

## RECORDING MADE BY ELIZABETH ANDERSON- 1981

This is a tape made with William (Bill) Renner on June 18th, 1981

He was interviewed by Elizabeth Anderson, the questioner.

### Notes:

- “...” denotes a pause.
- “[ ] ” denotes a sound other than dialogue.

Questioner: I just want to...you know...start this thing going, so I can...anything

Bill: Guess there's...uh...there's a lot of stuff in there. And uh, it's in there about the big fight, the furnace employees had and martial [indecipherable]

Questioner: Yeah, I saw that. um...well...You mean down here, where they're digging now, there was something and then it burned down or fell down or got old and then they put-

B: No, they just abandoned it after the Civil War. Sometime after the Civil War they abandoned it. See, a long time after the Civil War...uh, this, uh...Wilmington Car Wheel Works, or Wilmington Delaware, but all the iron they could make here. And they didn't bothered about hammerin anything out. They just...runned it through the pigs and set it over there and made...wonderful car wheels.

Q: Oh, I see.

B: Wilmington Delaware. Everything was shipped over to Delaware.

Q: And that was called the Wilmington Car Wheel...

B: Yes...uh, uh...take that-yeah that's Wil-Wilmington...I think it's a Wilmington Car...Wheel...oh what to call it... It's on the wheels. It's uh, uh, on the Car Wheels.

Q: It's for railroad cars?

B: Yeah, yeah. Railroad cars. At that time everybody's building railroads, and this big demand for wheels, you know.

Q: Yeah, yeah...So they bought all the iron they could turn out-

B: Yes, all the iron they sent over there just in pig form, you know. Smelted here, and over there it went. Ship it over there. See the...the mess around the rail [indecipherable], you know, means I turn left in...uh...1872. Before that they had to haul it to Frederick to ship it...on the B&O.

Q: Yeah, yeah...they hauled it-that's when they hauled in the wagons...horse team.

B: Six horse team, yes. But then, so does the railroad come, you know, in the 1870s. They...all they had to do is ship it, uh, haul it to Thurmont, and then in 1886, the Wayshees got at it and built a railroad...down here...to...works.

Q: Was that the same, uh, track that the trolley ran on?

B: Yes, uh huh...

Q: Ran on the same track?

B: Yes, uh...it was uh... Back then, uh, 19- uh I think it was 1907 or 8 along in that area there. It was in litigation. In the hands of receiver, and I think it's a \$33,000 outer mortgage on-on this railroad. And when the WF&G, that's when it started, you know, the Washington, Frederick, and Gettysburg...Railway.....uh... First, they came down here, and couldn't come through this because they couldn't get a right-of-way. They stopped at the end of McPherson's Land and there the people used to get down there and go on the train and go to Frederick and back and get off there and walk up here...and that when, uh.....when Joseph Straub bought it.....They must've had some assurance that he was gonna give them a right of way. They come on through, but never did get a right-of-way, but they went on through, and bought the mortgage...they bought the mortgage on this railroad, now they own it.

Q: Hmm...Yeah...

B: Yeah, that, uh, that old-heh-that old thing flourished there for awhile. They had the little dinky engine and called it Moccasin Valley. Just a little engine and, uh, all two cars, back and forth the freight, yeah, eh...coaches, you know?

Q: Yeah.

B: Yeah, haul some freight...Then later on they got, uh, bigger motors. Well, that was used until they, uh, electrified it, you know, and then they used electric motors.

Q: Yeah, I remember. I remember when the streetcars used to run around over Frederick county and different places.

B: Yeah, used to be down here every morning. That thing hit me one morning down here. Heh. Nearly killed me! Hehahaha!

Q: Is that right? It used to go across the mountain of course into Myersville-

B: Yes, it was.....it was, uh, 31st of December in 1948. My wife always would get up and get breakfast, you know, and call me, you know..... And this morning she...didn't get awake. Just, after morning, didn't get wake...Well, when I got awake it was time to-I had metalworking up here...um, uh ...building new buildings up at, uh, Acre's place, like Acre's place?

Q: Mmhmm.

B: Well, I jumped in my clothes right quick and run up there and put the men to work and I come back in for my breakfast. And it was snow blusters, and snow wild, and, oh, snowed so hard you could hardly see...and uh...hum, after I eat breakfast, you know, start to go back down and.....I got there, looked up the track and, oh, didn't see the thing, and.....I started across the track, and when I got over-the time I got the middle of the track, here he was. He hit me. He's coming flying. He run clear away down there below the crossing before he got stopped.....I was in...I

was in a 1938 Roadmaster Buick. And he hit me and spun me around there and set me down on a pile of old used ties on the other side of the railroad. And my head went out through the...wind deflector up here, and I got...a slight fracture up here from that.

Q: Hmm.

B: Took me two years to get over, but I finally got over it.

Q: Yeah, well. That's.....close call..-ah, really.

B: Yes, that was that time, by golly.....

Q: ...Do you remember as a child, uh, the furnace in operation, seeing it with, uh, all the color and light and everything that they...

B: My, yes. We lived in Lewistown...and, uh, when it was, uh, warm enough we would sit outside and watch, wait for the bell to raise. See, when they raised the bell they had a charge of, uh...They had a charge of iron ore, and coke...and, uh, limestone on that bell. And when they'd raise it, it would go down in the fire. In the-

Q: Yeah-

B: Right, in the ch- ch- chamber... And when they'd raise that bell, it would open up and the fire would fly out the top there and it would light up the sky everywhere. And people'd sat out there and watch, wait for that there.

Q: Like fireworks.

B: Yes! It would open up and the sky would light up.

Q: ...yeah.

B: Yeah. Everybody said- "wh- we're waiting for the bell, for them to raise the bell." ..... Waiting for them to raise the bell.....

Q: .....yeah.....And then, uh, after...after, it closed down.....

B: I don't know how long it took. And to melt it as soon as they would, uh, melt that...and then run it out into pig beds...and then run the slag out...and soon as they got it clean inside they would raise the bell and another charge could come down.

Q: Mmmhmm.

B: And I don't know how often it was, but, uh, it wasn't too often, I don't think.

Q: Yeah.

B: I imagine, oh maybe a couple hours I think it was, some, maybe an hour or two hours or...whatever it was, but I don't know just how long.

Q: Yeah.

B: But, uh.....but I- I was up there when there was...when it was in, uh, when it was warranted. Scared me nearly to death, I was only about three years, wasn't quite four years old yet.

Q: Yeah.

B: And we, uh, would have to go up on the lookout, and they was making up the pig beds. We went in through the casting. I'll show ya. A-anybody could go in there.....and we go up the- open the iron door and got in the stairway and walked up the stairway. Oh, it was, I guess, sixty, sixty-five, maybe seventy feet high. Then you're gonna go way down toward Westminster and all around you could see everywheres...That was the big attraction. People would drive out here from Frederick to walk up on that and look around.

Q: There was an Indian on top of the thing-

B: Yeah-

Q: On-

B: Yeah, old Sequoia. [laughs]

Q: Yeah.

B: Yeah, he was, uh, down there. And he some- there was some contention about that indian. Lot of people said when the front was torn down Frank Freddy stole the Indian. They said he stole it one night and hid it. It was made out of copper.

Q: Yeah, yeah I've- I- I've seen a picture of it.

B: So, I don't know whether- I never seen anything of it or never heard anything about it, I don't know whether he did it or not, but, uh.....when I moved over to, uh, an old manor house...in 1926...Mr. Jakes said, given...the church, the casting house was nothing but stone with a roof on it.....stone walls, you know.

Q: Yeah

B: And, uh, they wanted stone to put a piece on the church. So, he gave them that. And, uh, when they was tearing it down, I went down there one day, and Bill McGill and the...let's see, uh, Sturdyman...I think I still believe that the other man was named Sturdyman. They were Masons, you know. And Bill said, uh, they had the-

Q: Stallmyre somebody said his name was.

B: Well, could be. I just don't know. Anyhow, there was, uh...there was corner...stone...it was, uh...It was, uh, marble that, uh, told about when it was built, who built it, and oh.....and, uh, Bill McGill said, "Here Billy," he said, "something you ought to take out of the house." And...I...tried to lift it, and I said, "My lord take the wheel." Well, I couldn't carry that.....so, uh...I was going somewhere and I said, "I'll get it to see I'll get, I'll see if I can borrow a wheelbarrow somebody and take it up the house. And, when night come, I forgot it. The next morning it was gone.

Q: Is that right?

B: Yeah, it was gone. I don't know where it went.

Q: Heaven sakes.

B: Yes.

Q: Well, the next may still be around somewhere, if you haven't-

B: Yeah, without a doubt.

Q: If a person just knew where it might be.

B: If it's as round, it's around the Fraley's somewhere.....uh...Mr. Jakes...the old story ya know the old commissary... Mr. Jakes give that to Frank Fraley to tear down. And he tore it down, I think it was 19- yeah the 1926, late, or 27. I believe it was 1927. He tore that down, and the upper story was full of, uh, old...uh, discarded colonial furniture. And it was...there was three spinning wheels, old time spinning wheels, and most all of them was pretty good shape. And a lot of other old furniture was stored up there wh- out of a big house, you know, uh, people-

Q: Yeah-

B: lived a big house...and he got up that, and, well, everything kept quiet. You never heard anything about it.

Q: There must've-

B: I imagine that the antique dealer's got it.

Q: Yeah, I was going to say they must've sold it-

B: Good good-

Q: 'Cause there wasn't anything in that house-

B: Oh that's tough...If it hadn't been sold, should be around Fraley's up there somewhere.

Q: It's not there. It's not in that house, or, you know, wasn't when they had the sale.

B: Well, that store...that store was built.....after 1907.....because Fr-...Frank Fraley bought the place in 1907 for \$1,000. They bought it from the church, and I, uh, I dug up the deed...with,

uh,...Fitzhugh's...William...and Sarah Fitzhugh...deeded that to the church. It was never to be used for anything but a partridge. But then, in 1907, uh, didn't have many members up there, and...well, all the best or none of 'em, heh, most all of 'em couldn't read or write.

Q: Well, you know, at that time it wasn't- it wasn't actually a parish. It was under the Bishop.

B: Uh huh.

Q: And, uh, they sent some people out from Baltimore to see about what was going on up here.

B: Uh huh.

Q: And they made the decision down there to, uh...to go ahead and let them...let...it be sold.

B: Yeah-

Q: Be sold-

B: and it's a thousand dollars.

Q: Yeah, I know, it...I've- I've seen the records from the church of what happened when the church got rid of that land, which was a terrible thing.

B: Uh huh.

Q: It's just-

B: And Frank built that store.....part of it...N- Now, the front part, where you can see and there where the floor, you know, joins? The front part was built in 1927.

Q: Yeah.....Yeah, I know. I- I, uh, he...that he built that...um.....Well, what happened then, that big old building that was up there...a- across, that was- had been the old store. Wasn't that where they'd located that Blue Mountain Iron and Steel Company after the furnace shut down? ...There was a big old frame building sat across from- from-

B: No, that was a shop.

Q: Yeah.



B: No, right? Shop. Blacksmith's-

Q: Yeah-

B: -shop... Yeah, right across the road.

Q: Yeah.

B: And there was, uh, scale drivew- uh, you know, for wagons-

Q: Yeah-

B: Wagon scales.....there.....and, why did Mr. Jake give that to somebody to...get out of there to haul  
away. Just give it to 'em!

Q: Well, it wasn't in very good shape, was it?

B: Well...

Q: It looked like- and, uh, there's pictures of it when the Blue Mountain Iron and Steel, uh, was there  
that it looked like it was in bad shape.

B: Then, uh...there- the state roads wanted to widen the road. And he wanted to cut in, slice a piece of  
yard off..... Well, they say that they would build a retaining wall...and Mr. Jake said, "Well,  
there's the old mule barn, tear it down. There's plenty of stone there, you-" stone, you know.  
Tore that mule barn and there's one of- it's at, in that wall along, eh heh, along the yard, there.

Q: Hmm.

B: And had old man, ehm...Stover. Charlie Stover, from down around dic tour (?) somewhere. Come up  
there and build- Him and his boys built that wall.

Q: Which- which, uh, wall was that, now?

B: That's right along the road. They go- Up the road is a- There's a high wall. Big wall.

Q: Oh, up at the manor house.

B: Then the back entrance, you know-

Q: Yeah.

B: two big piers-

Q: Yeah, yeah.

B: Yeah, they, uh... They built that...

Q: ...yeah...

B: Here they, uh- I don't know- I imagine the road- I guess the road payed for it, I reckon, because, uh...well, that was the right, expensive job...digging in, putting a footer in there. And tearing that barn down, and getting all the stone over there and all...

Q: Well then, uh, when- when they- After the state of Maryland got it, is that when all the shrubbery went to Washington?

B: N- No. When the- When the Federal Government had it.

Q: Oh, the Federal Government had it?

B: Yep, yes, that's when everybody- Some of it went to Richmond, Virginia. And, uh, the others went down the White House, and, uh, I guess it's still on the White House lawn. And, mind you, that bloomed while we was there. And it's- it's in there. I'm pretty sure it's in there. Doubt it. And it had a little white, wax flower. Each one of them little twigs had a little wax flower right on the end. White! Oh, just pretty.

Q: I'll bet it was beautiful.

B: And, uh...then Mr. Jakes said that he, uh, found out that that only bloomed when it was a hundred years old. When it's a hundred years old it'll bloom... But it bloomed while we was here. And that was, uh, I don't know, either 1927 or 1928...And then the government got it...about 1935.....and.....then I lived in there until.....well, we moved up there, up to Thurmont.....let's see..... We moved up to Thurmont...in 1937. The roof got so bad, and I

tried to get- erm...what, Williams was the project manager up here, to put a roof on it...And they had a shingle mill, and it had all this knot in the wood, you know, and they had WPA labor, and I said, "You can put a- You can put a roof on there for...for a hundred dollars!" He said, "They always have. I want to see that damn thing torn down!" He was from Richmond Virginia. He said, "They made iron here during the Civil War to shoot at us rebels." He said, "I want to see that thing destroyed." Told me right out of his own mouth! Heh. Person like that sent 'em up here to run project like that.

Q: Hmm.

B: Oh boy...Well, when they first come up...all the personnel from the deep south. And the engineer was a fellow of a name Bamberg, from Bamberg, South Carolina. He didn't stay here very long. He left...

Q: Hmm.

B: Yeah, they was all still fighting the Civil War.

Q: Yeah, well it certainly is a sin that it was let fall down.

B: Yeah, all- All it needed was a roof.

Q: Yeah?

B: Everything else was good. And we- My wife kept that nice and clean inside, and I- every two years I'd whitewash it, and I got a picture...picture of it that, uh...I just got done whitewashing it and took a picture of it...Nice and white.

Q: Yeah.

B: Gosh, it take me a week. I had to- I had a forty foot ladder. I'd get up there and in- Have a whitewash brush on a long handle. Had to reach out as far as I could reach, you know, and finally I could get up to the chimney, you know.

Q: Yeah.

B: And there's, uh.....There was one of the chimneys-You could go up above the third floor- There's a place to go up...and go in. You could go in the chimney and come out. It was so much you could go in there and crawl out and get on- up- on- on the roof. And no water ever come down in there.

Q: Hmm-

B: See, it was over a.....well, I'd say it was an overhang about like that.....where this chimney going around out like this and around...

Q: Yeah.

B: And then...you could go up there and you'd- you'd go in it. You could go in this, a piece, and it'd come out like that on the roof.

Q: Yeah, yeah...

B: But, I see now that, uh, it's, uh, fell off. It's broken, the chimney, uh. That is, the east side? It's broke off now...and fell down some of- fell down on the outside...some- see, I got something I want to show you. You, y- you know what I think about a.....a contract.....was put out by the general services to clean that thing out and stabilize the walls?

Q: No.

B: Ah, I got it. My son Bob bid on it!

Q: Just recently?

B: Well.....I- I don't- I don't know- I get- I think the date's on the thing. I b- I believe it was in...February or March.

Bill: -said the specifications on the code...“To clean out the debris, dispose of the debris, and pile the stones.....uh, back on- on the property, and...and to stabilize the walls.” That's all called for, it-

And he did \$10,000 on it... I don't- Whether you can understand that or not, I.....it's accounted of.....

Questioner: Yeah.....well? .....

B: Well, it's sad to look like somebody at Chevy Chase got that.....Well, it's \$250,000 there, too...That is one- That's one of them rip offs.

Q: Well, now- Of course the state owns it now.

B: Yes...

Q: I don't know. When- Wonder when they're gonna do the work?

B: I don't know. It's- That's something I don't know. It's, uh, complicated. I- ...well, I can't hardly understand it, but with son Bob, he said, "I bid on it. I was up here" and "Look," he said, "I've bid \$10,000 and I didn't care whether I got it or not." He said, "We got plenty of work," but said, "I just went up there and bid on it." Incidentally, Bob was born in that house. He's a...he's taken over the Weller Brothers' Construction Company down New Windsor.

Q: Oh, I see.

B: And he got an invitation to bid, and he bid on it, and that's what he got back.

Q: Huh. I don't know.

B: I wonder, some time- some time...we have- I wonder when our next meeting is?

Q: I have no idea. No idea. It would be awful good if, you know, if- if they would do something like that, if they clean it up and stabilize it so that it doesn't fall down any further.

B: Yes. See, he could go to clean everything out inside, rake everything out, all the dirt, and burn all the old wood and stuff, you know, dispose of it.

Q: Yeah.

B: And then stack the stones back and then prop the walls that needed propping.

Q: Yeah. Well, they don't even- They aren't even doing all that much up here at this one they bought right across from this- right below this store, there, the state bought. it

B: Wait uh huh.

Q: They- They hardly even keep that cleaned up.

B: No, well, saying as he's got all them men a-laying around doing nothing.

Q: Yeah. He doesn't do much-

B: No-

Q: I can tell you. He's.....It seems to me he could get in there and do a lot of that stuff.

B: Oh, yeah. Well, in the winter time they don't- heh. Guys don't do anything! Draw their money.

Q: Yeah. Yeah, that's- that's a...that's too bad, because if he'd shown more interest in the thing it would certainly help.

B: Oh, yes.

Q: But, for some reason-

B: I often try to get him after, you know, er, at night. Have to think- Try- I've never been able to catch him at night. I don't think he answers the phone.

Q: No, he's...I know, he- That's a- That's a poor...Well, do you have in here about the, uh...the Indian that they were supposed to put in the iron casket and everything? Is that all written down here?

B: No, I never, uh...I never even heard that here.

Q: Oh, I see-

B: I know that there was a...that there was a slave thrown in the furnace, but I didn't, I didn't put that in. Some of the old timers said there was a slave thrown in the furnace...uh...one was giving him trouble all the time, and somebody got out there one time, and there- there was a...charge in the

furnace there, that is, uh, the old charcoal furnace, and they just kicked him down in it. That was the end of him.

Q: Well, they used slave labor then-

B: Oh, yes-

Q: up there in the furnace.

B: According to this graveyard, you know, there's, oh-

Q: Yeah-

B: There must be at least 150 graves back here.

Q: Yeah, I know. There's quite a few graves.

B: Oh, quite of them. And they, uh, they, oh, they're hardly touching them, as far as they've only got out, I don't know, somewhere between twenty-five and thirty bodies.

Q: Wonder if they're coming back and get any more.

B: I don't think so.

Q: Well, will the- Will the road disturb that at all?

B: Well, they're going right through where they dug. See, they could only dig where th- on the right-of-way.

Q: Oh, I see. And the rest of the area, it won't be disturbed by the roads, I hope?

B: Nope, see that's on me, down- the rest of it's on me, down there.

Q: ...oh.

B: Well, as I understand.....they're, uh...they're gonna take more land. They're gonna get this, uh, federal aid...and that means they've got to...make more easy slopes that are like this slope out here. They've got to raise that slope, so...have it more easy. If anybody runs off the road, it- it won't be too steep that they can't run back up on the road.

Q: Mmm.

B: Uh, Tom, uh...Summers, you know, he's a district engineer-

Q: Yeah, I know Tom.

B: He was out here to see me here.....I guess a little over a month, or about a month ago, maybe a little, oh, mi- might have been five weeks. Then said, "Mr. Renner..." ..... First he called me and wanted to know if I was home and I said, "Yeah." He said, "I'd like to come out and talk to you." I said, "Well come on out, Tom!" I know his father. And, he come out here, he says, uh... "Mr. Renner, I come out here to serve notice." He then said, "Within a year we're gonna knock- tear-," erm, shit, "We're gonna knock that garage down of yours." See, they own it. When they bought it first, they bought just seven feet this side the garage.

Q: Oh.

B: But, he said, uh, "Before"....."We'll give you thirty days notice before we tear it down." .....And they said, uh, "I could write you a letter on this," but he said, "To come out and tell you, I know you're told." See. So, uh, it looks like they're gonna...put this through.

Q: Well that'll bring that road pretty close over here, won't it.

B: Yes, uh. Reh- If they get another twenty feet, they'll be, uh.....just only about twenty feet, twenty couple feet from my back yard.

Q: Yeah.

B: That's the right-of-way. And then- and then the slope...the slope on that when they- and they fill that, they won't be able to get a truck in here to the house, unless they make me another drive way. Maybe- Maybe I can- You know, I never got my front finished. I was gonna put a driveway way up here.

Q: Well, you'll have to get them to make you another driveway.



B: Maybe they'll put me a driveway in.

Q: They're gonna have to!

B: Haha!

Q: They can't stop you from coming into your place.

B: No. You see, I'll always plan to come up here, uh...just around. Make a long loop-

Q: Yeah-

B: Around there and come back.

Q: Yeah.

B: So we could drive in here, right up here to the front porch. And I never got it done...

Q: Well, it sounds like a good idea. Get them to do it.

B: I always worked. I, uh, built here in 1938 and kept building out and building out. And- and, doing things and.....Then, finally I- even after I retired...

Q: Yeah. It's a new-

B: Well, I, uh-

Q: This a nice place.

B: I never- I- I knew it was going to cost a lot of money. I never had the money until.....after... the road went through, and after the road went through, I seen what they were going to do, and I just give it up. Or I'd've had a driveway right arou-up here that you could drove right up here at the...front porch.

Q: Yeah.....Yeah...wow. Well, where do you- Do you have any idea where the slaves might have lived that they used and the privacy-

B: Well, there was slave quarters, up there back at the big house. But, then, these log cabins- I imagine, these log houses- I'd imagine they lived in them. There's, uh, there's a lot of these old houses going. You know, right back little near here was, uh...

Q: Yeah.

B: A big one.....Right above the old graveyard. Right across the road from the graveyard was a big one.

Q: There was a couple up the back of where the furnace stands-

B: Yeah-

Q: too, and...wasn't there?

B: Yeah, they were, uh, they were six up there in a row...You know, up there, uh, from the creek up, again the hill.....They was six there. And then, they were one down- Well, the road covered where one of them was. Then, across the crick there was two more over there. Then there were two, up on the hill, above this water hole.....and then, there were two more.....on this road, right back on here, on Main.....covered up the old Kelly House...That was- That was a big one. And then, there's one- Another one back here...across the road, like I telling you, from, uh...the graveyard. There's one. And, uh. Then, the- All these houses over here...and then this high house down here...and uh...

Q: And it was down past where Robertsons lived, down there on the curb.

B: Yes, it- it's, uh- Well, Buck Fraley family to know the first one. As you go down, uh.....well it was totally Featherbed Lane.

Q: Yeah?

B: Blacksmill Road. And right below- right below that house...is a bunch of, I don't know, shrubbery there. And right in that shrubbery was this big old...Well, it was a great big, uh, chimney

butt.....er, uh...The house burned down. And then these houses down here belong to what you see, they bought.....they bought all this over here in, uh, 1772. Then they- they had.....There was five houses. Then there was two.....Well, down there right across from where they're digging there's two houses. Well, there was two there then.

Q: Mhm.

B: So they was- I don't know- There was houses enough, I guess.

Q: Yeah.

B: I don't know how many-

Q: Yeah.

B: Lived in one house, but, uh...

Q: Yeah.

B: Well, you take six and two is eight, two is ten...thirteen.....thirteen, fourteen, sixteen, and five is twenty-one.....I guess they had- er, I guess they had-

Q: Well, of course if they used slave labor, they lived- They lived a lot of people in one house a lot of times, too.

B: Yes, and, uh...18- I think it's, what was, 1800 census? .....I think it was 1800 census...It was 1502 people lived here in the area, the furnace. That's a lot of people.

Q: Yeah, that's a lot of people.

B: I don't know where they all lived.

Q: Yeah. Yeah, well a lot of them, of course, I guess they needed a lot of people because that was a big operation. That employed a lot of people.

B: Yes, about 360 men.....worked in the...

Q: And they all had families-

B: Yeah. Wh-

Q: most of them.

B: Which hoppers, carved charcoal burners, and minors, and people to work the furnace, and, uh, well...and people hauling the...iron away from it and haul supplies the end.....

Q: .....yeah, yeah. An operation of that size would take a lot of people. It's just a-

B: Yeah, and then up the road they, uh...they, uh, had some houses on up the road.....um... You know where Bradley Turnbull has his, uh, place?

Q: Yeah, yeah.

B: Well, right.....right on this side, a little bit, he's got a bunch of lawnmowers, so he-

Q: Yeah-

B: -fixes lawnmowers. Well, right about there was the old meeting house. It's a big old log house. Well, he used it on Sunday as a church, and then...uh, on Saturday night they had anything going on, it'd be a meeting house, and good lord the fights that could occurred. Oh my. This used to be an awful rough place.

Q: Yeah, that's what I've understood.

B: I heard Jess Wolf say one time that, uh, Dick Reed, that, uh, said something about him that somebody told him, you know. You've, heh...Jess said, "You wait until I meet that son of a-," so-and-so, and he cut himself a big hippie club. And on Saturday night, he went up there, and looked, knew in, and, oh, Dick was in there. And he stood outside and waited. When Dick come out, come down the steps, Jess walked up and whomped him upside the head with that club. And old Dick never batted his eyes, and Jess dropped his club and run! EhHehe Hahaha! Oh boy.

Q: Yeah. Man, it- It must've been something, really.

B: Oh, yes. Yes, and just up along the mines, well, up along the road, there's a- there's a lot of houses left gone.

Q: Yeah.

B: Now.....after.....after you go up through where the mine bank is.....there's a...there's a bunch of houses...you know, there's a little stream...goes through there.

Q: Yup.

B: Comes out of the mine bank. Well, right across there there was a house, called, uh...It would got to be known that hill. Got to be known as Bird House Hill.....And, uh, well, way back.....around about turn of the century.....as....a fire started in there, and, uh...the old man lived in that house. The, uh, at that time there was a lot of shoemake...that, uh...the fire got to burn the shoemake and he inhaled a lot of that smoke and it killed him....shoemake is poison, you know-

Q: Yeah, I know.

B: And that would- got to be known as, uh, Bird House Hill. Well that- There was one...And then, the...the Bryce place, well the Micheners live there now. There was an old log cabin, and the next one above there was an old log cabin. And then on down a- On that same side was, uh, let's see, Nick Sweeny place was one...and, uh...right- right beyond down, you know, is one.....I think...potstick .....what? That was one, and a piece built onto it. And then, on the other side, where Downs had their place...was, uh, let's see. One, two, three, four, five.....There was five or six houses there. And they were just...uh, u- uh...The weather board- and- was vertical, and, you know, out of these old hemlock boards.

Q: Yeah.

B: Big, white, hemlock boards. And...we'd had made them mighty. They- They'd cut 'em out, lay them down on the ground, cut 'em out there and get the shape. And they'll a one-of-a-six across here,

then a one-of-a-six up here. Then put 'em all together. Then the floor choice, suppo- They'd set on that one-of-a-six, mind you! That's all was holding it. Set on that six. One-of-a-six up there.

And that-

Q: Yeah.

B: The way they were built, and, uh...let's see if any of it's standing, yet...these are all going down here.....huh.....seems to me- I'd have thought there was more of that seam walls .....yeah, across the crick there was one. Now, that row...across the crick...the Copels built that, and that was known as the New Row. The Copels built that. But, seems to me there was one of them old houses standing somewhere.....

Q: Where's- Where's that now? That's down in there, back of, um...where you turn in up there now on- across from the man- from that entrance to the manor house-

B: Yeah-

Q: You turn back Featherbed Lane?-

B: Right across from the crick going up, you know, that how- re'a whole row of houses over in there.

Q: Yeah, and-

B: That's known as the New Row. The Copels built that, but they was, uh...they was- Yeah, it was two houses. They was two houses there. Now, if you'd go in- No, there was th- Yeah, Herb Sweeney's house. This...house of Herb Sweeney, that's the only house that's- that's...vertical...boarding. But then it's been covered up, if something else.

Q: Oh, yeah, yeah.

B: So, kind of whether or not. That's the only house left with that vertical boarding. And that was an old one, the old original houses. Yeah, Skip Liver was one. And the old Dave Green house, and George Bryce house. That was four.

Q: Was, uh-

B: There was four of the old, original houses, were, you know...there.....and.....well, that- I don't know. They had thirty- I guess they had, thirty, thirty-five, maybe forty houses here.

Q: All back, they- All sitting back in- There were a bunch of them sitting back in there.

B: Just- Just that one here, that one up here in the woods, you know. It's somewhere.

Q: Yeah. Yeah. Well, now, up there at the mine bank, didn't they used to put the ore in little dingies up there and bring it around, kind of circle?

B: Oh, yes, yes. A railroad [indecipherable] a railroad, yes.

Q: Yeah.

B: You know that car that, uh, you used to bring down up here when, uh...when they have the car fest? That was one of them.

Q: Yeah.

B: And they all had brakes on them. They get a whole string of them, you know, and then... they- they just start 'em if the dinkey wasn't there, you know, well, the dinkey would pull 'em back.

Q: Yeah.

B: Well, lots of times they would just cut 'em loose and a couple men would get on there to draw the brakes, you know. And get down- when they get down and cross the creek they'd break them down so they'd slide right into the furnace where they could dump...dump the ore.....right in it.

Q: Oh, it was all downhill, so they would- they'd run down from upstream-

B: And the door was dumped down over that wall, that back wall, you know-

Q: Yeah, yeah.

B: That wall back, back of the furnace? That car- eh, the railroad come right in on top, and that- and the ore would...be dumped down, and there'd be g- got in pokeys there and wheel over to the elevator and went up in the elevator of this...new furnace. Where, you know, doubled in on the bell.

Q: Yeah, yeah.....ah, yeah. Yeah.....And there, there must've really, really big, almost like, uh, quarries where they were taking this-

B: Well-

Q: That looked like...

B: Yeah, that big, right there-

Q: Those pictures, uh, show.....it just looks like a huge stone quarry with a huge hole there.

B: Yeah, well one of the- one of them, uh, big leeds, they'd call them a leed, you know, when they dug out. One of them...they filled up with stumps and...debris...when they built that road through.

Q: Yeah.

B: They had someplace to dispose the stumps, like Ted Gardner over here. He left and filled one of his up with stumps and all, and for that he got a.....he got a hard road added to his house.

Q: Aah.

B: Yeah, he made a deal with 'em there and then he dumped this stuff over there. They lived right up over here. Right on the- well you can see over there from the house...where they go up-p and dump it, and.....All- All this stuff in here, all the stumps and everything...it...went there and...up there at the- them two places- in the.....filled up these mine banks.

Q: Yeah.

B: And that one up there.....it used to be a borer.....a- a steam borer back there for the...furnace to.....for the steam for the drills. You know, it, uh.....which was- I know- Back in



there, one time they run several drifts back under- under the mountain...out of the rock. But I doubt you could find 'em anymore. I guess everything's slid down. Trees that slid down and fell over.

Q: Yeah.

B: And there was an air shaft... There was an air shaft back there where it was, uh, boarded up. It was about that big a square.....and was, uh.....the forged come out of the ground about that high. Just open on top, nothin's-...Everybody would've jumped down here, take it from me. Eh heh! .....but, uh, it's just about that high above the ground. But that's all rotted out now, filled in.

Q: Yeah.

B: I guess you couldn't find it anymore.

Q: Well, now there- There was this story of the silver mine. Is that really true or was- or was-

B: Well said.

Q: Is that just a story?-

B: That's right here on my property, right...above my orchard here.

Q: You think that's-

B: Well.

Q: just a legend, or do you think that really was-

B: Nope. No, it really was. Because I remember when there was a great big pile dumped there, and, uh, you could crack them...stones open...and they were veins of silver.....but you can't find any hist- er, I couldn't find any in Frederick anywhere...about it. But they claim that it was the ship- the, uh, Philadelphia and S... up there, Philadelphia...And a lot of people even said- oh man, now

ehehe... He said, "Yes sir. Shit, I seen the money that was made." He said, "Cokles had a barrel in here right inside the door. And he had a barrel full of money- silver money." Well, uh huh.

[Both laugh]

Q: Yeah, really. Well it must not've been a good enough quality silver form to keep on using it for very long.

B: Well, now the story- I think you'll find out in there. As the story goes, this thing started right after the Civil War, uh, the Iceners owned the- the limestone- the nearest limestone quarry. And they had to have limestone, you know...for...putting...to clean the iron. But anyhow, he raised the price of his stone. Well someone...they didn't want to pay it, and someone said, "Why don't we quarry our own, since we got our problem of iron ore- er, um, limestone right of there?" Well, they went up there, and, uh, they started in. There again...again to press it, and they got a great big hole up there where they went in and blasted it out.

Q: Yeah.

B: And th- they got a bunch up there the furnace, and, uh, when they started to use this stuff it wouldn't work. They found out wh- uh, it was grey quartz. And, while it was doing this, they- they'd get great big veins and big chunks. It was real blue.....but shiny. Shiny blue stuff in- in, uh.....well, I think it- maybe it was- some lead associated with it, because...they was some dull black, but then this real shiny blue, they claimed that was- that was the silver.

Q: Oh.

B: But, old man Jakes said, "I tracked down some up there- some pretty good specimens, you know," and he sent them to Carson City.....uh, Nevada.....and had an assay. Now, I don't know whether they did it or not. He was- he...ah hah... I found out that, uh, he- he'd done an awful lot of lie...heh- oh that chance and on the plate.

Q: Yeah?

B: Heh. He planned to send it out there and, uh, come back, and, uh- said they even found traces of gold in it. Well, all I ever found was iron pyrite, you know.

Q: Yeah-

B: What looked like gold-

Q: Yeah, fool's gold-

B: Fool's gold, yes, that's how it was. And that's all in this rock. Now, when I- when they drilled my well out here, they went down thirty-six feet and they hit that solid rock. And they stayed in that solid rock, for 160 feet. And at 140 feet they struck a vein of water down in there. Good lord it popped up in there and they couldn't measure it. I got so much water they couldn't measure it.....they drilled the well down to the little house here and they hit the same thing and once in awhile when they-they'd pump the uh..settling out ya know? You'd see those arms raised out there, looked like gold, shined like gold.

Q: Up there around the church when we drilled that well we had to go real deep because...

B: Yeah that same

Q: ...it's all slag it's all that old fill and everything in there and you have to get down below that to get good water.

B: Yeah.

Q: Because we had always had dug wells and of course the water was terrible.

B. Yeah.

Q: It was all full of that iron stuff and everything.

B: Yeah ya know on the other side ya know the Holtry's up here they got a well that's only 18 feet deep. Th-They couldn't get through any rock-couldn't get through any rock

Q: Yeah.

B: But then over here at Patsy's place, I give her see I give her Bob's three acres and he built a house...there where uh Michael's lives and over here at this other house I give Patsy two acres and when they got a driller in there he sat up there and started down and his drill gots-veered off....and he said uh, "I uh gotta slant her up and move over a little bit," and he moved off a little bit went down there and the drill still slanted off a little bit. He went on over there uh uh about that far and went down and started to hit solid-a solid place. And he-he hit that rock at 17 feet and at 26 feet that drill chopped through that rock into an underground stream. And Bob's got the same thing over at his house.

Q: Is that right?

B: Oh yeah. Underground streams you can't-you can't begin to pump 'em down.

Q: No, I know.....it's really...well at least you're fortunate to have good water and that much of it.

B: Yes and down here a fellow went down 105 feet...and down about...I don't know maybe forty-fifty-maybe sixty feet...he struck just a little bit of a vein down there and...I was down there one time and the sun was shining and he had a glass where he could shine down in-shine down, it took a couple glasses, you know shine...

Q: Yeah.

B:...down. You can't get a light as good as that.

Q: No.

B: It's down and you could see [laughs] squirting out and uh after I had it done Bob didn't have his house and I said, "How about letting us move in the house"...first when they got it ready for occupancy. Uh... He said, "How about letting us move in that until we get our house?" Sure go ahead! But first, Fraley's quit keeping the store and I, well I had Patsy and Carloyn here and I

was gonna build 'em a little store down there. Well I build a 24 but 28...see.....17...ya I think...24 but 30 or something I think all we..we's gonna had a small store.

Q: Mhmm.

B: After that I was gonna build got the...after I got the roof on I began to think what am I gonna do unless these girls get married gets away from here? I'll have a store on my hand and I'll just turn it into a house. [laughs] two bedroom house, two bedroom, a bath, living room, kitchen!

Q: Yeah.

B: It's uh big enough for a small family.

Q: Yeah....well that um uh Mulatto that was supposed to have brought up that-that-that supposed to have died that worked up on the-up in the charcoal or something and they brought him down and put him in an iron casket-

B: Yeah, well that's a...

Q: -and brought him around

B: uh I think that's one of the Patterson's. Ya know a lot people said they were Mulattos, I believe they were Indians.

Q: Oh.

B: Cause they weren't black they were kinda red, ya know, red?

Q: Oh yeah.

B: A red color. I think they were Patter-they were Indians.

Q: Oh it was a Patterson then that did that?

B: Yeah, yeah. It was one of the old Patterson's. And...

Q: Well they lived up round Philipp's Delight, didn't they?

B: Yes, yeah..up out on Bob's hill.

Q: Yeah.

B: And uh up on there what they call Hog Cabin Flat-and and uh the Patterson's kept hogs...and they built little shelters for 'em for the old silos when they had their pigs, ya know? Up there as well as the hogs lived right out in the woods. About the right time, ya know, Chasta and Diamond ate acorns and they got fat. Ya know?

Q: Yeah...yeah

B: They got fat right out there in the woods and uh he uh th-this old Patterson cut uh wood and burnt charcoal. And they had this uh smallpox epidemic and he died and people knew he died. And afraid was to get 'em ya know afraid they'd get it, ya know?

Q: Oh yeah.

B: Until [chuckles] the town drunk, I don't know who it was, old Tommy Holds told me this. I got Tommy and said, "This old feller, he said, the people wanted to go up and get him and they didn't want to lay him up there and rot in the summertime, ya know?" Warm weather. Then they said they went to him and uh said, "Hey if you go up and get him, we'll give ya a quart of good whiskey." Well you go get me the good whiskey and I'll go get him...went down there and he said there was still one of them old cast iron coffins. Now, they were pretty heavy...and they hooked up the horse to a cart or a mule or a mule or a horse to a cart and he went up and got him. Well he was supposed to get that bend put him in that, I don't know whether he could've done that or not, ya know, whether he was strong enough.

Q: Yeah. I...

B: But then them caskets oh I don't know they coffins they was about about, i don't, the arm was about  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch thick and a quarter of an inch well you take an iron coffin. I see 'em they were big. A man might...a man might.

Q: Well maybe he had a thing like, ya know they used to old time sleds they pulled behind uh..

B: Well they said, he said they hooked up a cart and rode it down here and buried him.

Q: Yeah.

B: He supposed to bury him. I was hoping they'd find him back here but they uh he uh the newer back of the graveyard is up next to the road the old part is down here they started down here and worked up. Ya know?

Q: Mmhmm.

B: We could tell 'cause there was handmade nails, the-what they call blacksmith nails. Handmade nails under the furnace. And after they get up a little ways they begin to find regular machine cut nails. Now they started to make machine cut nails here in 1789, well that's still way back.

Q: You mean that people were buried there in 1789?

[Loud phone ring]

B: Yes.

Q: Ohh.

B: Well yes, 'cuse me.

[Loud phone ring]

B: Up there you'll find....about how the people lived and how they done...I...I [laughs]..I don't know what's in there. I think it's in there about the spies, ya know, during the Revolutionary War, there was two spies out on Cameron march from Canada....one of the guys was an inner chief of White Eyes and he brought two spies off and they come down...they took charge of a old house across the creek, ya know, up there along the road was not too far from the road. After ya go up this way and cross the crick it was just in that little ways and there's still a part of foundation in

there yet. That house...Old Tommy...[chuckles]...Old Tommy uh well uh this Tommy uh Holst told me he said, "My golly there was spies here one time..

Q: [laughs]

B: and he said they found out they was in there and somebody told authorities about it they said uh...uh captain...uh Captian Crigger...captain..well I found out later it was Captain Jacob Crigger. He was uh with the Council of Safety. He was notified and he took some men up there and uh when he got close to the building well these spies fired on, they thought, was shooting at 'em or hit 'em...okay..Fired one of the guns and they figured then that they actually was must've been spies..they was figured into all that anyhow and uh...he went down and got an old twelve pound cannon and got some powder and [laughs] a couple cannon balls. Went up there and set it up there and he was gonna blew the house down [laughs]. And he said I said he said they shot into this house and the old log they hit me so hard he said the ball went in like that and then it bounce back he said bounced and nearly hit him.

Q: [laughs]

B: Oh boy. That's the shires history. About, they was uh Tories.

Q: Yeah.

B: Spies here

Q: Yeah, oh yeah

B: In this area in the he said...Captain Jacob Crigger finally broke it up....It's in shires history.

Q: Yeah

B: So it must've been something to it.

Q: Yeah. Oh I know there were-there were plenty of British sympathizers around the area.



B: And you know they, they went out here then about Hamburg and they sent a couple spies into Frederick and they was caught. They caught 'em here. And these guys they took their fighting and put 'em in jail. Well then they hung..they hung a bunch of 'em. And they was supposed to be hung...drawn, quartered....

**\*END OF CD 1\***

Bill: ...after they found out he escaped...uh..the sheriff didn't know which way he went, ya know?, the church couldn't, they followed him clear up there in about and handcuffed ya know and caught him in the mountains up there at an old central scaffold...and this old central didn't have any fire. [indecipherable].

Questioner: Mmhmm.

B: A lof things like that, if-if anyone wants to write a book there's a lot of stuff in there.

Q: Yeah..yeah. Well there's certainly a lot of history around here to write about.

B: Yes, yes.

Q: No doubt about that. I wanna see what I can do with..ya know just the Catoct-Catoctin Furnace and what happened here and and what happened to it over the years and all this kinda thing. This what..

B: This one thing I never never got straightened out. Ya know, Mr. Sinclair and his wife come out here and they heard I had an old picture of the charcoal furnace, 'cause he's an artist. He he ya he uh painted the outlines and said, "here Ill finish this at home." And when they was done, it was a couple week later, maybe a month or so, and they brought it out [laughs] they brought it to over here to Sovia, and it was beautiful. And uh she brought me a glass of orange marmalade along, she said she was making marmalade and brought me glass along. But I understand that Mary Kentwell got that picture...and I was up, well maybe you remember it, she has that laying in the

showcase and I said, “Mary that’s a—that’s a good picture, let it lay like that, let me take it downtown and I’ll put it behind glass and I’ll make a nice wooden frame, ya know, put it behind glass, and I went up there some time a little bit later and there the picture was layin there again out without no frame. Someone, I sold the frame, someone wanted that frame, I sold it. Could you [laughs] well I wonder if...

Q: Well.

B: Well I wonder if she still got that.

Q: Was it a big picture?

B: No. it was uh.....about like that....

Q: Oh...I don’t think I ever saw that.

B: Bout like that. Bout like that. Ya..ya ya I guess no, but I was wondering uh if she still got that, I’d like to buy that. I’d buy it off her.

Q: Yeah...really

B: Ya know, frame it, frame kept behind glass.

Q: Yeah

B: the thing like that

Q: And all that stuff should be gotten together and put in one place, everything ya know?

B: Yeah.

Q: If they’re ever gonna have some kind of a museum or anything. Really somebody, cause it gets all scattered like that it’s hard to bring everything back together and get it...so I have..but I have no idea. I don’t know whether they’re gonna open the store this year or not.

B: Well I was up there two weeks ago or um or this this past Sunday a week ago and nobody was there.

Q: No. No the grass hasn’t been cut or anything.

B: No. So I'm kinda surprised, I, I always look for a light or ya know there's no light in there. Well nobody was in there if there was no light.....

Q: Well...that's...I don't know. I think Nick Fraley's been dicking around about maybe getting rid of those properties...but um...I don't know whose...how he's..what he's planning on doing

B: That uh..that that old building now is just a way down from the gas, just a had to go...that old village is in bad shape ya know one time that building almost sild off the foundation.

Q: Yeah..yeah that's not right.

B: That-that park next to the church.

Q: Yeah.

B: I was out there one time uh there was a bulge there and almost slid off the foundation.

Q: It's all wet underneath there.

B: It's all rotted out, they-they put some new joyce in there and tied it together or how they got it but even on this other side you could see where there was a bulge, enough bulge they had such a load up bulge on that floor, it's awful lot of stuff, I don't know, I just wanna know if they still got all that box, those base-board boxes and everything laying up like...

Q: I hope they sold most of that stuff at their sale, didn't they?

B: Yeah, yeah they had had sales, I'm just wonderin whether they sold all that. And that's where I thought that old Indian was. [laughs].....

Q: But...I don't know when they had that sale. I'd imagine they carried those boxes and things out....well, uh why don't I take this along and have a copy made of it. I will definitely ya know get a copy so I have it to work with because I want to bring you back your copy.

And.....

\*Break in the recording\*

Questioner: This tape was made with William and Boots Sweeney on November 23, 1981.

William: Let's put 'em together before you start to run that thing

Boots: They stoned 'em and everything

W: Because they're runnin now

Q: [laughs] well that doesn't hurt anything nobody's gonna hear it but me.

B: Are you taking this to school?

Q: Yeah uh

B: Are you still going to school in dat

Q: What I'm doing with this is that I uh I really wanna, I-I had to do something for what they call an honor's thesis. And uh I was gonna do something on Washington County and Clem Gardner said, "Why don't you do Catoctin Furnace?" And I said, "Well everyone else in the world has done Catoctin Furnace." And the more I worked at it and of course the suggestions of the professors they kinda keep you on the straight and narrow, ya know? And they came up with like where the people went to church? What they did in their spare time? What they did for entertainment? Uh where they came from the first place? And all this type things, so that's what I'm working with. Well uh did your fa-father is McClellen Sweeney. Right?

W: That's right.

Q: McClellen Sweeney was your father.

[indecipherable talk between William and Boots]

Q: Okay, uh...and what about his father? Did his father work here at the furnace?

W: Tom? Yes.

Q: Tom was his father?

W: Thomas mmhmm.

Q: And he came-did he come here to work at the furnace?

W: I can't answer that.

B: He probably was here.

Q: Do you know where he came from?

W: Nooo.

Q: Okay [laughs] uh

W: The only thing that I know is the Sweeney's came Ireland island and my mother's side the uh

Wilhide came from uh Germany. That's all I know. They's four brothers and the Sweeney's  
come over.

Q: Oh well that's good. When did-but...

W: Well now how Tom was hooked into them, I don't know.

Q: Was he a son of one of them?

W: Well he was either a son or a grandson... see I don't know that.

Q: You don't know how many generations back they were?

W: I got a book that I've tried to go back on, nobody knows anything and see there's nothin never wrote  
down.....the biggest trouble around here after..was after I come up, people couldn't read.

Q: Yeah.

W: They made X's for..

Q: Yeah

W...names

Q: Right, right.

W: Even when I went to work for the company we had any amount of men of the railroad that couldn't  
read.

Q: Well did you start with uh Potomac Edison uh trolley car that came-went up here, that's how you got with them?

W: No, I started in the Taber's Factory and got with that...that was the same

Q: [laughs]

B: [indecipherable] did..didn't she? [laughs]

W: Dat was the sad..that was the sad part it had married that I married Potomac Edison.

Q: Oh, well how were you involved with Potomac Edison?

B: I wasn't...

Q: Oh

B: I..

W: both factories

B:...with them I traveled the trolley

Q: Oh...Oh....

B: I came back and forth

Q: And that's where he met you?

B: He worked in brush factory where we both worked.

Q: Oh, you both worked in the brush factory? Ox-fiber brush.

W: 'Til 1928, February the 20- February 10th...I went to work for the company. 1928, married her.

December the 24th 1927....

Q: Mmhmm

W:...that was the sad part

Q: Well I don't think that's that sad.

[everyone laughs]

W: Oh i don't know what uh see you couldn't remember daddy and uh gettin people they'd...

Q: He doesn't know anything about where people came from either.

W: No! That's what I say...they...rather they came here after the furnace started or somebody brought some of them here with the furnace like they did with the Hickory Run Manufacturing Company, the Old State Mill, I hear they bring them down from Pottsto---Pennsylvania in and pla- places like that.

Q: That-That's when uh Asward Sippler and that whole bunch came in.

W: Yeah mmhmm the Stakhauses. See they-they came here Sikes, Frank Sites-

B: Frank Sites's

W.- and uh the Sippler family that I guess the Stakhauses...

B: the Stakhauses

W: the three...

B: Did they come with that bunch or?

W: Oh and Johnny...what was his name.....hm.....he was a single man he came here with Tressler and he offered to stay me around down five dollars turning period they have down there...

B: the old...Bill?

W: Part of it

B: Didn't the Tressler's come down with some place...past down there?

W: Yeah, he's the one that brought us here, I think.

Q: Was that-that the uh same Tressler that uh Bubba Tressler's father or something?

W: No.

B: No...he's dead.

W: They didn't have married children. Tressler and his wife didn't have no children.

B: They're dead...ain't they?

W: Yeahhhh [laughs]

B: I thought they was. They was...

W: Oh yeah, they spent their years up in the cabin here

B: They were good friends of May and Willie Kelley who run the store up here. They used to talk about them an awful lot. You'd probably get some information from May Kelley.

Q: Is she still livin'?

B: Yeah, up through [indecipherable]

W: Oh Mabel [indecipherable]

B: She does! And her daddy who

Q: is she...

W: Her daddy never worked in the furnace-

B: No

W: -He worked in the Maryland Railroad.

B: You get her started on one she can tell you a lot things about the furnace.

Q: Uh...how old is she?

B: Eighty.....

W: Four, three

B: Five

W: Huh?

B: Eighty-five-

W: Eighty-five...about right

B:-six now



Q: Is that right? Where's she live?

W: Reridge Summit

B: Reridge Summit with their daughter Virginia...Nicademus

W: But I don't know...I've tried to find out but uh.....but there...nothing's kept track of and they just come here and work and that's it...and where they came from nobody knows

Q: You never heard any tales that anyone in your family told about uh people...

W: The old houses was here, when they come here the people built the houses and and uh the company, the war company, they built the houses and that's all there was to it. The people, they moved em here and built the houses and rotted

Q: I found one uh w-one uh will in Frederick which of course the men it didn't really mean anything as far as the individual man was concerned, it was a man by the name of Simpson. And he was a single man, but he left everything-he came in 1818.

B: 1818?

Q: And he worked for ten years and in 1828 he died. But he had made this will and leaving everything to his five brothers and sisters back in Ireland. So that shows that people did come over here from Ireland. And they did come here to work cause there was work here. So you know this-thi-this is living proof that someone came here from over there and worked.

W: Oh they tell ya they came here to try to trace them back from who who who who who.

Q: Yeah

W: You-You just can't do it. But I think they came here on accounta the what was it?.. The ore industry and uh uh the laymen was gettin on the rocks...

Q: Yeah

W: I think I read some parta that somewhere that somewhere that uh they moved uh and wasn't he a Frenchman from over here, Jakes?

Q: He didn't have anything to do with this furnace.

W: He didn't have nothing to do with this furnace. He had to do with the mountains.

Q: Yeah, over the mountain

W: Yeah, Smithsburg yeah around-

Q: Yeah

W: - around Indian Springs in there was his furnaces-

Q: Yeah that's right.

W:-he owned that over there

Q: He didn't have anything to do with this one

W: No

Q: But uh.

W: Now I'll tell ya, ya-ya see they came from over there because-

Q: Yeah

W:-iron industry was growing in America

Q: Right....and the potato famine chased a lot of them out of Ireland too

W: Huh?

Q: The potato famine chased a lot of people out of Ireland, A lot people left Ireland the time of...

B: Oh what now?

Q: When the potato f-..when the potato crop uh rotted in the ground of course they had nothin to eat they were starvin, so they had to get out. The ones that came from Ireland that was a-a big factor, the famine and uh...but the Willhides, your mother was a Whilhide, right?...where did?

W: They came from Germany

Q: They lived right in this area too, right?

W: Woodsboro...

Q: Woodsboro, well they probably came-most of the Germans who came were farmers or people that had to do with

W: Well around that neighborhood

Q: Yeah

W: They went right into town...but uh...there was four of them brothers that came over...and I know that my mother told me when she used to see she used to work for the Wayshee family.

Q: In the big house?

W: In the big house...and..said the ol' man Wayshee come down the steps one morning and with a candle, holdin a candle over his head...said, "Well I guess if you could find out everything, we won't have our maid very long." There was \$90 million left in Germany for them four brothers if they could trace 'em. But they traced three of them but never could find the fourth one....so Germany popped the war off at \$90 million. And there-there was only 90..one descendants at the time that they found.

Q: Well didn't they..wasn't....uh..w-w-would it go to anybody-any of the descendants, did they have to find the fourth brother?

W: They had to find the fourth brother....I told my mom, she told me about it. I told her, " Why didn't you go to Washington, there's a bunch of crooks down there that'll give 'em-

[laughter in background]

W: -a 100,000 of it or 200,000."

B: Then they'd use their heads

[laughter]

W: I said he the ambassador over there would've been glad to transcript...

[laughter]

W: They had it

Q: Wonder where it came from over there.

W: Their...family. Their father was it-

Q: Friends?

W: -left it to the four brothers.

Q: If they were all together, they were all over.

W: If they could trace all four of 'em. They found the one-

B: Three of 'em

W: -the one went south, that's the one they couldn't find. They knew he went south but these other three was up north and up there around through the west. They found all of them and run em all down. And they had all three of 'em...done, but they didn't have the fourth one.

Q: Heaven sakes.

B: I was wonderin if one of them didn't know nothing, I guess-

W: Well...

B: -they would've...

W: In them days the communication wasn't too good...

B: Well, I know.

Q: That's right.

W: They came all the way over here. Well as far as our side is concerned....I was.....Callen and Freddy gave them that tree...that family tree book wasn't it for our wedding anniversary? Yeah at that weddin down there. And I'd tried to get to it and we'd be tryin on hers. Can't get nothin on hers

Q: Yeah

W: Bunch of dead ends.

Q: Well the Rice's were from what Mountain Dale?

B: [laughs] Mountain Dale was Rice [laughs]

Q: Yeah.

B: When I was a kid, oh boy.

Q: That was Rice vi-Rice village. Yeah.

B: Course there's not too many of them down there now anymore, ya know.

Q: Yeah.

B: Got mixed up with other families and things.

W: Well I don't guess hardly anybody lived over here til...times have currently started.

Q: No...no it was-it was all open

W: 1700.

Q: Yeah, it was all open country was kinda-over it was wilderness is what it was.....But the-But the people-the people from Mountain Dale, they didn't work down here, they just-what did they do- they do for a living? Logging? Or what?

B: There were saw mills and the farms and things like that.

Q: Did any of them work getting charcoal out of the mountain or anything? Did you hear about any of them for the furnace?

B: No, I don't think so....I don't think so. I never heard of that. We was talking the other day about how the-the old sawmills, Key Price down there tha-that or he shipped...

W: Flour mills-the entire company, there's a couple of 'em old sawmills

B: A lot of the men worked there and the first and then they-

W: They'd go over here-

B: -they worked on farms

W: -weldin', work in the-in the-

B: The saw mills

W -worked in the-worked in the groves

B: Huh?

W: Groves. A limestone place in there.

B: Yeah...yeah.

W: They'd walk in and walk out.

Q: Did they ever talk...

B: Didn't that many people...at that time, during that age...

Q: Yeah, I know.

B: They'd count families on the farms on one hand almost

Q: Yeah, did they ever talk about ta-where uh where they went to church, other than Harriet Chapel?

W: Well I tried to run that down.....they claimed there was um.....down in Lewistown there was a Methodist Church...that he would go raise the old buggy and ride around the circuit until he came up here and I-but there's never no record of anything, there's no Harriet Chapel here before it was built for John McGrind over here.

Q: Yeah.

W: He uh he built that. So uh where they really-maybe they didn't really go to church just had this men that could ride these horses and come up from down there-I did get some of that from Anna Greene and I tried from Albert [indecipherable] they don't know where anything-they got records back so far....as far as the church up here they didn't know nothing about it. Even before they had a church down there they tried the people claimed be precursors to ride around...

Q: Circuit riders like

W: Circuit riders.

Q: When was this church over here built?

B: well they...

W: The place down there by-.

B: They got that stand...

W: -couldn't find 'em.

B: There used to be a coloured church down there in Lewistown...

W: My mother remembers it and it was rebuilt because they used to hold services up there on the gorge with no floor in it.

Q: Is that right?

W: Yeah. Then Joe Baker...Joe Baker...he's the one

B: 1877!

Q: 1877, that's when Conkle had the-Conkle had the furnace in 1877.

B: Something's over here Betty.

Q: Hmm.

B: I used to hear pop talk about the young people down in Lewistown, do you know where it was? The coloured church?

Betty: I don't-it was there in Lewistown some place.

Q: Were there coloured families around here then?

Betty or Boots: Oh yeah.

W: Oh, yeah.

Q: Where were they?

B: Down here.

Betty: Hm. Still a coloured family down there.

Q: Oh-Oh at Mount-Mountindale?

Betty: No, down in Lewistown.

W: Lewistown.

Betty: But the Mountindale boys ya-see that's close to there to Lewistown.

Q: Yeah, I know it is.

Betty: And they used to have, what they called big meetings.

Q: Yeah...and there were coloured families in Lewistown then?...well that's interesting.

W: Boeey...ol' man Boeey

B: Boeey? He lived down along the highway.

W: He lived down at the old uh well where Franklin Sweeney lives now. He's the old master for there.

B: oh...yeah

W: He tore that down and built that other store.

B: There's all sorts of people down there now.

W: And then uh....what'd these people name was?

Betty: I was just trying to think.

W: He worked for uh Grimes...Steady Grimes down there...



Betty: Oh what the heck was his name?

W: ...at the village station for that coloured.

B: Can't think of it now

W: Well they still live down there....Lewistown. Where Powell Road comes in...

Q: Yeah.

W:...and crosses into 15 comes in and comes in that first lane to your left...goes back down there along  
the crick to their house.

Q: Ohhhh

Betty: What's Pats last name?

W: Huh?

Betty: What's Pat's last name, do you know?

W: Holliday.

Betty: Holliday, that's right, well she married a Holliday. I can't think of their names.

W: Well this other time they was there long before Pat and them come out.

Betty: Well that uh that comes from the same family I think. It's um...

Q: Hmm.

W: Didn't you know that?

Q: Nope. You see all the thing-see all the things that you find out about people think they don't say  
things that are very important-

W: Yeah

Q:-and you put all of it together

W: There was no uh....there's was no coloured family up around here that I knew of. The only coloured  
person was, we called her Black Hannah-

Q: Yeah.

W: -she was an old member of our-

Betty: well she...

W: -and how she got here I don't know.

Q: Yeah.

Betty: But there must've been more than one family of coloured people.

Q: Yeah there were blacks around here.

B: Because they wouldn't have had a church and they called it the coloured church.

Q: And they wouldn't have cemetery down here where there are a lot of them are buried. There were-  
some of them were slaves. I found evidence of-of large slave holdings...

B: so..what? They had their church down there in Lewistown.

W: Where?

B: The cops said there were white...

Q: Slaves! People had slaves

B: The girls and big meetings and they'd all go the white ones

W: Course you don't know where they came from.

Q: No.

W: The slaves could've been sold from any place.

Q: Yeah.

W: No, but these families..I can't think of.....if they were livin down there yet by the time that-first  
lane to ya-to your left after you come across 15, Olive Road.

Betty: At this patch, Ms. Holliday, she's still good friends with-

W: Oh she's...

Betty: -yeah, she knew my sisters-

Q: Mmhmm.

Betty: -and the Greene's, they lived right across from them then-

W: Let's see

Betty: -Ada used to say-to tell us that when they had anything going on ya know the church special or anything...Pat and her mother they-they didn't wanna mix...the-then Annie used to tell 'em, "Come here, you've been here in the community!-

Q: Yeah.

Betty: -for so long." And they're respected. Good people. So it was through them they got them agoing to-to their school and church and takin part in the community affairs-

Q: Mmhmm.

Betty: -and-and uh they're still good friends of Bev's and she's uh married in the Greene family.

W: Do you know the Stitley's? I guess the Stitleys? There were the Stitley's and the Sweeney's and the Miller's and Martin's and uh.....

Q: Well Mary Martin who of course was a Miller says that her-her parents lived in the old slave quarters, down here on uh Featherbed Lane.

W: Who?

Q: Mary Martin.

W: I ain't hear about it.

B: Oh dear God ask Mary about it.

Q: Guy's Mary...

W: Yeah.

Q: Okay, her mother and father lived on Featherbed Lane, right? Lived where uh her brother lives now?

Her brother lives there now.

W: Yeah.

Q: What's his name?

B: [mutters something]

Q: Oh I don't know, it doesn't make a difference, but anyway that's the old lib-

W: Library.

Q:-rary, that's the old slave quarter.

W: They were what?

Q: Slave quarter. Did you know that?

W: Well they looked like it when they were built.

Q: Well that's what it was. So Mary said...

W: The Chase's had a lot over there.

Q: Yeah oh yeah, but I mean, ya know, years ago.

W: Yep, even up over across the railroad, the little hill, up across the little hill....no I can't even think of what it is.

Betty: well that was funny looking over there years ago, I used to come here all these..hills ya know, and holes, and they had-holes had water in and and every one of these little holes almost had a house sitting on top-

W: Yep, yep ol' Skip, Skip Miller used to live there-

Betty: -and the Blank house.

W: -their daddy, as I recalled, called him Skip. He lived there right over there until he died. Then that library took it over.

Q: Well there-those holes, what were they up where 15 is now?

B: Mmhm. All over there ya know?

Q: Yeah. Where they dug out ore? And a lot of people lived up there on those banks?

B: They did all that there didn't they Bill? There was that many houses back there all around back in there?

W: Oh well Jay McCarty lived back there, Bob and Chuck lived back there, Carl Stakhaus lived back there. There were three I called the Big Bang where it started to sink in the road all up over there. I carried a many of package up over there for Bill Kelley. [indecipherable]

B: I wouldnt of went out at night if i'da lived back there on the whole shore [laughs]

Q: Is that right?

B: It was-

Q: Course they all-

B: -was deep and some of them had water in.

Q: -some of the would fill up with water of course.

B: Yeah.

Q: Yeah. What did they-what they do, I mean, other than just work and go home and eat and sleep, did they have any kind of community-was there any kind of community uh anything going on in the community other than the church services?...suppers or?

B: No-

W: I uh...

B: -used to go to each other's houses play cards, boy it was a [laughs]

W: I never nothin to em I'd get up enough

B: Hoedowns...dances

W: We'd go to things and they we had some Christmas-some little Christmas parties over at the church..but our real Christmas treat was down in Auburn....

Q: Yeah.

W: Mrs. Reeds take us down there and treat us.

Q: Do you-do you remember her mother, do you remember her mother and uh uh Ms. Lois' mother and father?

W: No.

Q: You don't remember them. You remember the doctor?

W: The who?

Q: The doctor....Dr. McFerson...Clem's..grandfather-Clem's great grandfather.

W: I don't, that's going back. I've heard of em and all that when they was around but I never go down where they was at.

Q: Clint Miller remembers him.

B: He does?

W: Well now, ya see Clint-

Q: He was down there further.

W: -he was there.

Q: Yeah he was a kid and he remembers him one time he was doing something there and the old man was hiding behind a tree and chased him away. Ya know, ya know how kids are running around.

W: Well...my sister's husband Willie Cardy, Jack Cardy they called him and Willie agreed, they used to go down and steal their apples.

Q: That's Jessey's brother.

W: Yeah.

Q: Yeah.

W: Yeah, they-she'd run 'em out then. [laughs]

Q: Well then.

W: That or maybe Ms. McGill would ever do that-

Q: Yeah.

W: -they talked about that there. Just go down and gather up the apples just like a kid would [laughs]

Q: Do you remember that lake that was there in front of the house?

W: I know where it was at and it was part of the drive..what I'd seen it the first time.

Q: They got a picture of it down at Clem's. And I'm gonna get a picture of and a copy of it-

B: What was it?

Q: -the house with the lake in front of it, it's a big lake, I almost fall off my chair.

W: The Bates' house?

Q: No-no! The Ba-the big house, in the background and this big lake in front of it, you wouldn't never think it now.

W: Well then Boots oughtta know.

Q: Yeah. It's gotta boat on it with Ms. Lois and and...

W:...we rode on them

Q: Yeah. really?

B: It's a shame that-that thing goes.

Q: Yeah it really is.

W: That stone wall there where they was diggin-

Q: Yeah

W: -that stone wall-

Q: Yeah, yeah.

W: -that was part of it. I think that was part of the Spillway come down there come down there to race they called it.

Q: Yeah. Yeah, I think it was.

B: Well where did the water come from that was in it? The crick?

Q: Mmhmm. There's spring up there isn't there?

W: Yep, out on those two feet banks...those big bank trees running all the time-they run from the big bank to the little bank and had a bank to go over to Bob Shoal's house and from there the race went on down.

B: Ohhh. I know there used to be so much more water around.

Q: Oh yeah.

B: In our young days, in mine personally.

Q: Yeah well of course all of those holes would've been filled full of water and and uh whenever you dig in the ground like that you're bound to to uh dig in the spring.

B: Well the water....the water that was left was going down.

W: A locust pond was up there.

Q: The what?

W: The locust pond.

Q: What's that?

W: 15 took it away.

Q: What's the locust pond?

W: Well that was the pond where the uh the water was in and the uh....supplied water to come down to the furnace. The big valves up there had to get-



Q: Mhm.

W: -at the furnace top, ya see that come across the Catoctin Hollar Road.

Q: Yeah it's up above.

W: They...they uh I think they dug the pipe out but they put a big valve on that side of it, it's still there with the stem on it. Ya that come down, it runs down in uh..I don't know where it runs..the water wheel.

Q: There's still some kind of-some kind of halfway marking springs and some stuff up in there.

B: Well you know the whole furnace there uh dropped, been so long ago, all got their water from the stream.

Q: Oh yeah! I do.

B: [indecipherable]

Q: That house where Jerry lives, that water came to that until two years ago when he drilled a well.

W: Apple trees...there was apple trees all up there along Catoctin Hollar Road there-There was houses all along there.

Q: Gosh, you'd never think it now, would you?

W: Well you can't even find 'em now.

B: [indecipherable]..there's good many houses down around there now.

W: Old Bill Greene lived down around there, the stone fences were there and everything.

Q: Well up in there-back at up there at Clem's it must've all been dug up-teared off and everything. But you can't tell that now, it looks like a real jungle down to the door almost. There was a couple of uh good size ore pits back in there.

W: There-there was that field, where old Bill Renner lived in, had holes in. You'da have to watch it you was walking around at night or anything. If you didn't know where those places where at you'd fall in one of 'em.

B: You sure would.

W: Used a ladder and filled all some of them around...

B: I remember when I move up there and any of 'em.

W: Well they're up there in the mountain. All them ore-where they dug for ore. Which you can't find 'em now. Charcoal pits where they-

Q: Yeah-

W: -burnt the charcoal-

Q: Yeah...

W: -bits. I doubt you could find one of them now.

Q: Yeah.

W: Covered up with crab oaks and bushes and logs and everything else.

Q: Yeah.

W: We used to go up there, there were as level as could be where they had 'em, big ain't no little places. Well you can't find nothing.

B: Bill? Don't you remember the little house that sit down near uh was it the little where uh Helen Cardy used to live? A little house, just a little bit of a thing where Mary Hittensteel used to live. Do you remember her?

W: Yes.....been crooked?

B: Oh yes she was crooked my lord she was almost down to the ground.

W: They had to break her back to put her in a cast.

B: She lived there.

Q: What did she do?

W: Oh, she was just an old woman.

B: She was just an oold lady when I come up here.

Q: I bet she could remember a lot.

B: Yeah, well she's gone.

Q: Yeah...yeah really, that's the trouble ya see, nobody ever bothered...

B: Well I used to...

W: Yeah.

Q:...Nobody ever bothers to ask people anything.

B: I used to wonder how on Earth she got along...

W: And you take...

B: but that was the worst death a person I've ever seen.

W: You take bull-headed Mattie. He was another one. He lived right above that place-

B: Yeah.

W: -right about where Charles Miller built his house

B: Yeah the houses that-are gone, the houses that used to sit right over here.

Q: Yes.

W: Where he come from nobody knows, of course-

B: But that little house she used to live in-

W: -furnitures gone-

B: -but I don't know if it was over two rooms. Probably just two rooms. Just a little thing.

W: But then when the furnace, at last when the furnace was a-runnin, my mom said, “The prettiest fireworks you did see when they poured the ore out.” Up there on the sandbanks where the casting was done. Of course that was in the 1900s then.

B: You wanna cup of that?

Q: Yeah, I’ll drink a cup of coffee, just black.

W: No, but

B: Do you-uh drink the instant-

Q: Instant’s fine

B: -I still [indecipherable]

Q: I’ll drink anything [laughs]

W: So...uh... the just as you say years ago they didn’t bother about anything-

Q: Yeah.

W: -and to trace the family back, I started to, mom wanted me to do it before she died, and uh I started and she was mentioning all these people and I said, “Now wait a minute”...I said, “I’m not gonna fool with this.” So I quit. I--uh that was around seventy people that she told me about. Well there was some up in Schenectady, New York who worked for General Electric Company, some in Philadelphia and all...grown in Dutch.

Q: Do you think they’re all descended from those brothers that came?

W: Oh yeah. Yeah they were all hooked on the Sweeney side.

Q: Yeah. Hm.

W: That book goes back sixteen generations...never did get back that far.

Q: No....are-you, you’re related to the Fraley’s?.....the Fraley’s have been here for a long time they were landowners here pretty early. I found a side of Fraley’s that owned land.

W: The Millers owned a lot of land.

Q: Yeah.

W: See, this place here was caught off of the old man Miller that was cut off the old track...from this county road to here clear down here over the hill.

Q: Mmhmm.

W: And then he-he had these two sons that he sold these parts off to-this one and that one there then he'd give the church a piece a ground.

Q: Well your mother-now your mother just stayed home and raised the children until your father was killed, right? And then she had to go to work.

W: No..she didn't work after that.

Q: Oh she-

W: she was very little, told her she'd work for a little for Mrs. Damon.

Q: When did she work over for Wayshees?

W: Oh, that was when she was single girl.

Q: Ohh, before she was married, I see.

W: Yeah, that was way back.

Q: I bet she could really tell us some things about that house.

W: She-she knew that house from A to Z.

Q: Did she ever work for anybody there other than the Wayshees?

W: No, no I never heard her say anything about anybody over there. Nope.

Q: 'Cause he-well Wayshee went to work for Conkel. When Conkel was-had the furnace. When was your mother married?

W: About '84 I think. I got her marriage certificate upstairs somewhere.

Q: Yeah well that sounds about right..about when Wayshee went in there.

W: There...uh..I would like to more about it myself. I chartered the book up here...Jimmy's girlfriend that he's going with now they was just associated together, she was out here yesterday..uh and she give me what you called nothing-nothing book, she told me to write my life in it, it's a blank book-

Q: Mmhmm.

W: -so I started to write that uh...

Q: Well you're also keeping records about the church, aren't ya?

W: Yeah.

Q: Yeah. Yeah.

W: Ain't much to keep anymore.

Q: Well some day Bill we're gonna a place down there maybe I bet there are a lot of people, Clem Gardner, there's stuff down at his house and a lot of people have stuff in their houses and if we can get it all gathered together and put it in a safe place..I think that would be great. If ya know people get older and they-they wanna make sure that it doesn't get thrown out after they're dead and this kinda stuff.

W: Yes.

Q: Like Willie Stitley I think has all the bulletins that Father Shween ever put out-and boy that'd tell a tale, wouldn't they?

W: He did, he kept them.

Q: He-

W: I started keepin them awhile but...

Q: They were-they were good bulletins. I mean ther-there's a complete history of everything that went on for those thirteen years.

W: Right...now there's no communications.

Q: No...no there's not much in those bulletins..

W: Ya, you better sh-

Q: because I'm...

[possible break in recording]

W: ...they're down there.

Q: Where was the first furnace?

W: It's said that the first furnace was 1 1/8 miles southeast of present furnace.

Q: I know, I've seen that. I saw that it said 3/4 of a mile down, further down the crick. Where would that put it?

W: Past the bridge.

Q: Well...I don't know...is there any evidence of one down there?

W: Yes.

Q: Wha-what was down there in front of the those gates posts of the Gardner's?

W: Oh that was Old Spring's driveway.

Q: No, there was something there when they were digging they found something.

W: Yeah they found a building part of the old uh forge that was part of-

Q: Who had the forge?

W: Huh?

Q: Who had the forge, the forge is awfully old. That was there a long-long long time ago.

W: The forgeries there they made iron made things from iron up here at the furnace. So, the furnace had to be here.

Q: You think the furnace was up there and they carried the iron down ther-there and forged it?

W: Made stoves-

Q: Yeah.

W: Skillets

Q: Yeah.

W: So

Q: But they didn't make 'em up here?

W: No! They didn't make nothing up here but pig iron.

Q: They took 'em down there that-that was the forge fort down there.

W: That was the old forge fort, and old paint shop was in between 'em.

Q: Where was the paint shop?

W: Right behind Tim Miller's house.

Q: Yeah but that was later.

W: They-they uh I guess it would uh more right behind uh the house that the state bought, old George Baker's place.

Q: Yeah.

W: But that old chimney was just torn down he-

Q: Yeah he just told me about that, Clint Miller told me about that, but that was later wasn't it?

W: Hm?

Q: But that was later wasn't it?

W: Yeah, it was a little later.



Q: But that forge was there a loooong time ago, wasn't it?

W: Oh yes the forge was there.

Q: Because they were making stoves there in about 1815.

W: When did the furnace start?

Q: 17 uh-

W: Alright then.

Q: But, but that was when Johnson, the first Johnson furnace, but whether or not maybe-maybe someone else had one there. How did the Johnsons know there was iron ore here? Maybe somebody else had a little furnace somewhere before?

W: Yeah, well that..that's where I think the first one was tied in.

Q: You think that someone had a little operation down there?

W: Yeah an operation, well they built the uh they built the big shafts for 'em back on the marsh-

Q: The marsh?

W: They cleaned both.

Q: Yeah Rumsey's steamboat. But they probably built them up here. Cause that was later.

W: Ross Stone got two of them.

Q: Yeah but that wa-

W: He got one then he got the other one for the cornerstone for the election district.

Q: Yeah.

W: Sittin down there at the bridge.

Q: But they were probably built up here because that was much later that was after 1800.

W: Well how-

Q: Around 1800.

W: They moved it up here on account of it being closer to the mountain and more water up here. Cause you could dam up more water up here.

Q: Well you'd think if it had been down there you'da find a stone wall or something.

W: I think you can. Me and Ross are gonna do some diggin I reckon. We were gonna start this summer but it was so dry that the heat would've-would've beat you to death trying to dig out-but there's evidence of it because he's found a lotta stuff down there.

Q: Just some kind of-somebody had a small operation, I wonder who owned that land down there then?

W: He even told me that.

Q: Well I guess I'll have to go talk to him that's one more. [laughs] I'll never get done!

W: Old Ross is good.

Q: Yeah.

W: Yeah Ross is good on that, I'll give him that.

Q: Well he from around here? He came from Washington County didn't he?

W: I don't know where he come from.

Q: But he's not from around here is he?

W: Well the Stone's, there's a lot of Stone's around here, I imagine he did.

Q: Somebody once told me that he came from Washington County.

W: I don't know well maybe he did.

Q: I don't know. Well I can find out.

W: He knows right smart about the furnace. He has a lot of artifacts too..you couldn't get one out of him though I tried to.

Q: No, well ya know I'm-I'm the only I-I'm wanna do to gather-is I say the information and I'll need a few pictures of course, I'm gonna have to use a few pictures, but other than that I-I I'm not gonna I'm not looking for artifacts, I'm gonna copy some letters.

W: It won't be weird that you don't have any?

Q: Oh yeah...yeah I haven't asked- I have a few-I haven't asked him for 'em yet. Joann Miller told me that she anything that I got she could take up Moore's-

W: oh, yeah.

Q: -and make copies of them and give them back immediately so you don't to take them some place like...

[recording ends]