They had a stove [indecipherable] the stove was in pieces [indecipherable].

EA: Regular grist mill type of thing?

CM: Yeah.

EA: I didn't know that. I've heard about the mill, they've dug the ocher, the red ocher, and everything out up here on the other side of where 15 is. And made some pretty good paint I think.

CM: Yeah straight back in there was a big chimney stood back there a long time.

JM: Is that where that brick is out there?

CM: Yeah.

EA: The chimney provided power for the paint mill?

CM: Yeah. [indecipherable] steam engine [indecipherable]. Old stone-

PH: Make your mom go down in there-

JM: [indecipherable]

CM: Part of the foundation, that is all I remember, the foundation when I, took stone down in there [indecipherable].

PH: [indecipherable]

EA: Yeah. Well even when you were a kid you could well tell that this was an industrial area.

CM: Yeah.

EA: Cause there were that many things left. Well what I started to say about this picture, it's a little picture and an old picture, ya know I guess 1900, maybe even before. Shows the old ladies, Ms. Louis and a couple of them out in the boat in the lake and a house in the background and I'd like to have a copy of it. But, I'd like to have it to put with this what I'm doing if they can, would it, is it really difficult to make a copy? And it doesn't hurt the picture at all?

JM: [indecipherable]

EA: How long would it take you? I mean-

JM: Not long.

EA: Like if-you wouldn't need it over a week or something?

JM: Oh no no if you could give it to me like on Sunday you know if you got up in this area that if I had time, I'd have to in there early-

EA: Well-

JM: [indecipherable]

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EA: You mean where like in loft-

CM: Yeah.

EA: -when you set the loft.

CM: No, well that was just the rooms up there.

EA: Yeah, the rooms up there.

JM: That was the ceiling-

PH: That was the ceiling!

EA: The ceiling was made of wooden shingles, white washed.

CM: Yeah [indecipherable] the rafters had strips and put shingles on.

EA: Yeah. They were the same shingles as the ones on the outside?

CM: Yeah the outside, that's right.

PH: [indecipherable] oh my god.

CM: [indecipherable] well you had strip [indecipherable] on shingles I'd said 3-4 inches apart and you'd strip shingles, and you had to get in between the strips and get the shingles, the shingles were rough too.

EA: Yeah.

CM: And the end sticking out in places.

EA: I bet that did make a lot of splash when you tried with a whitewash brush.

PH: I know if I ever start to fix that, geeze. Could climb on it, the dirt.

EA: How many rooms would be on the second, was it divided like-

CM: Just the two, one here and one here.

PH: We had four.

JM: You had four that was there?

EA: And they were divided by thin, very thin dividers?

CM: Just boards.

EA: Just boards?

CM: Yeah. [indecipherable] boards in.

EA: Did they whitewash them too?

CM: Yeah.

JM: What was on the floor? Nothin?

PH: Boards.

CM: Boards. Scrub them.

PH: You get down there and scrub them until we got-

CM: Leaves like them.

JM: Did you put a sealer on them or anything, varnish or?

CM: Lye.

JM: Soap?

EA: Soap was the sealant.

CM: Lye soap and a brush.

PH: Yup, lye soap, every year before my [indecipherable] it was a lot of soap to brush with, clean.

JM: Probably had splinters in your knees all the time if you cleaned didn't yeah?

CM: Na, had the splinters all scraped off.

EA: Was the downstairs wasn't sealed off too well was it? I mean when they were brightening-

CM: They were brightening too.

PH: [indecipherable] gave mom some old carpets. Then she'd have-

CM: [indecipherable]

PH: -and we didn't have nothin.

CM: Green too.

EA: Well that's how the house was reopened up there?

CM: Yeah the same way.

PH: You remember them old straw carpets?

EA: Course it's not whitewashed with paint is it?

PH: [indecipherable]

EA: [indecipherable] whitewash it between the and left the rafters natural. Course that was whitewashed anyway cause I used a wire brush on a-

JM: To scrub that-

EA: -little, on a little half inch drill or a quarter inch drill to take that off.

PH: [indecipherable] We used to take wood be down to get 'em clean.

CM: That was the same way up ceilings too I guess-

EA: Yeah...yeah...yeah.

CM: -[indecipherable].

EA: Then we'd but the shingles back on top of the tin.

CM: Yeah.

EA: Which really makes a thick roof that things well insulated on the roof that thing's about this thick, you know all those different things. And the, course against the walls, it wasn't-it wasn't plastered out, plaster, the walls, the wooden walls, the stone walls were the walls on the inside. It was just whitewashed. Whitewashed stone walls which was cold. I don't know you kept from freezing to death?

PH: [indecipherable] and we never had mattresses to lay on, all the mattresses was ticks. We used to go to bed when [indecipherable] dried it out, ya know aired, put new straw in, you felt like your bed was up this high until you [indecipherable].

CM: More like that in the springtime.

PH: Yeah! And a lot of times they was in the pillows too, ya know till they killed the chickens and get the feathers.

CM: [indecipherable]

PH: Yup...yup, I still have the bolster, lord when I sleep without it. [indecipherable]

EA: You used a bolster under the pillow?

PH: Yeah. That long. Damn near good ole days.

JM: Oh, I don't know?

PH: Yes it was, I tell you didn't hear of people having cancer and all that stuff today.

JM: They had it they just didn't know.

EA: They [indecipherable] I guess.

CM: Bandwagon, used to take the pigs down to the farm and pull 'em halfway. About one time someone came down I remember in a horse and buggy and a tick had copies in it and the horse get scared it stripped [indecipherable].

PH: [indecipherable]

CM: [indecipherable]

PH: When daddy used to go get the straw we was kids.

JM: Did you have to pay for it?

PH: Yeah.

CM: Yeah, they charged a little.

JM: How much?

CM: [indecipherable]

PH: We'd have it out lying on the paper or something so it wouldn't get on the ground and get dirty.

CM: I'll never forget that.

PH: And we start stuffin.

JM: People didn't have back problems back then did they?

PH: I guess that's why they have them today. That's why they have 'em today.

CM: You got that especially in the springtime they got all work down.

PH: But you to get them filled, one or two that wasn't so bad, but jesus had some great big beds.

JM: That had the lye on it?

PH: Oh my God. They was trying to get them up the steps yet, was the problem.

EA: I bet that fun those little narrow steps. I bet that fun.

PH: That was.

EA: And you said you took bricks to bed?

PH: We used to put 'em in the oven and get 'em hot. Wrap 'em up in rags and cloth on different burners.

JM: But you all had [indecipherable]?

PH: But still our feet was cold [indecipherable].

JM: [indecipherable]

PH: You had no heat!

CM: You'd get up in the morning and the water in the teakettle was froze. I'd seen it froze many times.

JM: [indecipherable]

CM: [indecipherable]

PH: [indecipherable]

JM: You had a night or something?

PH: No, we slept with our slips unless mom made us something feedbags that's why you had the slips. The feedbags for the hogs. Make our underwear and our straw petticoats. She called 'em

petticoats. [indecipherable] ya know. Down right we didn't have anything when we went to school. Not like they do today all fancied up. Made our own [indecipherable].

JM: [indecipherable] you kept your underwear on them you just put your clothes on top of them.

Now we're getting this!

CM: Right. You're supposed to take your underwear off.

PH: We always had long underwear for winter.

JM: You put your underwear on in the winter and took 'em off in the spring [indecipherable].

PH: 30th of May is when my mother let us take 'em off, it was hot or cold, we kept 'em on til 30th of May.

JM: Is that right?

PH: Smothered to death in school.

EA: Well did you use the fireplace to-to heat up or did you put a stove in?

CM: No, a stove.

EA: Cause most of the fireplaces I guess they weren't using them anymore.

CM: No.

EA: They put stoves in front of them I guess.

PH: Oh, you take a wood stove and coals or whatever and you ain't got no fire in the morning.

CM: Yup.

EA: Nope. I know.

PH: You'd have to can sit right there and shiver to death while you're making-

CM: That was a job every night get that kindling and everything for the morning.

PH: Oh god you say, Albert used to cut the wood and we used to haul it in then Albert [indecipherable] kindling, oh my. Every night when we come home from school get the wood in about part full. [indecipherable] all day.

EA: Yeah, it took a lot of wood.

PH: If kids had to work today like back then it would kill 'em. Of course it would kill 'em cause [indecipherable]-

EA: Might do 'em good.

PH: It would kill 'em.

EA: Might do 'em good.

PH: Kids growing up, nope.

CM: Nope.

PH: [indecipherable]

CM: [indecipherable] John Carter lived here. And he was married to a Wettle and her brother stayed there, he was an old man, Billy Wettle. He would carry wood, he carried wood from the mountain and he was back there in the hole where they put the road through and [indecipherable] in back church, and the stave mill starting to blow, the church bell started to ring, ya know, he was down in the hole. Just dropped the pole with us. Til he looked straight up in the air I'll never forget that. We was back up on the hill in the home, his kids, they played up there in the hole. Of course he shocked us too and we looked in. We looked down in the hole and seen no Billy, dropped the old wood on his back.

PH: [indecipherable] we was kids and how we had it. We didn't have our parents all that too, ya know. Cause we used to haul wood out the mountain and all. Mom did.

EA: Well that was-you mean that was the actual armistice in 1918?

CM: 1918?

EA: The war was-the war was over?

CM: Yeah.

EA: Ooh, I see.

CM: He died and somebody ran the stove mill, it just kept ringing, ya know.

EA: That was a great day.

PH: I'll say. Well I gotta get over here and [indecipherable]

EA: Yeah.

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