

Edward & Mary Clark/TC2004.3005
Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

SR Susanne Rappaport
EC Edward Clark
MC Mary Clark
Place Pawlet, VT
Date 02/23/1984

TAPE 1, SIDE A

MC [.20] --and we all had to introduce somebody, so I
asked her and she was my guinea pig. [LAUGHS.] The
tape recorder belonged to the Historical Society and
I guess Dorothy—who has that now?

EC I think Dorothy has it.

MC Well, I guess that we gave her the tape that my—

EC I think we must have.

MC Well, anyway, I just thought I'd tell you that, so
that—she's a woman _____.

SR Great.

MC She was awfully nice and it was quite interesting.

SR What types—did you ask her similar things to—

MC Oh, I asked her about—I didn't—

EC You didn't have some—

MC I don't believe I had—I think I must have had some
questions. I'm sure that we had some kind of a
guide to go by. Yes, I think it was similar. It
was about her—it embraces her childhood and, also,

when her sons were small and were going to school and up there. [1.33] And they went to a small rural school in that area somewhere. I've forgotten where now. [LAUGHS.] Well, they're gone.

EC I know, they're gone. _____. If they went in Pawlet they would have gone to the Brimstone Corner School. [1.51]

SR Right, that's where Hattie Sherman went.

EC Yeah.

SR Yeah, she referred to it as the Brimstone School.

EC They might possibly have gone to Wells, since they're right on the edge of Wells and it might have been shorter. [2.04]

SR Gone over the hill that way.

[VOICE-OVER.]

MC It seems as though—I think she said the _____.

EC I mean, I think maybe they did because it would have been an awful lot shorter and it would have been all down hill, on the way down there. [2.19]

SR Yuh, yuh. I'm just trying to get my microphone set at the right, so I get everybody's voices pretty well. Okay. I think what I'd like to do is, when I interview two people, 'cause I would like to get

information and, you know, feed-in from both of you. With this first section of the interview, about family, I think it's easiest if I address myself to each of you separately. I know a little bit more about Edward than I do about you, Mary, so I think we'll start with you Edward and then go over to Mary. And then when we get down to the, you know, kind of more reflective sections, we can kind of just go back and forth about your family and the town and that. And, hopefully, the tape recorder will take care of itself. Okay, Edward, do you want to give me your full name and also spell your full name. Just so I make sure I have it correct.

EC Right. My full name is Edward Leach Clark. [3.26]

SR Okay, would you spell—

EC E D W A R D L E A C H C L A R K . [3.31]

SR Okay. And can you tell me the date of your birth?

EC I was born on October 21, 1908. [3.36]

SR And where were you born?

EC I was born in Proctor, Vermont, hospital. [3.42]

SR And were your family—

EC My family lived in Pawlet at the time. [3.45]

SR Okay. Can you tell me your parent's names?

EC My father's name was Russell Allen Clark. [3.55]

And my mother's name was Grace Leach—Grace Carver
Leach. [4.02]

SR Okay. Would you spell each of those for me, also?

EC Russell, R U S S E L L A L L E N C L A R K .

And G R A C E C A R V E R L E A C H .

SR Okay, fine.

EC And my father was born in Salem, New York, and his
father bought a farm here in Pawlet when my father
was about two years old. [4.27] And they moved

here from Salem. And they lived on the farm now
owned by Raymond {Leek}. [4.37] Do you know who
that is? And they always called it "High Go,"
[SPELLS IT] H I G H G O .

SR How did it get that name?

EC I don't know how it got its name, but we always
called it High Go. It wasn't much of a farm,
however, but I guess they made some sort of a
living. But my father didn't farm much, as we
speak. [5.07] He got enough of it when he was a
kid.

SR What did he do?

EC And he, first he clerked in various stores and then he started a partnership with a general store here in Pawlet: Clark and Culver. [5.21] And they bought out a man named {Hedley} Brown and started in the building that—it's no longer in existence, but it was right next to Mach's Market. [5.36] It was the cheese factory, _____ cheese factory.

[VOICE-OVER.]

SR Yuh, yuh. I've seen photographs of—

EC And then it was turned in—they ran it as a store. And my father ran that for a long time. [5.49] Mr. Culver died. He took another partner, a man named Cook. And then eventually he died and my father ran it for a long time by himself, until he finally sold out to John Mach in about 1944. [6.10] Well, at that time my father did not own the hotel, the old hotel building. His store was located in the first floor rooms of the Masonic Building. [6.26]

SR And how about your mother? Where was she from?

EC My mother was born in Pawlet. [6.33] She was born in the house where Timmy Leach lives. And she was a—

SR In Ruby's house?

EC In Ruby's house. In fact, at the time, that would have been her grandfather—her great-grandfather lived there. [6.49] And I think her father and mother lived in one end of it for a few years, when great-grandfather needed help on the farm, and his son had died when he was only twenty-six years old. [7.12] Left a small family.

SR Do you know how long her family had lived in Pawlet, when they originally came to Pawlet?

EC Oh, the first James Leach came to Pawlet in 1780 and settled where the McNealus family lives. [7.30] And then the second generation, James, bought that, Ruby's farm, from Doctor {Sargent}, and, oh, are you familiar with that booklet about the Leach farm?

SR Yes, yes. I have that.

EC That really tells it better than I can tell it—who got what farms and why.

SR So your mother stayed here all her life.

EC She stayed here all her life. She taught school and the local school in several places in Pawlet and North Pawlet and Tinmouth and West Pawlet. [8.17] And boarded around, as they did then.

SR Right, right. How old would you say your father was when he came to Pawlet?

EC He was two. [8.24]

SR He was two when his family came and they came specifically for the farm?

EC Yes. They sold their farm in Salem and bought this one. And then he had a brother, James, who was born here in Pawlet, who was about two or three years younger than he. [8.39]

SR Now I know just, you know, the bare facts and we can talk a little bit about this here, but probably a little bit more later. You grew up in the Town of Pawlet?

EC Yeah.

SR And where were you living, as a boy?

EC Well, we lived in several places down in the village when we first, after my father and mother were first married, and when I was a baby. [9.08] We lived in the house where Doris Wetherby lives—Daisy Wetherby.

SR Daisy Wetherby.

EC And we lived in the {Scally} house and we lived in the brick house where {Lee has}. [9.23] And then in 1912 my father bought the _____ house.

SR Right.

EC And that's where my brother and I lived throughout—

SR And what took you away from Pawlet when you were finally grown?

EC Well, I went to Pawlet public schools and I went to the two-year high school in Pawlet. [9.46] And in 1923 I went to Burr and Burton to finish high school. And, of course, I was boarded down there, so I was away from Pawlet, really, for a good portion of the year, from about 1923 on.

SR That was quite common, I've discovered. Distances were different.

EC Then I went from Burr and Burton to Middlebury and I graduated from Middlebury in 1930 and then I got a job in Newark, New Jersey and I worked in Newark, New Jersey, until 1939 at various places, but the last, most of it, was the {Grafton} University Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. [10.36]

MC Nineteen sixty-nine.

EC Nineteen sixty-nine—1939, that's the year we got married. [10.45]

MC Yes. [SR LAUGHS.]

EC Nineteen sixty-nine, I retired. [10.48] And this land, my father owned this land and we came up here and built this house.

SR Was that something that you planned, to come back to Pawlet, or had you-

EC Well, we never sold it. [11.03] And I guess it must have been we had it in the back of our mind that we might, anyway. 'Cause the taxes were extremely low. [11.15]

SR So you just always held onto it.

EC Just held onto it.

SR Did your mother and father remain in Pawlet throughout their lives?

EC Yeah. Yes, they both died in the _____ house. [11.23]

SR Okay. You have one brother?

EC Deceased. He's now deceased. [11.33]

SR And what was his name?

EC His name was Russell Allen Clark, Jr. [11.39] And he became a lawyer and practiced in Springfield, Vermont. And he died about three years ago, now?

MC Think so.

EC Lived in Chester, and he also went to Middlebury,
Class of 1935. [11.59] He was younger than I am.
And he had a family of three daughters.

SR And now I *almost* think I can answer the next
question: were you married in Pawlet?

EC No.

SR You were married in—

EC Maplewood, New Jersey. [12.17]

SR Maplewood, New Jersey. And how did you meet each
other? [LAUGHS.] That's the question I thought I
could answer, but maybe I'm wrong.

EC Mary's father was the principal of Burr and Burton
Seminary when I went there and Mary was five and a
half years younger than I am. [12.39] I didn't
really, didn't know her down there. I guess I was
aware that there was such a person. But then they
moved to New Jersey in 1927, right? [12.55] And I
moved down there in 1930 and Mr. Bates and I ended
up working in the same place.

SR Mr. Bates being your father? [LAUGHS.] [QUESTION
DIRECTED TO MARY CLARK.]

EC So we got acquainted that way. She was in—you were
in Cornell part of that time. [13.17]

MC Yeah.

EC And—

SR Well, I was wrong. I thought maybe you'd met each other when you were down at Burr and Burton.

EC No, we didn't.

MC I never did go there. [13.27] I was planning to go there when we moved away.

EC You were ready for the eighth grade, weren't you?

MC I was through the eighth grade. [13.33]

EC Yeah.

SR Okay. Well, let's go to you, Mary, for a few minutes. Where were you born?

MC In Brookings, South Dakota. [13.40]

SR [LAUGHS.] You're giving me all these surprises! First of all, let's get your full name. Spell it.

MC Mary Bates Clark. [13.50]

M A R Y B A T E S C L A R K .

SR Okay. And you were born in South Dakota?

MC Yes.

SR And how did you get to Vermont? Or how did your family?

MC Well, my father was teaching out there in a state college in Brookings and he came to Manchester

through Willard {Hard}, who was his friend and roommate at Williams College, who had been—they had been roommates. [14.27] And that's how my father happened to come Burr and Burton. They needed—he came first as a teacher and we were there for—he was there for nine years and for the latter four or five years he was principal—called a head master now, but in those days it was-- [14.49]

SR Days it was principal. How old were you when your family moved here?

MC I was four. [14.55] We came in 1918 and we moved away in 1927.

SR To New Jersey?

MC Yes.

SR Okay. And what about your mother, where was she—were both your parents from South Dakota? Had they been born there?

MC No, they were both from Illinois. [15.15] My mother is from Springfield and my father from Cherry Grove, it's a small place near Galesburg. He grew up on a farm there. And they met at the University of Illinois. [15.31]

SR But you went through—let's see, now how old were you when you moved to New Jersey?

MC I was thirteen. [15.38]

SR Thirteen. So you really weren't here that long.

MC Nine years. [15.41] I went to the elementary school in Manchester Village, not the one, not the school—not the present school, but it's a—the building is standing there. I don't know if you know where it is.

SR No, I guess I don't.

MC It's on the West Road of Manchester, almost up to the village. [16.00] On the right-hand side. And then it's a—people are living in it now, but it looks like a school. [LAUGHS.]

SR You probably never suspected you'd end up back in Vermont.

MC I _____ now.

SR That's interesting. I didn't know that much about you. And you went to Cornell?

MC Yes, mhm.

SR And what did you study when you were there?

MC Language and English. [16.24] I graduated in 1936.

SR Okay. And what year were you married, did you say—
1930?

EC Nineteen thirty-nine. [16.34]

SR Nineteen thirty-nine. Okay, I think we have enough
on that section. Now, you can join in together
here, if you'd like, down below. How has the town
changed over your lifetime? Edward.

EC Well, I don't think it's changed an awful lot,
compared to other towns around us. [16.58] I think
it's very much the way it used to be, except for the
modern conveniences and so forth that have come into
town, but the life in the town seems to me to be
about the same. And the main business is farming.
[17.20] And there's some newcomers, but there are
[LAUGHS.] fairly non-intrusive, I think, fit into
the town fairly well. But I think that's one of the
things I like about Pawlet, is it's changed so
little. [17.41] And it hasn't changed like
Manchester's changing.

SR Right, right.

EC Or Rutland. Or, about the worst, Burlington.
[17.51] I mean, they've got this urban sprawl now.
I don't suppose Pawlet will get that sort of thing,

but it could get a lot more individuals living in it.

SR What was it like when you came back to live here? I mean, do you remember that as a-

EC It didn't seem much different. [18.14] Of course, we'd been coming back to see the parents and to see my brother's relatives. And I hadn't noticed any great changes. No condominiums and-

MC I think the main difference is the amount of traffic here. [18.39] There's ever so much more traffic.

SR Traffic, yeah.

EC That's right.

MC Like we used to, when we were first married and just visiting folks, and we were sitting out in front of their house and there was very little traffic on the road then. [18.50] I don't think it was paved then, was it?

EC I think it was paved about 1942, really, just before the war. [18.57] Before that, it was a very, it was a dirt road.

MC It was really very quiet and not all the trucks going by and so on.

EC Yeah, we've got a lot of trucks now. [19.12]
That's-

SR Yes, I know when, for the time when we lived in
North Pawlet, the pick up of the traffic on that
road there and coming by our house was just
tremendous. [19.21]

EC You're pleased to be away from that.

SR Yes, very pleased. Very pleased. But we at one
time thought of buying that house and, you know,
fixing it and then we just decided that we just
couldn't *possibly* live on that road and on that
corner. What was it like growing up in the center
of town? I don't think I've ever talked to anyone
who was a boy or a girl in the center of town.

EC Well, I used to walk to school. [LAUGHS.] I've
forgotten the crosswalks back of the Cross barn and
having to _____ and come out down by the school.
[20.00]

SR And you probably had a lot of friends that were
close by.

EC Yes, had a lot of friends that were close by. Yeah.
And when I was going to school they were gradually
giving up, beginning to give up the one-room

schools, so that some of the students were coming by, mostly by buggy and so forth to school in Pawlet. [20.26] I think the Brimstone Corner School was given up. And I know Guy Herrick. And then the one down—they called it the Jockey Street School.

SR Right, right.

EC That was given up.

SR I think the North Pawlet School was the last to close. [20.45]

EC The last to close.

SR I think that closed in 1944. [20.51] I think that's right.

EC And then Braintree, I guess, maybe before that. [20.54] But those people went to West Pawlet, anyway.

SR Did you work in your father's store after school?

EC I worked in my father's store, yeah. [21.04] I delivered groceries. We delivered. We had quite a delivery system.

SR How did that work?

EC Well, we had a truck and we'd call up on the telephone and take orders and then deliver them.

[21.24] And we went over quite big distances.

SR I bet. One of the big changes, of course, in Pawlet that, you know, kind of sticks out in my mind when I see *old* photographs is what a bustling metropolis the town seemed to be, with all its stores and factories and stuff.

EC It seems that way to me now.

SR It does?

EC Yes. But mostly around Mach's Store. [21.48]

SR Right.

EC And the restaurant. It's pretty bustling down there, isn't it?

SR Uhuh. Neil's got some pictures this winter in the—

EC 'Course, the factories had gone by the time I was a kid. [21.58] There weren't any factories.

SR It was pretty much just the stores.

EC Yeah. There were a couple of blacksmith shops that were operating, but I think they went out before I was—there was a blacksmith shop up there by the Wall's house and the locker was operated as a blacksmith shop. [22.23]

SR Right.

MC You said there was a camera shop that-

EC That was not in my time, no.

MC Not in your time?

EC No.

SR That was when you were speaking about Nellie Bushee.

[22.33]

EC Yeah. There was a hardware store where Otis Andrus
is now. [22.39] That was a hardware store.

MC And the drugstores.

EC And there was a drugstore where the-

MC Haskins.

EC --the Haskins live. But, aside from that, there
were no real estate agents. [22.57]

SR The Crescent Valley House was-

EC The Crescent Valley, I have no recollect at all.
That was torn down before I remember. [23.06] And
that school was put in its place. That's a {one-
room} school. I can just remember when kids went up
on the hill to the brick schoolhouse, but that was
before I went to school. [23.27] But it was just
about the time I went in there and when that was
just about new.

SR Who built this house for you?

EC A man from Manchester. [23.42] [SNAPS HIS FINGERS.]

MC He's not in the business anymore. [THEN SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT "FRAME"—NAME OF A PERSON OR THAT THE PERSON BUILT THE FRAME OF THE HOUSE?]

EC Oh, yes, it's Millie Baker's brother. [23.58] But he's not well and he's living out in California—or, Arizona. And he went out and he went into the construction business.

SR Now, are there any people living in the town now who you grew up with?

EC Well—

SR I guess Hiram. Was Hiram here as a boy when you were?

EC Well, Hiram's grandfather was here and he used to come here a lot. [24.26] I knew Hiram, as a boy. And Luella Croff. Do you know who she is?

SR Yes.

EC She was living here in that very same house where she now lives. [24.38] And Ruth Sheldon was living there, where she now lives. And Ruth Lowerhouse and

Agnes Hennegan were living in their house. [24.56]

And, let's see.

MC Robert Graham. [25.06]

EC Yeah, but not in the village. I was thinking of the village.

SR Well, I was just trying to think a little bit about who your contemporaries would be in the town now who might have been here when you were a boy.

EC There are not very many. I can't think of any others. 'Course, outside, Guy Herrick, but, of course, he's now dead. [25.35] He was a contemporary of mine. And {Robert E. Mason}. [25.39] And Robert Graff. And down that street. There aren't any others, really. I can't think of anybody. Descendents, but not—that's about it, I guess.

SR What are your fondest memories of your life here? In the town.

EC Well, that's a sort of a hard question to answer. I'm not sure, but I had a good time here. West Pawlet was all I knew. [26.31] [LAUGHS.] I really can't think of anything, any fondest memories.

SR Was your life quite different when you worked and lived away from here?

EC Oh, yes. Quite different. [26.47]

SR You lived in quite a different atmosphere.

EC I lived in the city. You know, commuting to work and all that sort of thing. [26.54] It's quite a different.

SR Does it feel good to be back here?

EC Yes, it does. [26.59] Although, we were talking about there's some things about city life we miss. I mean, the concerts and the lectures and that sort of thing, museums, that we used to be able to go to fairly easily and now can't go to—it's difficult to go to them, so we don't, really, very much. [27.23]

SR What about the church? Had that changed a lot? I know a lot of people who, you know, grew up at about—

EC Yeah. Well, when I was young, of course, there were two churches, two ministers. [27.36]

SR Right, right.

EC And about the time or a little before the time I went away they federated and what that meant was they kept, both churches kept their own

organization, but they hired one minister and there was quite a lot of friction in the church, quite a lot more than there is now, I think. [28.09]

SR And, of course, the church was much more central in the community than it is now.

EC Yes, I think—yes. More people went to church and church was more important to more people. [28.23] And the giving up of one minister, I think, was a hard blow. I mean, it was to both churches. They both hated to do it. [28.34] They both hated to give up their identity. But I think this, the formation of the community church was a wonderful thing. [28.48] I don't know how very successful it is. I think there was, at least it was done in a very harmonious way and all the—they amalgamated their assets and I think the present building has been fixed up so that it's very nice. [29.09] And, potentially, I think the church could do a lot for Pawlet. I'm a member of the Congregational Church, but, actually, I'm a Unitarian by inclination and we attended the Unitarian Church in Summit, New Jersey, and that's where we'd be now if there was one around. [29.44]

SR Did you live near Summit, New Jersey?

EC Yup.

SR That's where my father's brother lives.

EC Oh, really?

SR Yuh. Raymond Snyder was his name. [29.53] Or, is
his name. He worked for the Merck Drug Company.

EC Oh, yes. Well, we went to Summit Unitarian Church
for a long time. [30.03]

SR Is there anything you don't like about the town now?

[PAUSE.]

SR Rachel Waite had an answer to that question.

[LAUGHS.]

MC Oh, well, she's—

SR She doesn't like one family having so much control
over the business in town. [30.30] [LAUGHS.]

MC Rachel?

SR Yes. She talked quite a bit about that.

EC Well, that doesn't seem to bother me very much.

[30.41]

SR No? [LAUGHS.]

EC I can't think of it. I can't think of anything.

MC I can't, either. [SR LAUGHS.] Must be perfect.

EC Well, there probably is something, but I can't think of it.

SR Have you observed any changes in the town, Mary?

MC Well, you mean since we've been living here? I don't really think so, no. [31.04]

SR You're quite active at the library.

MC Yes.

SR Do you enjoy that?

MC Yes, I do.

SR I think that's a nice part, a very nice part of the community.

MC Yes, it is nice. It's a nice library, a nice institution.

SR Have you met a lot of new friends since you've come back? People who are new to Pawlet?

EC Yes, we have. Mhm.

MC Very nice people. Very nice people.

EC I think the new people that are coming to town have, on the whole, fitted in quite well, so that there hasn't been, not any great amount of friction between the newcomers and the old-timers. [31.47] Some towns, and I think Middletown Springs is an example, there's been lots of friction. The people

from the city sort of moved in and tried to take over things, but I don't think—that hasn't happened in Pawlet. [32.02] And then I think the new and the old have gotten along very well.

SR Neil and I have pondered that flexibility.

EC I think so.

SR Yes, I think that's very true. I think that's very true and I think there've been—

EC I think that's been great that it's happened that way.

SR I agree. I agree. And there really have been, you know, kind of waves of new people in Pawlet. [32.23] I mean, we came—well, it's almost seventeen years ago, and since we've come there've been at least two more, you know, kind of surges of new people in the community. And we thought a lot about that, tried to figure out why Pawlet is flexible in that way, where, you know, other towns—

EC Other towns aren't. [32.41]

SR --are not. I mean, I know Arlington is a town that's extremely inflexible and a lot of young people who we know have tried to make a go of it

there and have felt very, very isolated from, you know, the town. [32.55]

EC I think the town is _____ more. _____ Valley Homemaker's Club is a very good example of that. [33.03] They've got newcomers and old-timers, and they really get along just fine, and it's a very active group--some are like forty or over.

MC Well, in the summer--

EC If they're all there, in the summer. And it's mostly older women. You've never been?

SR No, no. I've been urged to join by {Zonie}. [33.31]

EC By Zonie.

SR {Waley}, yes. [33.32]

MC It's an awfully nice group. There's a very nice feeling of friendliness. I've thought of something that might be improved in Pawlet. [33.46] I think the schools, I think the town could support the schools better than it does and I think there could be a more progressive attitude in the school board toward improving the schools and giving the children more opportunities.

SR I think it will be very sad if the Pawlet schools close, the elementary schools.

MC Well, I think so, too, really.

EC I do, too.

SR Yeah.

MC But the children might get a better break, though, going to Granville. [34.21] However, yes, I think it would be too bad to not have any schools here at all.

SR Yeh, yeh.

EC We thought it was too bad that a school like the {Equinox} School would start up and if those people, you know, that promoted it, instead of doing that, would get after the local school board and run for the local school board and try to change the local schools, I think that'd be a wonderful thing.
[34.49]

SR Right, right. I felt that, you know, there should have been some attempt by those people just to *meet* with the Pawlet school board, maybe even over a period of a year have a weekly meeting where different ideas about, you know, education and what each group felt they wanted and needed for their

children was discussed and, you know, try to integrate it more into the existing system.

EC They might have run for the school board. I know Ned Winpenny ran, but, you know, he didn't get his petition in on time, so he wasn't on the ballot and that just about killed it, to begin with. [35.27]
But if he had his name on the ballot he might have been on! And Bob Shoenemann, too. [35.39]

SR Well, again, I do feel that there should have been more attempt to integrate than—

EC {But it's sort} of too bad to transport another little group of people down to Dorset to go to another school, which may be very good, but I think the Pawlet schools—of course, I think there ought to be a public kindergarten in Pawlet. [36.00] I think the kindergarten's done a wonderful job, but I really think it ought to be public. And that may come about.

SR That's been an uphill fight, I think. [36.13]

EC Been an uphill fight.

SR Yeah.

EC But there's a new law, you know. [36.18]

SR No, I didn't.

EC I don't know whether it's passed or not.

MC It passed one House _____, but not the other.
[36.26]

EC Required-

MC The town to-

EC --the town to furnish kindergarten. [36.30]

MC Make it available, but not require all children to go, just so, just for each town to have a public kindergarten available. [36.41]

SR That would be an improvement.

MC Yes, it would.

EC If any parent wants their children to go to kindergarten, the town will be obligated to-

SR To pay for that and to provide it. [36.50]

EC Yeah.

SR Well, I know from my, you know, having my dance classes, that there is, you know, just a *tremendous* amount of enthusiasm among parents for that kind of activity. [37.01]

EC Yes, there is.

SR And right across the board. I mean, I don't have- you know, I don't have all children that come from

the same type of family or background. [37.09] And
I am very appreciative of that.

EC I think the local kindergarten has sold the town on
it, pretty much. [37.15]

SR I think so, too. I think so, too.

EC And it might pass here now.

SR Is it going to be on the ballot again?

EC No. [37.26]

SR No? Not this year.

EC No, I don't think this law won't get through the
Legislature in time. [37.34]

MC No, I think it's just passed one House.

EC In fact, the agenda is already written up. It's
closed now.

SR Well, I think anything that encourages young people
to be in the town—I mean, that is one of the big
changes about the town, I think, is that young
people really can't stay here anymore. [37.58]
There's not—there are not that many opportunities in
the town for making a living.

EC That was always true, to a certain extent. [38.05]

SR To a certain extent, yeah.

EC Lots of young people left Pawlet. Have for years and years and years. [38.10] I did. And many people did. Unless you wanted to be a farmer. [38.20] [LAUGHS.] That was about the size of it: if you didn't want to be a farmer, why, you moved and did something else.

SR Yeh, yeh.

MC Nowadays it's either a farmer or a real estate-- [38.35] [LAUGHS.]

SR Yeah, right. [LAUGHS.] Well, that's good. [SOUND OF TURNING PAGES.] I think you both have told me pretty much about your schooling. How about work, Mary? What kinds of things have you done?

MC Well, I worked in the Newark Public Library for four years. [38.59] I didn't go to library school, but I worked down there and that was quite an education in itself. And then during the war I worked in the Navy library for a little--less than a year, but we had quite a--Edward and I had an interesting experience. [39.25] Well, he was in the Navy for-- how long were you--

EC Two years. [39.30]

MC Two years. And he was stationed in Bermuda and at that time, in 1944, they allowed some of the wives to come down there if they could get a job. [39.48] And they needed a librarian, so I went. [LAUGHING.] I was down there for about nine months and it was really a very-

SR Pleasant experience. [LAUGHS.]

MC It was very pleasant. It was.

SR So you spent a lot of time in libraries?

MC Yes. That's about all I have done, the kind of job I've done. [40.11]

SR Did you enjoy your education at Cornell?

MC Yes, very much.

SR My oldest brother went to Cornell. [40.16]

MC Yes, I loved it.

SR Yeah, it's a very-very fine school. How about you, Edward? Other than-any other work experiences?

EC Well, I did go to Columbia, went to the graduate course in college administration, but my at first my work was general administrative work in the business office, but I eventually ended up as Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds at the Newark campus and that's what I did most of the time. [40.53] And

during that time, or at the end of it, the last seven or eight years, we did a tremendous amount of building and under urban renewal and took something like twenty acres in the slum area of central Newark and built a campus. [41.25] On the whole, I think it was done fairly well. Maybe some mistakes were made, but it's a thriving place now. Something like over ten thousand students. [41.38]

SR Yeh. So how many years were you there, all told?

EC I was there from 1930 until 1969—thirty-nine years. [41.48] Quite a long time.

SR Yeh. Yeh, yeh. How about hobbies, or interests outside of your work?

EC Well, I always did a lot of reading. [42.04] And when I got up here, I did a lot of gardening. I guess they're my two principal hobbies: reading and gardening.

SR How did you get hooked up with the Historical Society? Was that out of your own personal interest or—

EC Well, when I came back here Dorothy Offensend was still here, was the person who had the real interest in historical things, and she got me involved.

[42.33] She knew I knew quite a lot about the town.
And I'm interested in historical things. And, more
or less, she and I started the Historical Society.

[42.49]

SR Are you still able to tend a garden or has your
illness—

EC No, not really. [42.55]

SR Did you have a garden last summer or—

MC Yes, we did. We had—

EC Miller.

MC Miller. Ed Miller came up and put it in. [43.10]
Then it sort of languished after that, but we got
quite a bit out of it.

SR Well, that's good. How about you, Mary? How about
hobbies for you?

MC Well, I like a flower bed. [43.24] And reading and
I do some needlework. And we both loved traveling,
in the past.

SR Yes, tell me a little bit about that. That's
another question that I like to ask people is, you
know, to get an idea—

EC That's right. {I should have} mentioned that
before.

SR Right.

EC After, primarily after we retired and were free, we really did a lot of traveling. [43.49] We went to-- well, Mary was always interested in Greece and we took a wonderful trip to Greece. And, let's see, a good many Greek islands. And later on some places in Asia Minor, like Ephesus and Troy and Istanbul.

SR Now, was this after you had come back to Pawlet or--

EC After we came back to Pawlet. [44.23] And then we went up, we went on the Nile.

SR Isn't that wonderful.

MC Yes, that was.

EC We traveled in Italy a couple times, Sicily. [44.42] Many places looking at Greek ruins, which there are quite a lot in Sicily, as you may know. And some in Italy. And we went to, we traveled some in France, some in Scandinavia, and quite a lot in England. [44.57]

MC And Scotland.

EC And Scotland.

SR That's where my mother's family is from. [45.05]

EC Really?

SR Yuh, my grandmother was born in Scotland. [45.09]

EC And if we had our way now we'd be traveling right this minute. [45.16]

SR Would you? You really enjoyed that.

EC Instead of going over to Hanover, I'd be on my way to Europe. [45.21]

SR Well, that's interesting, that the same thing—

EC Oh, yes, we did go to Mexico, too. [45.25]

SR Did you?

EC Oh, yeah.

SR The same thing happened to my parents, essentially. They did quite a bit of traveling. My father was at MIT in Cambridge. [45.35]

EC We knew that.

SR Yeah, he was the Treasurer and Vice President for— well, from 1944 when I was born, right until the time he retired. [45.44] And they did quite a bit of traveling when he was, you know, working professionally, particularly when we were, the three of us were a little bit grown, but they had planned to do a lot of traveling after he retired, but he has cancer of the prostate and had radiation treatment in his early seventies and it has aged him a great deal and he's—

EC Did it stop it?

SR Well, temporarily.

EC Temporarily.

SR He has to take constant medication and the thing that's been unfortunate for him is that the radiation treatment really aged him very, very quickly, so that he is just not very mobile and has to stay, you know, fairly contained. [46.27]

EC I should say, yes.

SR Well, they, you know, compensated for it and are—live outside of Boston and go to the Boston Symphony and go to the theater and the ballet and do a lot of reading and enjoy their family, but it is not exactly how they planned, 'cause they enjoyed traveling so much.

EC Yeah.-- [46.48]

END TAPE 1, SIDE A

START TAPE 1, SIDE B

SR [.43] --Okay, I think we're all set again. Are you—there's several Clark families in Pawlet.

EC I'm not related to any of them. [.50] [SR LAUGHS.]
And, well, the Clarks that live up on {Lewis and

Clark's}, they're not related to the other—they're not related to George Clark.

SR Right.

EC And there's the Chester Clarks in West Pawlet and they're not related. [1.09] 'Course, they may be, way back.

SR Way back, yeah. Yeah.

EC But not as far as anybody knows. And my father came from Salem. [1.20] He was related to Clarks down there. And there are hardly any left over there, they're all died out.

SR Now, was Ella Clark related to you?

EC No, Ella Clark would be related to George Clark.
[1.33]

SR Right. How about children? Let's see—

MC We have two children, a son and daughter. [1.41]

SR Okay. Can you tell me—let's see, what are their names?

MC Robert. Robert Allen Clark and Sarah Bates Clark.
[1.51]

SR Okay. And how old are they now and where are they and what are they doing?

MC Bob is thirty-eight and he's a lawyer and working for the Vermont Legal Aid office in Rutland. [2.10] And he's living up in Salisbury. And we have one granddaughter, Amy, who's almost eleven months old now. [2.27]

SR What possessed them to come this way, instead of staying—where were they? They were—

EC They were out in Montana. [2.36]

SR Right, right.

EC Well, Bob had been out West for fourteen years and then I think his wife, also, she hadn't been out there that long. [2.47] She taught—she's a native of North Attleboro, Mass. And I think she had some influence on him, but, anyway, I think Bob just had had enough of the life out there.

SR Was he practicing law there, also?

MC He was doing the same, he was in legal aid. [3.06]

SR Legal aid, yeah, I remember your telling us that.

EC He was dealing mostly with Indians, Blackfeet. [3.13]

SR That's right. That's right.

EC Yeah. And he wanted a change of scenery, I guess. But he wants to stay in legal aid and that's not

easy to do these days, when Reagan is doing his best to cut it out. [3.33]

SR Yuh.

EC But he was—I think he was lucky to get this job in Rutland.

SR I think so—very, very lucky.

EC Very lucky.

SR Yuh. Legal aid, I think, is a good—

EC Oh, I do, too.

SR --a very good thing.

EC Yeah. I think you do a lot of good.

SR Yuh. And how about your daughter, how old is she and where is she?

MC She's thirty-four and she lives in Washington, D.C. [4.01] She works in a lawyer's office there. She's not married.

SR Okay. Now do any other members of your family live in Pawlet now? Are still alive and living in the town?

EC Well, just a cousin, more or less distant cousin to all the Leaches. [4.24] [LAUGHS.] But he's quite—

SR I had forgotten that your mother was a Leach.

EC Yeah. Robert {Radd} is my own cousin. [4.29] And the others are much more distant—Timothy Leach and, oh, Howard Leach.

SR Right, right.

EC And Bill Leach and his family. [4.50] Actually, I'm related to the Herricks in the same way because their mother, their grandmother was a Leach. And I'm not related to anybody else. [SR LAUGHS.] I guess.

SR You don't have any family in this area?

MC No, I don't. [5.13]

EC But we do have my brother's family, but they don't live in—

SR Not right in Pawlet.

EC Not right in Pawlet. That was one of the nicest things about coming back to Pawlet, because I had so many relatives that I knew. [5.35]

SR Do you know anyone who went away, like you did, and then came back? Well, I guess, Hiram. [5.43] Evans.

EC Well, Hiram, of course, really went from Granville, New York. [5.51] His father and mother lived in Granville, but his father was in a bank over there

that failed and but his mother came to live in this house, I think before his grandmother died, so he was an only child, so he inherited that house and I think he always had more feeling for Pawlet than he did for Granville. [6.23]

SR Do you—this is a kind of a difficult question, but do you enjoy the landscape here?

EC Oh, yes.

SR Do you like living in the rural scene, even though you miss some of the urban—

EC Oh, yes, I love the landscape. [6.43] Yeah.

SR I'm trying to find out—I think that there must be some similarities in the way people who live in a town like Pawlet feel about living here—you know, living in a rural community, even though we're all very different.

MC Yes.

SR I think there's some—well, just to see the changes of the season, the coming of the spring and the _____, all those things have got to be—I mean, you wouldn't live here, you *couldn't* live here if you didn't, you know, have some sensitivity to that.

EC Well, I'm strong for protecting the environment and I think it hasn't been too terribly _____ right around here, but I think you've got to be wary, very wary. [7.39]

SR The state has gotten pretty strict about building.

EC Yes, it has.

SR We found that out.

EC I'm very happy that the farms have stayed pretty much in tact, haven't been sold, they've been kept as going farms. [7.56]

SR And there are, when you think about it, there are quite a few young farmers. [8.01]

EC Yes, there are.

SR And that's always a good sign, I think.

EC Yes.

MC Yes, it is.

EC Quite a few.

SR I think I mentioned just the other day, one thing that Neil and I would like to do this summer is, now we're, you know, much more familiar with the community than we were when we started this project, is to really pinpoint each farm, go to each farm and

make sure we know who's running it, who the family is, and, you know, just what the situation is.

EC Yeah. Like the fellow, like John Malcolm, who you wouldn't think would ever be running a farm, and yet he's entirely committed to it, isn't he? [8.41]

SR He's a good farmer, too. At least, from what Tim Leach says.

EC Yes. And I don't think he's got a lot of the best places in the world to farm. [8.51]

SR He's done a lot up there, that is for sure. I had not—they used his picture in the *Country Journal* and, of course, he went to Williams and so did Neil, so there was—he was after Neil, but there's always been, you know, an association. [9.13]

EC I see.

SR And I went up to ask him permission to use the photograph and to ask him what he'd like for a caption with it and I had not really walked, you know, out back there and around the barns. You know, it's one of those places you drive by, but you don't, you know, see that much. And I was quite impressed with the, just with the efficiency and,

you know, newness of the barn area and all of that.

[9.35]

EC You know John Rubin? [9.38]

SR Alan Rubin?

EC No. No, no.

MC Jed?

EC Jed.

SR Oh, Jed! Yes. Yuh.

EC He's quite an interesting fellow.

SR He is.

EC To taking over a farm and _____.

SR Yuh, yuh. He's in Rupert, though. [9.54]

[LAUGHS.]

EC He's in Rupert.

MC Yes.

SR But I can't say that I could give you a number of
how many farms there are now in Pawlet.

EC No, I don't, either.

SR But I think it would be an interesting-

EC Yeah. Pawlet and Rupert, though, particularly this
valley, have been really very closely connected.

[10.13]

SR Yes.

EC By the mail route and by the normal—if you want to go to a store or something, you come up or down the valley, you don't go over the mountain 'til you get to Rupert, so they seem to be more connected.

[10.30] And most of the people from down in the valley always came to Pawlet to church, until you got way down to East Rupert, then they went to Dorset. [10.43] But the North, most of the North Rupert people—

SR Associate with Pawlet, yeh. Yeh, yeh. How about the future of the town? Can you speculate at all on the future?

[PAUSE.]

MC Oh, I just hope it'll stay the way it is. [11.16]
[LAUGHS.] I'd hate to have the farms—I hope the farms keep on as operating farms and don't become boutiques and things like that—the {Jelly} Mill.
[11.31] [LAUGHS.] That's all of that. I can't speculate about it. I really don't know what's gonna happen, but I just hope that it's going to stay this way.

EC I've long had a wish that the Haystack Mountain could be made a part of the Township for—not a national township—forest. [12.01]

SR That's a nice idea.

EC And I've talked with some people about it, but I've never gotten anywhere. It's apparently owned by a great many—it's broken up into a lot of parcels and I don't think anybody knows who really owns it. [12.16]

SR I know, it is a very complicated business. I know that. Living over in North Pawlet all those years, right under it. [12.22] I mean, Haystack was in our backyard.

EC I think it would be great if it could become a town forest. [12.30] It hasn't got much potential for growing trees because it's too rocky and it would be a shame to see a lot of building done on it. [12.38] It's not suitable for building. It's too rocky for that, too. But it's a prominent landmark and—

SR Right. And, certainly, a lot of people come to see Pawlet because of the mountain. [12.51]

EC Yes, they do.

SR They come to climb it.

EC And it's been painted so many times. [12.55]

SR And so many poems written about it.

EC And so many poems. [LAUGHS.] There is a painting by—the earliest one I know is that one by {Asher Beaton Rand}, which was done about 1850, and, actually, it belongs to the San Antonio Art Club now. [13.21] I'd like to get it back.

SR Where is it? Is it there?

EC In San Antonio, Texas.

MC This one Mary Brown did. [13.28]

SR Yes. Yeah, that's a nice painting.

EC Yes, it is.

SR I remember that from the first time we came here. Well, Neil has certainly photographed it a lot. [13.37] It's amazing how many people want Haystack in their picture. You know, anyone who has a view of it will very often ask Neil to somehow include it.

EC Haystack looks so different from the other side. [13.51]

SR I know. It's quite wonderful. It looks different from almost every approach.

MC Yes, it does.

SR To it. We have, on our new hill--of course, we're on the other side of it than we were. [14.00]

EC Doesn't look quite like this.

SR No. No, no, no. We get--we're always--I can't remember who pointed this out to us. I think it was Vince Cosino over at the quarry that he always thought of Haystack and Middle Mountain and then the next one, which I'm not sure what the name is.

EC Bald.

SR Bald Mountain. [14.18] Formed a giant, a sleeping giant, with the three, you know, the three bumps. And from our new vantage point--

EC You see that.

SR --what you really see is the sleeping giant. [14.29] Do you know why the hills--let's see, I guess it must be these hills--are referred to as The Pattern?

EC That's just over here.

SR Yeah.

EC I don't know why it got that name.

SR Do you think it refers to "pattern," you know, like a pattern in a quilt or a family name?

EC I haven't the faintest idea where it got its name.

SR Charley Baker told me that when we—of course, that's the, you know, the view that we get from our new house, is that's the view in front of Haystack and mountains going off in the other direction. [15.02] And it's just a beautiful range of hills and we certainly see it in many different patterns. That's why I wondered if it was just the pattern of the light and darkness on the mountain. [15.14]

EC I really don't know. I don't know.

MC Could be.

SR 'Cause it's so, it's so distinctive, you know, from where we are, the way the light plays tricks on you, in terms of—and we can see all the weather, you know, patterns coming across the mountain, which is really quite wonderful. [15.28] And I guess we have to do some exploring on Woodlawn. That's the other side of us now.

EC That's a nice mountain, too.

SR I guess there are quite a few trails and things going up through there.

EC Never been up it.

SR I think there—I guess it's still owned by, a lot of
the land is still owned by Telescope people.

[15.47]

EC Could be. Of course, Pawlet doesn't go to the top
of that mountain. [15.52]

SR It doesn't?

EC No. It goes up—I've forgotten how far—and then it
goes into Danby, 'cause the summit of the mountain
is in Danby. [15.57]

SR Okay. Well, that's something I didn't know. I
guess it is the highest point in this—

EC Town.

SR --in this area. Yeah.

EC Is up on the side of Woodlawn Mountain, about 2200
feet. [16.12]

SR A little bit higher than Haystack.

EC Little bit higher than Haystack. Yeah.

SR Okay. Well, I think we're done with the interview.
Is there anything else you'd like to, that you can
think of that you'd like to add, either about your
family or—

EC I've been giving family letters and other things to the Historical Society for quite some time and I just gave 'em some other stuff just lately. [16.45]

SR From your family?

EC Well, yes, mostly. Anything of interest to the town. Photographs. Other stuff. And I'll just continue to do that until I run out. [SR LAUGHS.]

SR Good. Well, I hope that we can maybe get the North Pawlet Museum going. [17.16]

EC I hope so.

MC Yes, _____.

SR I'd really like to get involved in that as a project and start getting some of these things out where people can see them.

MC Yes, yes.

SR I think that would be a good project.

MC Certainly.

EC I think Dorothy Offensend would welcome some help on that. [17.33]

SR Yeah. Well, I think it's another one of those things that has to be, you know, well organized and you have to get a group of people who are willing to man the stations and deal with the material.

EC Even if it were open only one weekend a year or so, in the fall or something. [17.51] Sort of the Homecoming Day, or days, I think that would be nice.

SR Yeh, yeh.

EC And wouldn't be so difficult. There's quite a lot of stuff over there now. [18.03]

SR I know. I know. I hope maybe once we get these Nellie {Bushie} negatives printed we might be able to exhibit them. [18.12]

EC How big a project do you think that is?

SR A big project.

EC It is? Take quite a long time.

SR It'll be done this spring, though. [18.18]

EC Oh, yeah?

SR Oh, yes. Neil will print all of those pictures this spring. [18.22]

EC Oh, he will.

SR Between-the college opens in two weeks and then they close in the middle of June. [18.26]

EC And you say that's not going to cost anything?

SR Well, what is trying to be set up is a grant from the Vermont Historical Society, which the Pawlet Historical Society will to match. [18.40]

EC I see. Yeah.

SR So Neil—

EC Do you have any idea about how money it will take?

SR I think—Neil worked this out with Hiram, but I think the estimate was about seven hundred dollars.

[18.52] I think Neil was hoping for about three hundred from Pawlet and three or four hundred from—I think he figured seven to ten dollars a negative?

[19.04] Something like that, for the cleaning and the printing and the paper.

EC Of course, if there'd be any hold-up on money, I'd be—I'd make a special donation. [19.15]

SR Well, I think—well, I'll tell Neil that.

EC Not that much, but maybe if they were short two or three hundred dollars.

SR Well, I know the Pawlet Historical Society is definitely willing to put in a good chunk and I think Neil has—Neil and the woman at Bennington, who are going to be doing this course together, have formally applied to the Vermont Historical Society to match Pawlet. [19.40] They have not heard from them. I think Neil's intention is to take money out of his own budget at the college *if* the Vermont

Historical Society does not produce a matching grant, but Pawlet will put up, I'd say, three to four hundred and then I think if that was matched, so they're still waiting to hear, but, again, it's all purely a matter of materials. [20.07]

EC Well, I would be glad to give a donation to that in order so that I'm very anxious, that it's started, that it go on.

SR Right. Well, it's going to go on. I don't think there's any--there's no question that--

EC I mean, whatever--{don't know what} we're going to find there, that's for sure.

SR Right. I'm very excited--very excited about seeing the pictures and trying to find out as much as I can. Can we shift our subject a minute because I want to--

MC I was going to ask you, wouldn't you like some coffee if I--

SR No, I really don't. No, I'm fine. No, I'm just fine. As Neil says, if he ate and drank everything that was offered to him when he was taking pictures, he'd be a 300-pound giant. [LAUGHS.] I had my fortieth birthday on Monday and was showered with

raspberry pies from Shirley Gould and several birthday cakes, so I've had my fill for the week, but I appreciate the offer.

EC Well, you don't look forty.

MC No, you certainly-

EC If it's any consolation. [SR LAUGHS.] Or anywhere near it.

MC No.

SR Well, I am! [EC LAUGHS.]

MC Where did you go to college?

SR To Bennington. [21.31]

MC Oh, you did?

SR Yes.

MC I guess I should have guessed that.

SR Yeah, I went to Bennington. I was a dancer at Bennington and, let's see, I was just going into my senior year when I met Neil and he had just graduated from Williams. [21.45]

MC Oh, yes.

SR And we got married when I was still in school and settled down in Bennington for a little while and then we thought we might want to go to California. [21.56] Neil's parents retired to California and we

went out there for a while, but we just hated it. All we wanted to do was to get back to Vermont. [EC AND MC LAUGH.] And we were just a little too young to realize that maybe all we needed to do was to move a little further north in Vermont. [22.10] We thought we really had to go a long way away, so we went to California, but we were back here in six months.

MC Oh, really? [LAUGHS.]

SR And looking for a place to live and we knew Stan Okin from our college days and we came to Pawlet looking for a place to live. [22.30] And we lived in Elsie Wilson's house for a little while, right next the school, very briefly. And I knew Helen Mach 'cause I was teaching children already and had done some teaching at the Dorset School and so she rented us that house. [22.46] And we didn't last long there because it had terrible sulfur water and that's no good for photography. Ruined prints. So Stan knew that the Baker's little house was empty and he knew Charley a little bit and spoke to Joyce and Charley, and I think we looked pretty sad. We were pretty broke and young and needed a place to

live desperately, so they said go ahead, you can live in the little house. [23.15] I mean, Charley's mother, Carrie, had only been dead for about five or six years. And they never thought we'd stay more than about six months. Well, we lasted thirteen years in that little house. [23.25] [MC LAUGHS.] Before we moved on. So it's a long time. But we came here purely by chance, purely by chance, which I find a lot of young people have ended up here, you know, without any real direction, just kind of choice out of the clear blue sky. [23.47]

MC Well, it was luck, wasn't it?

SR It certainly was. It certainly was.

EC Piece of luck for Pawlet, too.

MC For Pawlet, too. [SR LAUGHS.]

SR Well, for us, especially. Well, tell me what you know about Nellie Bushee. [24.07]

EC Well, I don't know very much about her. She was, as I remember, she was a rather elderly woman and she'd been Town Clerk for a long time and she wrote a perfect script. [24.24] You've seen it, have you?

SR Yeah.

EC Perfectly legible. And her father was Town Clerk before her. [24.31] And she lived in that little yellow house right next to the-

SR Town Hall.

EC --Town Hall. And her niece, Mildred, who lived with her, I think Mildred's father and mother split up or something and Mildred came to live with her aunt. [24.53] Anyway, she lived there right along. And I think Nellie was an excellent Town Clerk.

SR Now, do you remember her from when you were young?

EC I remember her from when I was young. [25.09]

SR So now, let's see, how old would--approximately, how old would she have been when you were a boy? Neil and I were trying to place her.

EC Probably in her fifties. [25.18]

MC So how old would those prints be?

SR They must have been made towards the end of the nineteenth century. [25.31] I would think.

EC Let's see. I found something of slight interest.

MC If she was fifty when Edward was a little boy, young boy-

EC Maybe forty-five or something like that. [25.59]

SR I'm still terrible at making those kinds of, you know, judgments.

MC Well, let's say in 1918 she was fifty. [26.15] Of course, you don't know what period of her life she made her pictures.

SR Right, right. Well, she probably, you know, knowing her set-up with the camera and all, she must have been fairly young when she was making the pictures. [26.34]

EC Yes, yes.

SR Just because of the cumbersome nature of what she was doing. But I really, you know, hope to find out is something about her photography. I don't know. I suppose Alberta will be—

EC Alberta would hardly remember. [26.52] I don't think. Maybe I'm wrong, but—

SR Right, but I was thinking she would know something, you know, that {Earl} might have told her. [27.01]

EC Yes, she might.

SR 'Cause Ella must have been quite a bit younger.

MC Yes, she must be.

SR Than Nellie Bushee.

MC Yeah.

EC Everybody called her Aunt Nell. [27.16] And I just happened to find this. [EC HAS BEEN ACROSS THE ROOM RUMMAGING AROUND FOR WHATEVER HE JUST FOUND.] I lived in--when I was living down on that street and I guess I was the only baby down there and they--

SR Isn't that wonderful?

EC --gave it to me, _____. Marjorie Bushie was sort of a babysitter for me when I was-- [27.55]

SR Isn't that nice?

EC So I got a card from her and Aunt Nell.

SR Isn't that nice?

EC That other person, {she went to Goddard}.

SR Now, did Mildred ever have a family?

EC Yes, she did. [28.09]

SR Yeah. Did you mention that?

EC Her son is a member of the Historical Society-- Charles. [28.15] I think it's Charles McGowan. Lives in Schenectady.

SR Well, it might be worth even writing to him.

EC Might be. Who would--Charlie {Bostock} would have his address. [28.31]

SR Did they all live together there when Mildred was married? In that same house?

EC Yes.

SR They did. And he ran a garage, was that what you were going to say?

EC He ran a garage, a Ford agency. [28.45]

SR And that was right where the post office is.

EC Yeah. And the post office building, plus the building that's back of it, were together and he ran a Ford agency and I think until he died. [28.57]
It was quite a successful agency. She had a brother, Charles, but I think I told you a little about him.

SR Right.

EC He was a very interesting fella and—

SR Oh, he's the one that was associated with the big department store?

EC In the Wanamaker's in New York. [29.14]

SR Right.

EC But one of his interests was in the theater in New York and he never did anything himself in the theater, I don't think, but he was quite a friend of Eugene O'Neill and befriended Eugene O'Neill when he was a young man when his father, Eugene's father, was, I guess, an alcoholic and gave him a very rough

time. [29.48] And I know that Charlie later got—
Charlie, he didn't have any money, but he used to
get an occasional check from Carlotta O'Neill. I
guess that was after Eugene died. [30.08] And then
he used to give—when they'd have affairs in the Town
Hall, you know, programs of various kinds, Charles
was always called on to recite a poem in a rather
flamboyant style. [30.33] One of 'em was *In*
Flanders Fields. [SR LAUGHS.]

MC And he was the brother of Nellie?

SR He was Nellie's brother. [30.40]

EC He was Nellie's brother. And he used to work in
Wanamaker's in the winter and he'd come up here and
spend the summer. [30.46]

SR With Nellie? He'd live with her.

EC Well, no, he lived across the road in his mother's
house. [30.54] His mother lived there for a while,
in a little brick house that has been torn down. It
was between the Muriel Scally's house and the
Coolidge's. [31.09] He lived there.

SR So Nellie's mother and father lived in Pawlet.

EC Yes. Nellie's father's name was Orlando and he was
Town Clerk before her. [31.21]

SR And then there was a tailor in there, a grandfather who-

EC Orlando's father was Jeremiah, the tailor. [31.29]

SR And your mother-

EC My grandmother worked for him. [31.33]

SR Right. But you don't remember--do you ever remember Nellie taking pictures or anything about her photography? It's interesting because, you know, I've only--you know, I've only talked to a few people, but no one knew she took pictures, which I--
[31.51]

EC The only one I can think of that you might ask would be Ruth Lowerhouse. [31.55]

SR Yes, I wrote down the other day the names of the people that you suggested--Emma Thomson and--you mentioned Emma Thomson?

EC Thompson! We have a picture of her that Nellie took. [32.03]

SR Right, right.

EC So she might know something about it. And Ruth--or, Agnes. [32.10] Agnes is in not very good shape.

SR Really?

EC She's got a very bad back. Giving her a lot of trouble.

SR Oh, dear, I didn't know that.

EC She can't get outside anymore. [32.21] But she probably would be able to tell you what she knows.

SR Good. Well, I thought I'd go and see both of those people. And I think it would be worth calling Alberta, since the negatives ended up with Ella. [32.37]

EC Yeah. And I think it would be worth calling Ella, too. [32.40]

SR Yeah. Yep. Mary and I were trying to figure out the age difference between Ella Clark and Nellie. [32.52] [LAUGHS.]

EC Nellie would be older, quite a bit. [32.55]

MC How old was Ella when she died?

EC When she was in her eighties. [32.58]

MC But that was about five years ago, maybe?

SR Yeah.

EC But Nellie, well, she had been dead for quite a long time. I don't know how old she was when she died.

SR But it's probably significant that the Bushee negatives ended up with the Clark family. [33.18]

EC I think Nellie knew that Alberta was much interested in photography and was going ahead with it, and probably the only person in town that was. [33.28]

MC You mean Ella.

SR Yeah, Ella was.

EC Yes.

SR Yuh.

EC So when she decided she wasn't going to do it anymore, she said, well, I'll just give these to Ella. [33.37]

SR Yeh.

EC 'Cause she's doing it now and I'm not.

SR Yuh, yuh. And Helen Young said that Nellie was, you know, kind of known as a good-natured, sturdy, strong. [33.54] She was also the Clerk of the church. I don't know exactly--or, that's what Helen--

EC She may have been.

SR --informed me of, so I assume some of the old church records are probably in her hand, also. [34.05]

EC In her hand. Yeah. The old church records are down in the Town Clerk's office. [34.11]

MC Was she the Town Clerk until she died, do you know?

SR Well, no. No, 'cause Helen Young was the Town Clerk—

EC For a while.

SR --right after Nellie Bushie, so I assume.

EC Did Nellie die or did she get incapacitated or—

SR I don't know that. I didn't ask Helen that.

EC It was my impression that she'd stick at it as long as she could. [34.38]

SR Yeah, yeah. Who owns that house now, do you know? The one next to the—

EC No.

SR I always wondered that. It's a—

EC Mess, isn't it? [34.46]

SR Well, it is, and it's—I never can, you know, believe that someone doesn't buy it.

EC Somebody owns it.

MC Somebody down in Florida, we understand. [34.55]

EC And they're paying the taxes on it.

SR And they just keep it.

EC And just keep it. It's a weird place for a house. [35.07] You know, it's on that terribly steep bank.

SR Yes. Well, you see it, you know, from the road where I teach, upstairs, you get a good view of it

from that side window there, right next to the stove, and it's really kind of a house on stilts.

[35.17]

MC Yes.

EC Yeah. It's a wonder why anybody should ever build a house there.

SR Well, that whole-Neil's taken pictures of that whole kind of back side of the town. [35.26] It's all kind of-the Town Hall, itself, is-

EC That's right.

SR In the springtime sometimes that river goes quite fast past that Town Hall. [35.36]

MC Yeah.

EC That's weird. The whole setup is. Them buildings, so much on that steep bank. [35.44]

SR Yeh, yeh. Well, it's one of the distinguishing things about the town. I mean, you definitely have that, when you come from the North Pawlet side and when you come from this side, you really feel that when you come. [35.59]

EC And the property lines are so close together.
[36.02]

SR Yeah.

EC There was no zoning in effect. [SR LAUGHS.]

SR Is Emma Thomson one of the people standing in front of the Coolidge house? Is that the picture of Nellie Bushee's?

EC No. She may be one of 'em, but it was a picture of Emma Thomson all by herself, as a fairly young girl. [36.27] Nobody else in the picture.

SR Is that one that Neil printed?

EC Yup.

SR For you?

EC Mhm.

SR I guess I missed that one.

EC Just a picture of a girl, maybe ten or twelve years old. [36.40] I'm sure that's who it is.

SR Good. Well, I will definitely go to see her and see if I can get some more information. Okay, I think that's it!

EC Okay.

SR Do you have any desire to hear this?

MC I don't know. [LAUGHING.] Do you want to?

EC I guess not.

SR Okay.-- [37.05]

END TAPE 1, SIDE B

END TRANSCRIPTION