

Daisy Wetherby/TC2004.3035
Neil & Suzanne Rappaport Collection/VFC2004.0002

SR Suzanne Rappaport
DW Daisy Wetherby
Place Pawlet, VT
Date 03/15/1982

TAPE 1, SIDE A

SR [.19] --Okay. Now, would you like to start by just
telling me your full name.

DW Daisy Elizabeth Wetherby. [.26]

SR Okay. And would you also tell me your husband's full
name?

DW Clarence Wetherby. [.33]

SR Okay. I don't think there's any question about
spelling on those names.

DW You said you spelled it: W E T H E R B Y ?

SR Right. Okay. And Clarence is: C L A R E N C E ?
And Daisy is-

DW D A I S Y .

SR Okay. And Elizabeth is with a "z"?

DW Yes.

SR Okay, fine. Now, would you give me the date of your
birth?

DW April 23, 1914. [1.05]

SR Okay. And your husband's?

DW August 16, 1910. [1.09]

SR Okay, good. Now, we're gonna go—I want to go through the next series of questions and first let's just go through them talking about yourself and your own family and then we'll go back and we'll go through them again and you can tell me anything you'd like me to know about your husband's family. Okay. Now, can you tell me where you were born?

DW In Rupert. [1.31]

SR And when did you come to Pawlet? Can you just tell me a little bit about how you ended up in Pawlet?

DW Well, when my father died I was five years old and then Blanchard Hall up on Junior Mason Farm took me and brought me up. [1.54] And so I've been around Pawlet ever since I was five years old.

SR Can you tell me where you've lived in the town?

DW Oh! [SIGHS.]

SR Have you lived in a lot of different places?

DW [LAUGHS.] Well, we lived way up on top of the hill up here and worked for Mrs. Hayes when she run the farm up here. [2.21]

SR On Rupert Mountain?

DW Ayeh. And then we lived up by the {Locker} for a while and then we lived over near where {Muriel Skelly} lives. [2.36] We were there for two years. And it isn't in Pawlet, it's in North Rupert. And we lived at Eastman {Rook's} place before we moved up here. [2.53] And we've been here thirty-one years, this month.

SR So all the places you've just mentioned where you've lived, you lived with your husband, after you were married?

DW Yes.

SR You were basically brought up at the one place.

DW Yes, and-

SR And where was that that you came to live when you were five?

DW Blanchard Hall. [3.16] He run the farm where Junior Mason, Fred Mason Jr. lives.

SR Okay. Now, can you tell me a little bit about your parents? What were their names?

DW My father's name was Charles White and my mother's name was Ida White. [3.39] And they both-

SR Where did they come from?

DW From Rupert. [3.48]

SR They were both born in Rupert?

DW No. I don't know where they were born because I don't remember—you know, I don't remember that much and I never knew that much about—

SR Can you tell me what they did? Your father—

DW Well, he was working sawmill work. [4.04] And she was just a housewife. [LAUGHS.]

SR And they both died when you were very young?

DW Yes. Yes.

SR Did they die at the same time or—

DW No. No, my father died when I was five and he died the day I was taken up to Hall's. [4.29]

SR And then your mother died shortly thereafter?

DW Well, it was a while afterwards. [4.34]

SR But she didn't come with you to Hall's?

DW Oh, no. No.

SR And how many brothers and sisters do you have?

DW I have two sisters. [4.44]

SR And are they both still living?

DW No. My older sister died, oh, five years ago. [4.50]
And my sister next to me is still living and she lives in Ballston Spa, New York. [4.57]

SR Okay. Can you tell me their names?

DW Polly White is my older sister and she married a Lewis. [5.12] And my other sister is Louise White and then she married a Bush. [5.17]

SR And, let's see, where—Polly, where did Polly live before she died?

DW Well, in Burlington. [5.24] That was where she lived when she died.

SR Okay. Were you married in Pawlet?

DW No, in Danby. [5.36]

SR In Danby. Okay. Now, let's go back before we continue and go through these questions again and you can tell me a little bit about your husband. Okay? Where was he born?

DW Shrewsbury, Vermont. [5.51]

SR Shrewsbury, Vermont. And when did he come to Pawlet?

DW Well, when we were married. [LAUGHING.] He lived in Danby 'til then.

SR Okay.

DW He lived at Danby Four Corners, his folks' there.

SR Can you tell me anything about his parents?

DW Well, his mother's name was Charity Wetherby and his father's name was Newton Wetherby. [6.18]

SR Yeah. And what did his father do?

DW And his father was a farmer and his mother did just household work and worked on the farm. [6.30]

SR Okay. Do you have any idea where they came from?

DW Well, they lived in—his mother's folks lived in Scottsville, but I don't know where his—I think his father was from Danby. [6.49]

SR That's going pretty far back. [LAUGHS.]

DW Yes. I think it's where the—

SR Okay. And how many brothers and sisters did—

DW Well, he had three sisters and seven brothers. [7.07]

SR Big family.

DW Yes. But he has only two sisters and three brothers still living. [7.17]

SR Do they live in this area or—

DW Well, one sister lives in Glens Falls, New York, and his other sister lives in East Dorset. [7.30] And one brother lives Whitehall, New York; one brother in Fair Haven, Vermont; and one brother in Rutland, Vermont.

SR Okay. All right. I think that's everything in that question. Now, when you were married, you were married in Danby and then you both came, you took up living here in Pawlet.

DW Yes.

SR Okay. Now let me just check back through. Okay. I think we can go now 'cause the next section—can you just tell me a little bit about how the town has changed since you've lived here?

DW Well, I moved here thirty-one years, March 1. [8.31]

SR In this house?

DW Yes. And, well, the Station Restaurant has been put in since—it was moved from Wallingford over here.

[8.46] And then the store was torn down, Vernon Young's store was torn down since we been here, and that was the other side of {Mack's} Market. And they torn down the gristmill since we've lived here.

[9.11] And they changed—oh, Carl {Robison} blacksmith shop into a locker, food locker. And Methodist Church went down since we've been here. [LAUGHS.] [9.26]

And I guess that's—they changed the barn over here into a restaurant. It was a cow barn, a horse barn when we come here. [LAUGHING.] And now they've turned it into a restaurant. And I guess that's about all that-- [LAUGHS.]

SR Can you tell me a little bit about how you came to buy this house or how you came to this house?

DW Well, the {Culvers} owned it, Ronnie Culver? [10.03]
And his folks owned it for years and he wanted to get
rid of it. And I always liked the place. [LAUGHS.]

SR It's a beautiful house. It's a quite old house, isn't
it?

DW Oh, yes. It's one of the oldest in Pawlet. [10.13]

SR Is it?

DW It's nearly two hundred years old. [10.16]

SR Now was this house here when the hotel was here?

DW Yes. And they used it for their help. [10.25] They
said that at one time the help stayed here and they
lived in the--and they worked in the hotel.

SR That was something I wondered about because it's very
hard to tell from the old photographs of the hotel
whether this house was actually here when--

DW It was built way out farther, too. [10.40] It went
way out quite a ways farther. There was a lot more to
it, but the Culvers kept tearing it down and that's
why-- [LAUGHING.]

SR So when you bought it, it was pretty much as it is--

DW As it is now.

SR --as it is now, uhuh.

DW We built the garage out here, but, otherwise, it's the same. [LAUGHS.] [11.01] And we tore down the porch. It was all falling down and we tore the porch off.

SR Okay. Can you tell me what your fondest memories are of your life in Pawlet? That's kind of a large—that's a large question.

DW Yes. It's just that we have such wonderful friends and neighbors. [LAUGHS.] [11.26]

SR It sounds like—that's another answer to that question that I get quite a bit, particularly from people who have lived in the town for a long time.

DW Yes, we have wonderful neighbors and friends. But I can't think of, you know, no certain thing that—

SR Do you like living next to the school?

DW Yes, I enjoyed it because I love children so. [11.55]
[LAUGHS.] Yeah, I've always liked the children and--

SR Well, now, when your children were young—

DW --I worked down there, too, for about—well, off and on, for twelve years. [12.08] I cooked out—I brought hot lunches, so I really enjoyed that.

SR And when you had your children, of course, they just went—this was the school then, when your children were—

DW Well, my youngest boy went here, but my oldest boy was all out. And because there was eleven years between them. [LAUGHING.] [12.24]

SR Okay. Well, we'll get to that, to those questions. Is there anything that you don't like about the town, in particular? I mean, just-

DW No, I can't think of anything.

SR You've pretty much enjoyed your life here?

DW Yes. The only thing is they don't have anything for the younger people for entertainment, to keep the younger people here. [12.47] That's the only thing.

SR Yes, one of the things that Neil and I have, you know, kind of observed, talking to people, is that a lot of the older organizations, such as the Grange and things like that, have really been drastically reduced over the past twenty years and there really hasn't been that much established to replace that in the town. And I think the group of people in the town that suffer the most are the younger generation. [13.21]

DW Yes, I think so, too, because there's nothing to hold them around here--no work, no entertainment or anything for them to enjoy, you know, to hold 'em here. [13.35] [LAUGHS.]

SR Right. Okay. Let's see, can you tell me a little bit about your schooling?

DW Well, I went to the one-year high and they were having—and they had two-years high down here when I went. [13.54] And I went the last year that they had high school down here, but I didn't go on to Granville, to that.

SR Okay. So, let's see, how old were you then, when you went to school?

DW I was, oh, fifteen, I think. [14.08]

SR Fifteen. And how about your husband?

DW He went through the eighth grade. [14.14] He took the eighth grade two years because he couldn't go on to high school. [LAUGHS.] So. He passed, though, you know. I mean, just wanted to go another year because he couldn't go to high school. [14.29]

SR Okay. Can you tell me a little bit about the types of things you've done, in terms of work? You mentioned that you cooked hot lunches.

DW That's about the only thing, outside of the housework. [14.45] [LAUGHS.]

SR And that was for twelve years you did that?

DW Well, off and on at different times. [14.51] You know, I never steady, not every year steady.

SR And did you work here at this school?

DW Yes.

SR Not in West Pawlet, just this school?

DW No, just this one. [14.59]

SR Just at this school. Okay. And do you want to tell me a little bit about your husband and what he—

DW Well, he worked at J.K. Adams in South Dorset. [15.14] He worked down there, let's see, sixteen years. And before that he farmed most of his life, 'til he went down there.

SR And what farms did he—

DW Well, he worked for Robert E. Mason, he worked for Junior Mason, and, oh, then he worked for Eastman Rook down there to East Rupert. [15.44]

SR So there was a brief time when you didn't live in Pawlet?

DW Well, it was—our mail come Pawlet, just the same, see. [15.49] [LAUGHS.]

SR You weren't very far.

DW Outside of it. And then he worked up here for Mrs. Hayes, after her husband died. [16.00] And I can't—

oh, and he worked for James Leach. We lived down there. [16.10] We've moved so much I can't remember.

[LAUGHING.]

SR Yes. It's interesting, I found quite a few people who have lived, you know, just in a lot of different places around—you know, right within the town, but in a—

DW Well, we lived in Granville for a little while and my husband worked on _____ Street there on a farm. [16.37] It's all built up now with houses, but it was for Walt {Raffman} over there, but we weren't there only about a year—oh, I don't know whether he was there a year. And then we moved to, over to Pittsfield, Vermont, and he run a farm over there himself for about a year. [16.57] But most of the time we've been right around here. [LAUGHS.]

SR And what type of work did he do at J.K. Adams?

DW Oh, woodworking. [17.05] It was woodworking.

SR And then he worked for the road crew here for a little while.

DW Yes, he worked just one—well, it was one summer, just during the summer that was. [17.19] Yeah. For the state.

SR Right. Right. Any other types of work that either of you have been involved with?

DW Well, he worked up to Williams' in Poultney for a while, before he went to J.K. Adams. [17.36]

SR Doing machine work?

DW Yes. Went around the farms and put machinery together for—you know, machinery that people bought. [17.46]
But he stayed there about a year, I think it was.
[LAUGHS.]

SR Did you like living on a farm?

DW Well, I liked it all right, but, I don't know, I like it here better. [LAUGHING.] [18.01]

SR Do you?

DW Yes.

SR How about hobbies? Do you have any hobbies?

DW Well, I just make quilts and do _____ and things like that. [18.15] That's about—

SR Uhuh. Do you still do that?

DW Yes, I've been working on quilts this winter, on one.

SR Oh, that's wonderful.

[VOICE-OVER.]

DW It's just _____.

SR How did you learn to do that?

DW Well, our Ladies' Aid, you know, they, when they had the Congregational Ladies' Aid up here. [18.42] And, of course, there were two different—the Methodists and the {Congo} going. My mother-in-law always went to the Congo, so that's why I guess I started going to it. [LAUGHING.] And we always have made quilts and that's how I learned how. [18.59] You know, mostly from—

SR Do you do all the work by hand or—

DW Yes.

SR You do? I'd love to see, when we're done, I'd love to see the one you're working on now.

DW [LAUGHS.] Well, I haven't got too much of this one done. I've been doing it—I switch off from one to the other. [19.15]

SR To the other.

DW Yes. I have one upstairs. It's a {Tumbler} quilt that I made—done quite a while. [19.22] My husband was—I give most of 'em away, but, for presents, but he wanted me to keep one, so I kept the Tumbler one.

SR Did he have any hobbies that were important to him?

DW Well, he liked the woodworking. [19.42] You know, making different things, when he had time, but he

never had too much time when he worked on the farm and worked down there, so.

SR Okay. Now, do you want to tell me a little bit more about your children? How many children did you have?

DW Two. [20.02]

SR Okay. And it sounds like they were both boys?

DW Yes. [LAUGHS.] And the oldest one's name is Blanchard. [20.12]

SR Do you want to spell that for me, just in case.

DW B L A N C H A R D .

SR Okay, that's simple enough.

DW Blanchard Wetherby. And he's--

SR When was he born?

DW He was born in 1932, November 5. [20.27] And he's forty-nine years old now.

SR And is he the one that works for the Immigration--

DW Yes.

SR --Department at Rouse's Point?

DW Mhm. He works at Immigration. And my other boy was born December 1, 1943, and his name is Clarence Wetherby Jr. [21.00]

SR And where is he now?

DW And he's in Rutland. [21.03]

SR In Rutland.

DW Yes. He was in Brandon a long time at the training school. [21.11] And, well, he's an epileptic and he got so we just couldn't—I couldn't cope with it at home because he got so unruly. We had to do something, so—but he went up there when he was seventeen. [21.34] And now he's in Rutland at—they call 'em {Mini-Brandon Training Schools}. There's six of the boys there in this place and then they have a couple that takes care of them. [21.49] And they work out, you know, during the day. And it's just like a home away from home. [LAUGHING.]

SR What type of work is he able to do?

DW Well, it's in the former GE. [22.03] It's something that started, that GE has, and the boys do. And they go every morning and work 'til—well, about 2:30.

SR And then come back?

DW Yes.

SR Good. That's nice.

DW And he lives on Stratton Road, near the hospital.
[22.22]

SR Do you see him?

DW Yes. Yes, he comes home like at Easter and Christmas and like that. But, 'course, now I don't drive, so I have to depend on them to bring him down. [22.39]

SR Right, right. Did you used to drive?

DW No, I never have. [22.41]

SR You never have?

DW No. That's what makes it hard now. [LAUGHS.]

SR Do friends take you now shopping and-

DW Yes. _____ takes me. And Judy over here takes me.

SR Yes, Judy's very nice. I like Judy a lot. And, now, your oldest boy, he has a family?

DW Yes. Well, he has just the one girl. [23.09] And then she was married and has just the one boy.

SR Spreading out gradually.

DW They live in Rouse's Point, too. [23.17] My granddaughter.

SR Okay. I guess that's clear in that section. Are there any other members of your family living in Pawlet or West Pawlet now?

DW No, no. My husband's niece lives in West Pawlet- {Kerry}? [23.40] I don't know whether you-

SR Oh, yes! I think Neil just took their picture yesterday. [23.49] _____.

DW Well, he's—

SR They live right on the corner of New Street and Church Street. [23.57]

DW Just right before you get to the school.

SR Right. He just took their picture yesterday.

DW They've got, let's see, it's four, I think, children.
[24.05]

SR Now let's see, if she was—

DW Oh, her father and my husband were brothers. [24.18]

SR Okay. Do you like the landscape around Pawlet? I mean, do you like living in the country?

DW Yes, very much.

SR Have you ever been in a city or—

DW No, I don't think I would like it. [24.36]

SR Did you ever travel at all away from—I mean, go on trips away from Pawlet?

DW Well, we've been to Florida a couple of times.
[24.44] And we went to Boston. We took our youngest boy down to the Children's Hospital down there, but I don't like to down there at all. [LAUGHS.]

SR But you never spent very much time in a city?

DW No, no.

SR We find most people that live in Pawlet really like the country here very much. I think Pawlet's a very beautiful—even in Vermont, I think Pawlet is one of the prettiest places.

DW Yes, I think it was. I never lived much in any other place.

SR Can you make any comments about what you think about the future of the town? Do you think it will pretty much stay the same or—you seem—I mean, one of the problems, obviously, in a town like Pawlet, is that it can't any longer supply enough work to keep its young people here. [25.43]

DW No.

SR That's one of the reasons why you get a large influx of *new* people and you *lose* a lot of the children that were born here because there really isn't enough work to keep—

DW That's what I think. That's true, that they just have to go somewhere else to find the work, to make a living. [26.01]

SR Do you think that's gonna change the town a lot in the future?

DW I don't know, only, unless it keeps bringing new people in, that's all, you know. A lot of the city people are moving back to the country again. [26.24]

SR Yeah. I think that's even since—I mean, Neil and I have only lived in Pawlet for, well, a little under fifteen years, but even since we've come here there've been an enormous change in the, you know, in the town. [26.37] There weren't many newcomers when we came, but now there's just an incredible.

DW And they're building everywhere—in the pastures and every, and meadows and everywhere. [26.48] Like up by Paul {Baker's} place, where John {Angless}, you know, moved up there first, then built. And now I don't know how many there is up in there. And there must be twelve, fifteen houses up there, just new people living. [27.08] [LAUGHING.]

SR Do you have any other comments you'd like to make about the future?

DW No.

SR Or about the town?

DW Can't think of anything. [LAUGHING.]

SR Okay. Fine. Well, let me just go back through and make sure that I've asked you all the things that I-- sometimes I forget.

DW You didn't ask about how many acres.

SR Oh, yes! That's right. Do you own any property?

DW No, just--there's about an acre. [27.35]

SR That the house is on.

DW It's so small, it'll last _____ does. And that's all, you know. We own it. [27.46] We've owned it for thirty-one years.

SR Okay. Let's see.

[PAUSE WHILE SR FLIPS THROUGH PAPERS.]

SR I think we've got everything. That's great. Well, let me shut off the tape recorder.-- [28.24]

END TAPE 1, SIDE A

END TRANSCRIPTION