

Gertrude South/TC2004.3031
Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

SR Susanne Rappaport
GS Gertrude South
Place Pawlet, VT
Date 07/07/1981

[NOTE: THE PARTICULAR TAPING EQUIPMENT USED FOR THIS
PARTICULAR INTERVIEW IS QUITE SATISFACTORY.]

TAPE 1, SIDE A

GS [.14] --I don't know, really.

SR Those are quarry people and I don't know—I think
 they're {Kliscos}.

GS Probably.

SR Yeah, I think they're Kliscos.

GS Yeh.

[BREAK IN TAPING.]

GS [.33] I really didn't _____. [LAUGHS.]

SR Did you? Oh, great!

GS No, just—I'm exaggerating.

SR Well, some people who aren't used to tape recorders
 are very surprised at how they sound 'cause, you know,
 if you don't really sound like you—

GS You know, I mean, because all these years you've heard
 that you have a good voice on the telephone, but you
 can't hear yourself on the telephone.

SR Right. And, of course, your voice really sounds quite a bit different than it does to *you*. George and Leora were very surprised. [TAPE CONTAINED SPEECH AND SOUND PROBLEMS.—Transcriber's note.] [1.03] The wonderful thing about this tape recorder is that it's a very good tape recorder and it's *very, very clear*. [1.07] And the microphone is excellent, so that it equalizes voices, so that if someone, say, speaks quite a bit more softly than I do, it takes care of that and makes it all *very, very clear*, so. [TAPED JULY 7, 1981? IN REFERENCE TO WHAT EQUIPMENT, USED DURING WHAT TIME PERIOD?—Transcriber's Note.] Okay. Now let's start by your giving me your full name.

GS Gertrude {Hitt} South. [1.32]

SR Okay. And the date of your birth.

GS August 18, 1905. [1.39]

SR All right. Now, where were you born?

GS In the old homestead across the road. [1.47]

SR Okay. So you were born in Pawlet?

GS Yes.

SR Okay. Have you lived here all your life?

GS From 1905 to 1923 and from 1957, on. [2.04] Except for those two years that I kept house for my father.

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

SR Okay, so you were away from here for how many years?

I can't do that mathematics. [LAUGHS.]

GS Well, I used to say I was away thirty-five years, but that isn't strictly true because I was omitting that period that I kept house for my father in the middle forties. [2.35]

SR So you were back here briefly?

GS I was back here from October, 1945, to January, 1948, which was two and a quarter years. [2.47] And then we were here for the two summer months, July and August, from 1951 to '57, here in this house. And then the children and I lived here from the summer of '57, on. [3.08]

SR Okay. So in Pawlet you've lived just in these two houses?

GS That's right.

SR Okay. Okay. Where did you live when you weren't here?

GS Well, I lived in Burlington when I was first married. [3.31] Oh, before that—before that I taught Spanish at Bellows Falls for two years and I taught in—up until your marriage you feel as though you're still

living at home, even though you aren't. You're there for vacations. [3.50]

SR Right, right.

GS But I'm giving that overall period. I'm not counting. I'm counting from 1923, on. Actually, the fall of '23 was when I went to college, so I've been away—

SR Well, I'm just curious as to what other places you have been for a fairly substantial amount of time, other than Pawlet.

GS Well, Middlebury for three years. [4.25] Bellows Falls for two years. New York City. Fort Wayne, Indiana, for ten months. [4.35] New York City for approximately seven years. Rochester, Vermont, for eleven months. Burlington, Vermont, for, oh, a number of years--Essex Junction--sort of group them together, and Colchester and then back to Burlington. [5.20] And then Manlius, New York, a suburb of Syracuse, and then back here.

SR You've lived in a lot of different places.

GS My children--my son is the one that {remembers} all those moves. [5.37]

SR Was this because of work, your husband's work, or—

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

GS Yes, he worked for a firm that, the way they all do, when you're promoted, you're transferred. [5.46] And up until World War Two, he had never wanted to buy anywhere because he knew he would be transferred. The big boom in owning your own home began with World War Two. [6.03] And so when, that was when we made at least--well, we made two forced moves because we had to get out. We didn't own the place and either the owners came back or the property changed hands and we had to move. [6.27] And so that's how I happened to be back down here those two years, two and a quarter years, keeping house for my father. And so then when we went back to Burlington, we *bought*. [6.46] We had a rental when we went, which lasted only seven months, and I said then, this is it. And when he was transferred--just about five years later he was transferred to Syracuse, so we had to sell our property in Burlington and buy out there in Manlius. [7.18] And then the marriage broke up and I came back here. In the meantime, my father had died back _____. [7.23] And I came here.

SR Okay. Would you tell me a little bit about your parents.

GS Oh, yes, I'd be delighted. [SR LAUGHS.]

SR Why don't you start by just telling me their names.

GS My father was William Smith Hitt and he was from right across the road, where his father and his grandfather had also lived. [7.55] And he was a farmer whose real ambition was to be a veterinarian, he was *marvelous* with animals, but he never had a chance to study to be one. He was born in 1870 and he died in 1950. [8.14] And my mother was Antoinette Hammond, from Hudson Falls, New York, and she was born in 1871. And she taught school, little ones, you know, for thirteen years before she was married. [8.36] And she died in 1945.

SR So your family has been living in this town for a long time.

GS Since 1841. [8.51]

SR Okay. Now, were you married here?

GS No. No, I wasn't living here when I was married. [8.59]

SR Okay. All right. Now I think we can—is there anything else that you'd like to tell me about your mother and father or your family place here that's important to you, before we go on?

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

GS Well, there's one anecdote that I want to work in and probably this is as good a time as any. I don't know how much you were in. You didn't show me a picture of Margaret and Jen.

SR Neil has done one, but it's not in this group.

GS But were you inside the house?

SR Neil was. I've been inside the house once. I think, at the Bicentennial when they had the fiddlers' music right on the porch, you know. [9.41] That's the only time that I've ever been—

GS Well, they have remodeled. [9.49] This huge room that you go into through that little enclosed porch was the original, was—I can't say the original because it wasn't part of the original house. [10.09] The original wing had been torn down and this new one was built the year I was born, but it was a huge farm kitchen and an equally huge woodshed and a big room over the woodshed, which was just used for storage. [10.33] But because of the bend in the road, from the south kitchen window you'd get a perfect view of the road all the way up the hill and that used to be—if you've ever noticed. You said that you go that way to Bennington lots of times. Next time you go, notice

how that hill has been cut down. [10.57] And even in my day, it was much steeper. This road has only been hardtop since—well, it was the late 1950's. [11.12]

SR About the same time they did Route 30.

GS No, Route 30 was done before. [11.17] It had been done a number of years—the early fifties, Route 30 was done. The early fifties. And this was, I think, the next project. And it was much steeper in, say, 1880, and it had been cut down by the time that I knew it, say, in 1910. [11.46] But one time my father said that his grandfather, in the fall, would—this was before, even before creameries. Maybe creameries were just coming in. [12.08] But he could remember his grandfather taking a load of produce, all the winter vegetables and things that they had surplus of, to go to {Lansingberg}. [12.27] At that time, Lansingberg was, apparently, a more important market than Troy. And as you go down the old turnpike, there used to be little marble milestones. [12.42] I don't think there are any left now. I'm not sure whether the Granville DAR has saved one, but in the 1920's there were still a number of them and they had the long "s" that looks like an "f" and it would say so many miles to

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

Lansingberg. And we kids would say, "Lanthingberg," you know. Because that was the old-Route 22, you know, is the old turnpike that went all the way from New York City to Canada. [13.22]

SR That's right. Yeah, yeah.

GS And my father said that they used to watch from that kitchen window to see him get up the hill and if he got up this hill they knew he would get there. [13.40] [SR LAUGHS.] There wasn't a steeper hill between here and Lansingberg _____. And now, you know, the cars zip right by, you hardly think it's a hill.

SR That's wonderful. That really tells you something about time. And places.

GS Yes, yes, yes. And the period. Because he was born in 1870 and this was, I would imagine, not later, it couldn't have been later than 1880. [14.06] I could look up-I should have looked up the year that he died, that great-grandfather died. But I would imagine it was about, roughly, a hundred years ago. [14.19]

SR Yeah. That's a wonderful story.

GS I thought so. I loved that.

[PAUSE.]

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

SR Okay, let's go on to the next section and maybe, if there's anything else that you want to fill in, maybe even in this section there'll be some things you want to say about your family. Can you tell me a little bit about how the town has changed over the years that you've known it. Things that stick out in your mind.

GS I'm not very good at this because I've never really been an active participant in any town activities. [15.23] We all know that the district schools have closed, if that's the sort of thing you want.

SR Mhm. Well, just, maybe, when you came *back* to Pawlet. Is there anything that might stick out in your mind from that time that you noticed, in terms of changes, in the way that you knew the town, from this distance from the main part of the town.

[PAUSE.]

GS No, I really—I really can't—I don't qualify for that sort of discussion.

SR Okay. It's probably not something that's influenced your life that much because you were, obviously, when your children were growing up, you weren't here that much. [16.23]

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

GS When we came here to live my son was entering high school and my daughter was in the sixth grade.

[16.33] And I was very active in PTA, but that's all. We didn't have PTA, of course, when I was a student.

Back about the old turnpike, this isn't really in Pawlet, but it's just over the line in New York State.

[16.58] There used to be a toll gate. Well, I imagine it must be about where _____ Corners is, or a little north of that. Are you familiar with that? And the Sun Pike? So people, I think, should have known that all their lives and never heard of it!

[LAUGHTER.]

SR Can you tell me, maybe, a little bit about your fondest memories of your life here. It sounds as if your life with your mother and father here was—

GS We were very close, congenial group of children.

[17.49] My sister was only two years older than I and my two brothers, who were twins, were only eighteen months younger, and we didn't care whether we had—we *didn't* have any, except who might be living here. We had no close neighbors. [18.09] And there was no social life for children the way there is now, but we didn't care, we had a lot to do for the four of us.

Either the four would play together or, if we wanted to split up, there was all nice—the two girls played and the two boys played, so we got along beautifully.
[18.31]

SR Did you do a lot of work on the farm?

GS My sister and I helped in the house and the boys helped outside, as soon as they were big enough.
[18.41] Until they were big enough, my sister used to drive the horse on the horse fork. Have you ever seen a horse fork?

SR I don't think so.

GS This is when they loaded the loose hay. Now, I think probably Ken has torn it down, but at the time that the farm was sold the horse fork was still there.
[19.17] It's a rigging that runs along—that's an unusually large hay barn, high hay barn. It's an unusually high barn, because my great aunt, who owned the property at the time that farm was built, was thinking of the poor men up in the mow. [19.37] If you think it's hot here, you should be up and hauling away hay, up under the—

SR I know. That's about as high as you can get, up in a barn.

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

GS So she was going to have—and everybody said, “Well, you’ll never see this full of hay!” You know, it was too impossibly high, but it wasn’t. It had been, but the trolley the whole length of the ridge inside and then right at the center—there was a main hill, which we children thought was natural. Well, wasn’t it wonderful! There was that nice little hill leading up to the hay barn floor. [20.20] [SR LAUGHS.] And some of these barns didn’t even have a place you could drive in. And here you could, you drove right in, and with these mows on each side, and then this trolley came down and there was a thick rope, thick manila rope, and there was a double blade that you pounded into the hay and then there was this—a man should explain this better than I. [21.02] There were ropes leading from this that were hitched to a horse, who was led down the hill, and the horse power raised the jag of hay and it would be so big that you unloaded a whole load of hay in about four jags. [21.30] And the horse had to keep going until this mechanism had gotten up to the trolley and it clicked into it and then there was this single rope that my father pulled and that set the trolley over the mow. That was when

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

he pulled the rope and when he pulled the rope it released the blades and the hay dropped. [22.08]

SR And it was your aunt that—

GS My father's aunt. [22.12] My great-aunt. No, everybody—well, no, not everybody, but lots of barns had those horse forks. It was my great-aunt, who left the property to my father, which he had *deservedly* earned. [22.29] And it had the big barn, the high barn built.

SR That's a nice story.

GS My sister drove the horse. This was when the boys were too small. I was never allowed to drive the horse. [22.46] Then my sister and I, after grade school, we went on to high school in Granville and there were no buses to begin with. Now, this is a contrast. We walked to school. We walked a mile to school and thought nothing of it. [23.09] If the weather was particularly bad, somebody might take us. And in the wintertime, of course, there was all snow roads in those days, and they were all dirt roads. And my father always broke out the road from our house to the corner and he would hitch the heavy team to the wood rack, and I think there was some sort of—he might

of had a slanting board on the front bobs—and then he would _____ on and he would break the road out to the corner. And then he would pick up the children that lived where Hewlitts live and where {Chink} Brown lives and the next house. [24.16] I don't know who lives there now, but it's painted red, red and green.

SR Oh, it's a doctor. [24.22] I don't remember who the family is now.

GS Well, my father's sister lived there at that time. [24.28] And I can remember—now, the change in the road here, this bend before you get to the corner used to be very much more acute. It was about like this. We called it the "dugway." [24.51] You can see how it followed the contour of the hill. And just this side of the dugway, there was a wooden sign which said: "Speed limit! Horse at a walk. Automobiles: 8 miles an hour." [25.10] We've seen the old wooden sign that used to be over at {Spang's} house. I can remember when that sign was in that bend in the road. Now there isn't even, there isn't a perceptible bend there anymore. [25.28]

SR That's true. [LAUGHING.]

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

GS Well, anyway, all the out of town children that went to Granville got themselves there. We had a lot of students from West Pawlet that came on the train, you know. [25.45]

SR To Granville?

GS Mhm. At that time there were four passenger trains a day, two north and two south, and there was a northbound that got in, well, probably about 10:15 in the morning and the West Pawlet students, the train students, came on that. [26.20] There had to be eight periods in the day. I think, now, they don't have more than six.

SR I don't know. I don't know. Maybe they have—

GS But there were eight periods in the day, 40-minute periods, so there would be one from 9:00 'til 9:40, from 9:40 'til 10:20, and by that time the train students had got there. [26.54] They missed those first two periods. And then in the afternoon we were out at 3:40 and the train students had to leave, no matter. They couldn't be kept after school because their train left and so they had to run. The old school was where that little park is now, you know. [27.15] And they would have to run up to the station

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

to get on the—but we farm children drove. Howard Young and his brother and sister—no, not his brother, but his sister, Edith—they drove. [27.37] And we carried the milk! At that time, there was a shipping station in back of the Methodist Church. We called it the “Condensery,” because at one time the Borden Company had actually condensed milk there. [27.57] But it was no longer. They just shipped. It was still called—I guess Borden still owned it and we still called it the Condensery. [28.10] And a lot of the children that drove had to go and take care of their horse, feed it on the noon hour, but we didn’t. There was a livery stable right there on Church Street, just this side of the funeral home. [28.37] It’s a New York welfare lot, I think it is, and then it was a livery stable and all we had to do was to drive in and the stableman took over. And then when we got, came up at night, he would bring the horse up to us, so that—but we had to get home, we couldn’t stay. We couldn’t stay much for after-school activities because we had to get the milk cans home. [28.54] [SR LAUGHS.] And *cold!* I suffered from chill blains! Well, even before I went to Granville,

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

and then for four years, those terrible chill blains. You got it in an open _____, you know. And we wore long-johns, not woolen, cotton winter underwear and a woolen pair of bloomers and a woolen dress. [29.48] And then we had a heavy sweater and a coat and a hat and a scarf and mittens, but we *didn't* have woolen stockings or boots. We wore fleece-lined rubbers. [30.07] This is still in the days of high-laced shoes. And we had hand-warmers—odd pieces of, sundries of most anything that you could heat, sometimes stone, that were wrapped in a piece of flannel, for our hands. And you had a slab of marble, which my mother, I think she stuck it in the oven before she went to bed. [30.42] The kitchen fire didn't keep overnight, but my father built it before he went out to start milking at 5 o'clock in the morning, so that that marble was good and hot and it was wrapped in newspaper, and we had that for our feet, but that doesn't prevent chill blains. [31.04] As a matter of fact, it's rather bad for them.

SR What is chill blains? I don't know what you mean by that. Is it like being frost-bitten?

[PAUSE.]

GS Well, dear me, you'd better look it up in a medical book. [SR LAUGHS.] The toes are subjected to cold for so long and then they're warmed artificially and it makes them sore and red and very painful. [31.57] And if you get too hot in the afternoon, they would itch and burn and sting. In the mornings, it would be hard getting your shoes on. They would sort of swell overnight, so that it was painful putting your shoes on in the morning and so you hobbled around for a while and then they sort of got used to the confines. [32.22] And it wasn't 'til probably about 3 o'clock in the afternoon that they had gotten overheated and then the burning and itching and stinging started.

SR I've never heard of that. And once that starts it stays with you?

GS As long as your feet are subjected to that type of living. [32.41] Our best friend that lived where Walt {Ayres} now lives, who was a really thin girl, had chill blains. Hers even festered. [33.02] We never had that, but at home we used to put—I suppose we put {mentholene} on them, {Rawling's} ointment, and all that sort of thing. I don't know. We put something on them every night. [33.15] And that

helped 'em, but we had them as long as we drove to school, we had chill blains. I did, anyway, because my circulation was always rather poor. [33.31]

SR Well. Can you tell me anything that you *don't* like about the town now?

GS I don't want to be quoted. [HEARTY LAUGHTER.] No, I really, I'm not political at all. [33.54] And I'm not here enough, especially now. I'm only here for six months and I'm just an onlooker. [34.09] [SR LAUGHS.]

SR And do you want to tell me how long you went to school, a little bit about your schooling?

GS District school for the grades. [34.23] Actually, we started in at Braintree. It's interesting that the two schools that we went to are still extant as schools. [34.30] I mean, they haven't been converted into something else. Actually, Braintree, you know {how far they are}, is not our district. [34.47] The way the districts are drawn up, behind, right between these two houses, and the next belonged to North Pawlet and whoever lived here belonged to Braintree, so when my sister started school two years before I did, my mother got permission for her to go to

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

Braintree because there were children living in this house that she could go with. [35.10] She didn't have to walk alone to North Pawlet. You couldn't depend on meeting the other children from where Hewlitts now live. [35.22] And then two years later when I started school, I went to Braintree, but I didn't go to school in the winter until I was in the third grade because I had chronic bronchitis. [35.32] But I could read right before I went to school, my mother had—and I didn't get behind by missing all those months of school. [35.42] And in the winter of my second grade, the people that lived here that owned the mill moved to Granville and my sister went all alone. [35.57] By that time she was big enough. She was in the third grade. It didn't matter. And there might have been other children, somebody up on top of the hill here. There was a different house up here then. [36.05] And then in the spring when Art was able to go, we started over at North Pawlet, so we went to those two schools. And then I went to Granville and then I went to Middlebury College. [36.17]

SR Did you graduate from Middlebury?

GS Yes, in 1927. [36.22]

SR Okay.

GS And taught Spanish for two years. I majored in Spanish. [36.27]

SR Can you tell me a little about what types of work you've done?

GS Well, I taught for two years because that was the one thing that you could get without any further training.

[36.44] And I didn't like it, so then I took a business course and that was when I got to Fort Wayne.

[36.54] And then I worked as a stenographer, office work, off and on for seven years in John Wanamaker's

in New York. And after, I left there in June in 1929 and I never had a raise because [LAUGHS.] that killer

was the famous stock market crash and the start of the horrible Depression. [37.33] So my raises consisted

of deductions. And in 1936—I had quit once in between. Oh, I didn't work in the summers. [37.52]

I couldn't stand the heat, the heat in New York is terrible, and the only air-conditioned places then

were the movie houses, the big movie houses, but there's no way you can air condition the streets. And

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

after, from 1931, on, I finagled and got a leave of absence every summer, which was nice for me, but it didn't further my career any. [38.21] [SR LAUGHS.] So in 1933, I quit and I had saved up enough money, I went to Florida that winter, but by the next fall I was down to my last ten dollars and I couldn't find anything up here. [38.39] There was no work. This was in 1934 when the Depression wasn't over. So I went back to New York and, *temporarily*, went in to help them. [38.53] I was never a salesgirl. When you say a name like that, you think of sales work, but I never was that, it's always been in the office. I was in the Bureau of Adjustment--a stenographic bureau, and then the Bureau of Adjustment. [39.09] And I got hung up there and stayed there until 1936, and then I was just fed up and quit and came home, but I was home for about five months, I guess, and I got the job in Rochester, in an office in Rochester Plywood. [39.38] Have you ever been on that road?

SR No.

GS Oh, it's one of the most scenic trips in Vermont. [39.44] Up through Granville North? Have you ever been through Granville North?

SR No, I don't think so. [LAUGHS.]

GS Oh, my. It's a lovely trip. And while I was there I met the man I married and went to Burlington. [40.03] And so forth and so forth. [SR LAUGHS.]

SR Okay. What did you study at Middlebury?

GS I majored in Spanish and math. [40.13] It was *ridiculous* to require two majors. And my whole first year of Spanish, which was a double course _____. They didn't have Spanish in the high school then. [40.33] I started it there. So I was overloaded on Spanish courses to complete my major requirements. And I taught Spanish for two years. [40.48] I'd rather have taught math.

SR You liked math?

GS I did then. [LAUGHS.] I'm not very good at it now.

SR Do you have any hobbies?

GS No, I don't think so. I'm too decrepit now to have hobbies. [LAUGHTER.]

SR Can you tell me a little bit—how about your children? You have three children, is that correct?

GS Two children. [41.23]

SR Two children! I thought you had three. And what are their names?

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

GS I must say first that I had—I lost two pairs of twins.
[41.40] My son is {Gaylon} Randall South and he was
born January 15, 1943. [41.50] And he graduated from
Middlebury and went on. He had the top scholarship at
Middlebury and then he got a scholarship to the
University of Chicago. [42.04] He went to the
University of Chicago Law School. He also, while he
was at Middlebury—well, at the time that he went, he
went to Middlebury in the fall of '61 and ROTC was
compulsory at that time for two years and, if you
qualified and wanted to, you could go on and take it
all four years and graduate as a second lieutenant.
[42.35] And he did that, so that meant that he was
supposed—and between his junior and senior years, he
had to put in six weeks training down at Devans and
then as soon as he graduated they were supposed to,
they owed the Army two years of active duty. [42.59]
But he got a deferment because he had the scholarship
to law school. But as soon as he finished law school
he had to fulfill his ROTC requirement and so he spent
two years in the—he should have been in the Judge
Advocate General's department, but he was in the—
[SNAPS FINGERS.]—oh, boy—Adjutant! He was in the

Neil & Susanne Rappaport Project/VFC2004.0002

Adjutant General's department at Camp McCoy in Sparta, Wisconsin. [43.49] He was there from February '69 to '71, January of '71. And while he was still at law school he met the girl he later married. [44.12]

SR And where is he now?

GS He's still in Chicago. [44.18] Well, actually, they moved out to the suburbs there in Mount Prospect.

SR And is he a lawyer? Is he practicing the law?

GS He's a lawyer. [44.23] I thought I said that.

SR Maybe you did.

GS I'm not sure. I may have forgotten it.

SR And how about your daughter?

GS And my daughter was born November 20, 1946. [44.41] And after Granville High School, she got her Bachelor of Education at Castleton with credit and she taught for nearly ten years in Longfellow School in Rutland. [44.57] First grade. And she didn't finish off her tenth year because her baby was due in the next month. And she now lives in Ballston Spa and she has, beside the three-year old, the daughter who is three in March, she has a son who was born this past March, so. [45.27] And my *son* and his wife are expecting a son in *October*!

SR Oh. They're sure it's a son?

GS She had amniocentesis, so she knows. [45.38]

SR She knows. Terrific! [LAUGHING.]

GS *I'm* waiting to see. I'm not sure. It's still
doubtful about-- [LAUGHING.]

SR That's terrific.

GS But they say they can tell.

SR I guess. I think Bud Baker's wife had that done.
[45.54] I don't know. I don't know that much about
it.

GS Well, I didn't have the knowledge, but at first--
[46.07]

END TAPE 1, SIDE A

START TAPE 1, SIDE B

SR [.06] --Now, do any other members of your family live
in Pawlet now?

GS No.

SR Okay.

GS No, they're all gone. [.10] There's no one left in
that name, with that name is dead.

SR I didn't realize you were a {Hitt}. [.17] I've heard
that name, but I didn't--

GS No, most people have never heard it.

SR No, I have heard it and I don't know whether—perhaps Jennifer Hewlitt mentioned that you were a Hitt because the name, as soon as you said the name, it rang a bell and I didn't really realize that you were a Hitt until you just said it and then I—someone has mentioned that.

GS My brother's both died, one at the age of twenty-three and he had never married, and my other brother died just almost twenty years later and he left a daughter, so there's no one, there's no one living here. [.56] And my sister had two sons out in—she went to California and, of course, they don't have the name of Hitt.

SR Do you own property in the town?

GS Yes, this place here. [1.19] Actually, I have already deeded it to my children, but I don't want that to—

SR It doesn't matter. We can erase that. [1.29]
[LAUGHING.]

GS Okay. [LAUGHING.]

SR Do you feel strongly about any of the natural or manmade features of the land in Pawlet? Is there

anything that you particularly like about what you see?

GS Well, I'm very partial to mountains. [1.47] I love mountains.

SR Most people who live in Pawlet, we're discovering, are very partial to mountains. I think this is a very beautiful area.

GS That winter that I was in Fort Wayne I just couldn't stand that flat land! [2.07] I was so happy the next May when I even got to the middle of New York State and began to see some rolling hills. And from here to Ballston Spa, regular mountains. It's pretty country, but I like to have a background of mountains. [2.34]

SR The nice thing about Pawlet is that it has a valley on the other side, really, and then more mountains, I think, on this side, so you have kind of *both* within a very small area. [2.48]

GS Yes.

SR Which I think is wonderful. One more question: do you have any comments that you'd like to make or any visions about the future of the town, like Pawlet?

GS Well, I'm not competent to comment on that at all.

SR Okay. I think we have everything then.

GS I think so.

SR Good, good. Let me shut the tape recorder off. I'm
going to have to run, I'm afraid, today.-- [3.30]

END TAPE 1, SIDE B

END TRANSCRIPTION