

Spotsylvania Preservation Foundation, Inc.

Oral History Project

Transcript of Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hilldrup



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This is Christine Walsh from the Spotsylvania Preservation Foundation. I'm here with Anne and Gordon Hilldrup. I'm at their Spotsylvania home. Today is Sunday, April the second, 2000. And I would like to start an interview with Gordon. So, Gordon. Thank you for seeing me.

Mr. You're welcome.

And also, I would just like to go back in time and find out about your family.

Mr. How far do you want to go back?

As far back as you would like to go back.

Mr. Well, Daddy and Mother bought this place in 1918. Moved here.

Mrs. As a bride and groom.

Mr. As a Bride and groom. And I was born in '20, May of '20. And been here ever since.

Have one sister, four years older, that died this year, in February, buried in the Confederate Cemetery. That's all of us.

Mrs. You mean 4 years younger.

Mr. Yes, 4 years younger, I said. Died this year. Buried in the Confederate Cemetery. That leaves me, her, and two sons, two grandchildren.

And what are your sons' names?

Mr. Ned Hilldrup, he's a junior, goes by the name Ned. That was his granddaddy's name, was Ned. Which I called him Ned. And the other boy's James W. Hilldrup. He's a lawyer here in the county.

And your grandchildren?

Mr. We got ...

Mrs. Jimmy has two children.

Mr. Jimmy has two children. James Willis Hilldrup, Jr., and Marianna Hilldrup, a little girl.

She's in the kindergarten. He's graduating from Chancellor this year.

That's exciting. Would you like to tell us about your parents and their parents? Do you have anything you can add? You know, any stories you can tell us?

Mr. About my grandparents?

Yes.

Mr. I know a very little bit about my grandparents on my Daddy's side. I can remember my Grandmother, but that's all. I don't know whether I was six or seven years

old when she died. I don't ever remember my Granddaddy on my Daddy's side because he came out of the service and died as a young man.

And what can you tell us about your parents?

Mr. About my parents?

Yes.

Mr. Well, they came here, as she said, as a bride and groom. Bought this place and they started the dairy on it. And my Daddy passed in '68, but I took it over in '60, I think it was. Maybe from back in the '50's. I can't answer your question there. And Iran it from then on up until after he passed away and up until ... what was it? '60? '78 when we closed the dairy? I think that was right there. Closed the dairy in '78. I been up at the farm for 50 years at three o'clock in the morning. I though that was enough.

Long hours.

Mr. Long hours. That's right. Didn't make no difference if it rained, hailed, snow or what...

Mrs. You went into the business with your Daddy when you finished high school.

Mr. Yeah, but I took it ... him and I went together as soon as I finished high school. I finished high school when I was 17 years old. I went in business with him.

And which high school did you go to?

Mr. The old one down here on the... where the ... see, at that time there were 4 high schools in the county. The one in Chancellor, one in Robert E. Lee, one in Marye, one in Belmont. I went to Chancellor, that's just down the road here three miles.

Mrs. It's the Chancellor Community Center now.

What are your memories of your school years?

Mr. We went to school didn't care whether it was cold, snow, hot. Go there and sit all day and never get warm. Temperature never get above freezing in the school and if the snow is knee deep you got in the roads and went to school. Got there the best way you could.

They never closed the schools in those days.

And what about your summer holidays?

Mr. Summer holidays? I didn't know there was such a thing as a holiday.

No? there was no vacation?

Mr. Nope.

School was all year?

Mr. School has a vacation, but the holiday for us, when we came out of school there was a job always on the place waiting for you to work, And so, tell me about your friends in the area and your school teachers. Is there anything you can...

Mr. Better not talk. I can't complain about them. I'd rather not.

Mrs. You had some good teachers.

Mr. I had some good teachers, don't get me wrong. In those days didn't anybody teach in a class but a single person. You didn't have a married person in the class teaching.

Mrs. Or one that was pregnant.

Mr. No, sir. We didn't have everyone had to be single. Now they did have a man. The principal a lot of times was married, but as a teacher we only had single women teaching.

So do you recall any of their names? Of your teachers? Does anybody stand out more than another one?

Mr. I don't know how to tell you the answer to that question. They all were good teachers, I'll put it that way.

So, you think you got a good education?

Mr. If you didn't get it, it wasn't the teacher's fault. Was your fault.

It was your fault. Did you have homework?

Mr. Homework?

Like the kids do today.

Mr. Kids don't know what homework is! Kids don't know what homework is! We had the homework-, plus.

Which meant more time? Studying?

Mr. You had to do a lot of homework at night when you came home. Before you went back to school. You better not go back to school not doing any homework either. Teacher had you stay in at recess and do it.

So, tell me about growing up in Spotsylvania County. Your memories...

Mr. Well, it's just a group of people from this neighborhood that grew up together. We were raised together. Whenever one coming in the community ... one did, the others of us all did together. And most of the times, ten o'clock, everybody just said, "time to got to bed. " Go home and go to bed. There wasn't running around and just going out at ten or twelve o'clock every night. Starting out for the night.

What did you do for social activities?

Mr. Well, the church a lot of times had some things for us to do. And the school things. In other words, the neighborhood the social. Winter time when ice kate like that. Sleigh ride on the hills, get snow. I don't know...

Tell me about you going on horse down Rt. 3. I think that's fascinating. Rt. 3 today.

Mr. Where'd you get that idea? Somebody's been talking. We used to ride horses to Fredericksburg at night. The three of us boys used to ride horses to Fredericksburg.

And how long did it take you to get to.... what are you, about 10 miles from Fredericksburg here?

Mr. That's right.

And so how lot would it take you on horseback?

Mr. Most times we left here and would be in town in an hour.

In an hour. And what was your horse's name?

Mr. Which one?

Oh, you had several.

Mr. I had several horses.

Mrs. You used to work 'em.

Mr. You see, we used to workhorses a lot. I had one horse that I worked
And I come in and I'd pull the harness off of her and curry her down, throw feed in a
box. And through my supper, I went by the
stables, threw the saddle on her and we rode to town. There was no gas for cars. Were no
cars on the road. We'd go to town.
Before she came down there we used to ride around the college. But never done much of
that. Got the back when she was on the...

And this is where you met Anne? Anne was in college...

Mr. With my sister and they roomed together

Roomed together. That's interesting.

Mrs. But he wasn't riding horseback then.

Mr. I didn't ride to town. I rode around here. I rode around here until 1990
when I had to have my hip replaced And the doctor up there, he told me,he says "I advise
you not
to do to much climbing in the saddle, throwing your leg over the horse for awhile. "
Well...

That must have been hard giving up your...

Mr. I had two nice Tennessee mares here. And I worked out here after two or
three different times, I come out here one day, and I said, "Anne, they
gotta go. I can't stand seeing 'em around the barn and I don't get any
benefit out of 'em. " And I sold 'em.

That must have been hard.

Mr. Yeah, it was hard. The man came here to get 'em, he says, " Well, I'll
go get " I said, "No. " I went down there in the stall, put halters on both of them, and led
her out. Went up to the truck where he loaded 'em. I opened the door said, "Mare, go on
in there. " And the other mare, I led her up. And I said, "Now you tie 'em, they
standing here in the stall. " And he come up there and tied 'em. So, I loaded 'em up
myself for
them to go.

That's something.

Mr. I been riding horses ever since I was five or six years old. My Daddy
worked horses. I rode horses to the field. Id crawl off one onto the other
while he's working corn, this and that, whatever he was doing.

So, you enjoyed being a country boy?

Mr. Yeah.

Wide open spaces.

Mr. That's right. I could tell you everybody lived from here to Fredericksburg on both sides of that road at that time.

Now where did you do your shopping, then?

Mr. Fredericksburg. But I could tell you every house and everybody lived in it, from here to Fredericksburg and from here back up towards Stafford. And pretty near everybody, I won't say everybody, wasn't many houses there at Spotsylvania Courthouse I didn't know. And around the Courthouse.

Times have certainly changed, haven't they? Not for the better, I'm sure.

Mrs. Well, there're some good things.

Mr. Yeah.

And so, tell me about your ... so, I understand that the women from the college ... there was a flood... there was a bad flood in 1942 and those women helped a great deal with that flood. Can you tell me how that came about?

Mr. At that time Mary Washington had a riding club.

Mrs. Well, the girls took riding as a class.

Mr. The girls took riding lessons as a class. And they had horses and all down there in the ... that was at one of their classes. And when Fredericksburg flooded they went down there and helped to chaperone ... not chaperone, what's the word ... patrol. Keep people from stealing everything out the stores. They were on horses. Because, seethe horses could wade in the water. Deep. A lot of horses got in the water. At a lot of places down there, they were swimming. The girls on their backs. The girls thought they'd see a good time but wasn't as good a time as it looked like. That's what it did then... then a few... how long after that, Honey? Before they did away with the riding?

Mrs. I don't know, wasn't too many years after that they ... the college really had rented stables. The man had horses and they rented them. And they were out here off of on Rt. 3, sort of in behind...

Mr. Right behind Shoney's.

Mrs. I was going to say in behind Shoney's. They called it Oak Hill Stables. And the college had a contract with the man that owned the horses and all. And they had an instructor that taught the girls that wanted to take riding. And they had a ... they formed a group which was called the College Cavalry and the girls had uniforms that they dressed in. And they were the ones that went down and did the patrolling down in the city during the flood That was my freshman year at Mary Washington.

And how many students did they have at that time at Mary Washington, do you know?

Mrs. Gee, I don't know. When I graduated in '46 there were only a little over two hundred in our graduating class, and that was a big graduating class at that time, but I really don't know.

Mr. It was pretty close to a thousand by the time you get the first group in and the second, before they start dropping out.

Well, that's certainly a pretty college

Mrs. And there's a lot that's been added since I left there.

And now it's coed.

Mrs. Yeah, and it was not then.

Mr. My mother went there the first year it opened.

Oh, really? She have any ... did she tell you anything about those years?

Mr. No, she just went there. The went for three or four years and then she taught school for five years.

Mrs. Over here at Chancellor.

Mr. Over here at Chancellor before she and Daddy was married.

Mrs. That's where he met her. 'Cause when you live from one district, county, to another. People weren't mobile like they are now. And when you lived over at Spotsylvania Courthouse, and over here you were a long ways away from home. 'Cause most everybody had to go by horseback or something. There weren't that many cars. I've heard his Daddy tell that he got one of the cars over here. And he went to town and bought it. And the man brought him right out there where ... about where Carroll Memorials,

you know where that is that sells tombstones right as you come out of William Street? Brought him out there and said, "Now, here it is you take it and drive it home. " And he didn't know anything about driving, 'cause there weren't that many cars on the road. He said, "I got it home. " And then said he would come and see his mother from where she boarding. 'Cause back in those days families boarded teachers, you know. They have room and board and then they'd teaching. And he said "I didn't dare take her anywhere that I had to back out of because I didn't know how to back it. "

It sounds like a fun time. Like you said, there wasn't much traffic on the road so you could take chances like that.

Mrs. I forget ... we've got the tag for it. I think he paid seven hundred and some dollars for the car. Ha! 1917, I think is when he bought it. A Ford. What was it called? Ford Runabout? Something like that. But anyway.

So, now we need to go on with your community activities. Because I understand you were quite involved in the area with your volunteer firemen, Chancellor volunteer firemen?

Mr. Yeah.

Not only that, but I think you need to tell everybody that...

Mr. People don't have ... everybody don't have...

Mrs. Oh, go on!

Mr. Well, I was one of the original ones who started the volunteer firemen.

At Chancellor?

Mr. At Chancellor down here. I reckon I was one of the first officers in it. I don't think there are but two around here left now from when we started it. Then we started the Ruritan Club. I was in the Ruritan Club and got that ... helped get that going. I did 4-H work in the county. All-Star work. That's what you call a state organization. If you meet certain things you can qualify for member in the All-Stars. Then, I've worked with a lot of the county organizations, the All-Star and 4-H clubs, went from one to the other in the community. Then I got hooked up in the school system. I think I was seventeen years on that board. Trying to satisfy who should be and who shouldn't be on the school board.

Mrs. School electoral board.

Mr. I was on the school electoral board. That was before when the judge appointed different ones to serve. And then they decided the county wanted to vote on their own. I think it was about the second year they ... some of them wondered if it was done right or not. I told them it relieved me. What went wrong from then on wasn't my question.

Mrs. Wasn't your fault, was it?

Mr. No.

And then, going back to you being a volunteer fireman, did you put out many fires?

Mr. Well, it's hard to tell. Sometimes we'd go weeks at a time wouldn't have over one or two, and first thing you know you'd get two or three at one time. We didn't have all the fancy equipment they got now. We had a... I call it raincoat, but was a fireproof jacket or coat and a pair of gum boots and a hat. That's all we had. We didn't have nothing else. No gloves or glasses or that sort of stuff at all. When we organized and started it.

Were there many tragedies that you...

Mr. Ruritan Club? That kind of a civic organization is set out by four or five different parts of the people in the county. Some need to be farmers, some got to be commercial people, some need to be professional. They all work together to raise money to help people that are in need and benefit and things like that. And we give a lot of money away to the fire department, rescue units, that sort of thing, then we help a lot of individuals that had burn outs and things like that. Give 'em money to help, give 'em food or something until they can do better, and I don't know, there're a lot of different organizations

Mrs. Give some money to the schools

Mr. Oh yeah, give some money to the schools for different things. I don't know it's just a community ... a non-profit... we raised money and give it. The trouble is they give away more than they raise sometimes if they don't watch out. And we had two projects a year. We sell fruit in December from Florida. Oranges, tangerines, grapes and pecans from Georgia. And we get apples from the mountains and bring 'em. That's in December. And in February we sell fruit again. That's the only two big raising projects. And people in the neighborhood, we pay 'em every month to serve a meal for 'em.

You sound like you do a lot of good work.

Mr. Trying to.

A lot of good work

Mrs. Another thing is, they rent the building. They built their own building and they rent their building. Rent it very reasonably for fifty dollars. And I don't know anywhere you can rent a...

That is ...

Mrs. That's from morning until 11:00 o'clock at night. And then for civic organizations and churches that want to use it for their meetings and all, they don't charge 'em anything. Like 4-H clubs or...

Mr. But now, if any organization wants to come there to raise money, for a money-raising project, then they pay for it. We charge them fifty dollars for the use of it. But if they want the thing ... like these different sub-divisions all meet once a month or ... all they ask- them to do is unlock, cut the lights out and clean up whatever mess they make.

Sounds like a good deal to me. But getting back to you being a volunteer fireman, did you have many tragedies?

Mr. No. At that time we had a very few tragedies. We had a lot of homes we lost some homes, but not, not any person or anybody I know of that was really we had a couple of older people lost their home and I don't think they ever got over it. But that's not exactly a tragedy. I don't know how you classify that.

Mrs. Well, it's a tragedy, but not a tragedy to the ... as far as the firemen themselves didn't get hurt or anything like that.

Was this because of neglect on people's parts ... was it fire ... I mean it started in the home was it like stove fires or...

Mr. You know, I couldn't tell you right now what they were to save my life.

O.K.

Mr. A lot of them were started because they used a lot of wood in that time. Lot of them from wood stoves, a lot of them from fireplaces.

Mrs. Some of it was carelessness.

Mr. Yes.

Well, what I'm going to do is ... I'm just going to stop.

Alright, so there were seven of you...

Mr. End up seven of us, five for a good while...

Mrs. One from each district...

Mr. Each district. Then, you know the county went to seven districts from the five. I don't know whether that happened since you've come here or not.

I don't know.

Mr. So you've got seven supervisors now. At one time you only had five, here in the county. That was when they had the five, then we went to the seven.

Mrs. The county they was made to redistrict because the population so they had they created two new districts.

Each supervisor had represented so many ... heads, or so many people ... whatever you want to do it. That's the reason they had to from five to seven. And they're about at the point right now they might have to go to it again.

It's growing. Why do you think it's growing? Why do you think Spotsylvania is one of the fastest...

Mr. Well, Spotsylvania's just a good part of the country to live in.

And everybody's finding out at the same time.

Mrs. And 95, and 95 opened it up and made it convenient. A lot of people work in Northern Virginia, and you have Dahlgren and Ft. Belvoir and FBI Academy, and Quantico, and then all that work up around Washington and Northern Virginia. And people, after they built 95 ... when they first built it, it was easy. You could come down the road, no traffic lights and fly back up the road and it was ... it was just easy transportation. And Spotsylvania had low taxes compared to Northern Virginia, so I think that's one reason that they came.

So you were quite a busy person with all these activities going on.

Mr. Ask about it.

And you were well known. You're a celebrity.

Mr. Yeah, too well known.

Mrs. He worked in the fair a lot, too.

Which? The Fredericksburg Fair? Oh, what did you do at the Fair?

Mr. Well, I was just ... I don't know... helped get it organized, helped get it going ... well, not organized ... helped re-organize. I'll put it to that Fair. Because it was organized ... I showed calves at that Fair when I was a teenager. But the Fairground over here on this side of the bypass, whatever you want to call it ... Normandy Village ... over in there where the fairgrounds used to be run up to the hill to the hospital. And I sure tell then that it died out therefor a few years. Wasn't nothing going on. I got it organized and got it started again. I understand it's doing right good now.

I haven't been. I should go. What about hospital, like when you were growing up, was there a hospital?

Mr. Yes.

It was known as the Mary Washington Hospital?

Mr. I reckon it's always been known as Mary Washington. It was down on Water Street. Right down on ... the original...

Mrs. Falquier Street.

Mr. Well, they call it Sofia Street now. It was Water Street then.

That was known as Water Street?

Mr. Then, but it's Sofia Street now. That's where the hospital was then. Then when '69, I think it was, they built it at what was the hospital where they just moved out, and moved up there, then now they've built another one and moved in there.

Mrs. Don't think that that hospital was there before '69 because...

Mr. Alright, which baby are we talking about?

Mrs. The first one. They laid the cornerstone when I was in the old Mary Washington Hospital down on Sofia Street.

Mr. OX, that was in '69?

Mrs. No.

Mr. Why wasn't it?

Mrs. 'Cause Ned was born. Our oldest boy that's living, was born in '51. It was '49.

Mr. O. K. See, I don't remember dates.

Well, this is good that Anne's keeping you straight.

Mrs. It wag '49.

So, tell me about ... I know you worked hard on the dairy farm ... what was the most rewarding part of working on the dairy farm? What helped you the remainder of your life ... because you're how old now?

Mr. How old now? Seventy-nine plus. I'll be 80 in May.

And that's ... you look good.

Thank you.

You look great. So, is there anything you would like to tell us about the dairy farm life?

Mr. It's a hard life. It's a good life, but it's a hard life. And if you don't mind work it's all right. But if you don't want to work, then don't try it. I can tell you that right now.

Mrs. It's seven days a week. You don't cut the cow off on Friday night and turn her back on Monday morning.

Mr. And it don't make a difference if it's snowed two foot deep or three foot deep, you've got to get out there and do it.

So rain or shine, it was the same everyday.

Mr. That's right, go out there some morning everything is froze up you couldn't get it and we used to have gasoline engines that do all the... run everything. At that time we didn't have any electricity ... we didn't have any electric lighting.

Mrs. Got electricity in '30...

Mr. '37 ...

Mrs. '37. I've heard him and his Daddy talk about getting out there and those old gasoline motors wouldn't start and they work and crank and going on 'em to get 'em started to run the milking machines and do the cooling of the milk.

So we don't know really how fortunate we are in some respects.

Mr. Yeah, but when the current goes off you don't know how pitiful ... how bad off you are either. Helpless, I reckon, that's the word, how helpless you are.

Mrs. 'Cause you can't get water, can't milk, can't do anything.

Mr. March the 15, I think it was about '60?

Mrs. I don't remember ... we had...

Mr. Anyhow, we had a blizzard in here and snow was up to ... right up to along in here.

Up to your waist?

Mr. Past the waist. It gone on up to the arm place and we didn't get any current in here for a week. And I lost I don't know how many calves. The bags went bad. We couldn't get 'em milked, couldn't feed em. They were hollering 'cause they were hungry. We were afraid to give 'em feed 'cause we couldn't get water to 'em.

Oh.

Mrs. Couldn't pump water to 'em and you couldn't turn 'em out to go ... to try to find water 'cause the snow was so deep...

Mr. So deep they'd never make it to the Branch. We had to go buy a lot more cattle to replace the cattle we bought ... cattle we lost.

Mrs. They didn't die, but the bags went bad so that the milk wasn't any good. Then, you know, we just ... had to let 'em be slaughtered. I mean...

Mr. Went to meat.

Mrs. They were all right, you know, nothing wrong with 'em ... disease or

anything like that, but just their bags went bad so that their milk wasn't any good when you milked 'em. You just couldn't use the milk. If you couldn't use the milk, they weren't any good as a dairy cow.

And that was your livelihood.

Mr. That's right.

Mrs. We didn't have money invested, like some of the bankers and all these that's used to going, you know, buy a farm, or make a lot of money somewhere else, and buy a farm so as to have a tax break. Our living was strictly the farm. And that's the only income we had, and that's the only income he and his Daddy had. I mean even before I ever became, came here or anything. It was strictly farm and that's...

Mr. And two years we had drought and you got, grabbed anything you could find. Buy it, get it, to have feed. We hauled soybeans from down at Dogue. That's down below King George High School, back in there. Up here put in the silo to keep the cows going, feed 'em in the winter. It make me a ... go down, cut 'em in the fields, and load 'em onto trucks and haul 'em.

Mrs. 'Cause people had sold 'em for the beans and they didn't make beans 'cause of the drought. But they did make some growth and so they bought the green beans in the field ... and the plants ... and cut 'em and chopped 'em and brought 'em here to fill the silos. I remember that.

So there were tough times.

Mr. You're right.

Mrs. But, it's been good, too.

Well, I know this house ... you've lived here in this same house that you were born in. And did you want to tell us a little bit about growing up here on the farm and your memories you have in this house?

Mr. What memories you got here?

Mrs. I don't know! I wasn't living here then!

Mr. Bringing her here, I reckon, was the most important one.

Mrs. Ha!

Mr. I can't really pick out or pin anything. It was just days hereon the farm. And... I don't know.

Mrs. Used to have a colored man who came here, and he wasn't a lot older than his Daddy. Worked for your Daddy... and the colored boy would come and ... he's a little older than Gordon... and play with him. Now I heard his mother tell me these things. And then, as he said, his Daddy used to work horses. And he was a little boy and his Daddy would take him in the field with him and set him up on the horse and he'd ride the horse while the horse was pulling a plow or drill or whatever they were doing. He'd come in at dinner, and his... at lunch time ... they called it breakfast, dinner and supper then ... he'd come in at the middle of the day and the seat of his pants would be all dirty and wet 'cause the horse had been sweating and she'd put clean clothes on him and back out the field he'd go. Spend the afternoon 'til his Daddy had to come in to milk. I heard her tell some tales on you, too.

And now, your Daddy did not want to talk about the Civil War?

Mr. No. Right. If he were living now and you come in and say something Civil War, he'd walk over that door, says "It's time for you to go. " He'd say it real polite the first time. "Time for you to go. " If you'd say something else, he'd tell you something else.

Mrs. Well, he just never got over the Civil War. 'Cause he herewith his Daddy being in it, he was close to it, and you know, it was just that...

Mr. He had a brother in it.

Mrs. Well, I know, but his Daddy, he had ... it was that feeling of, well I don't want to exactly say hatred, but, it was still that feeling of .. of animosity. That lived for a long time between Southern people and Northern people over that fighting of the war. They, you know, they felt like the Yankees had done 'em terrible and treated 'em terrible and ravaged the countryside and stole everything they could steal, besides fighting the war. And he still had that hatred of hearing his Daddy talked about what the conditions were and they were freezing and that sort of thing. But I guess that's war. But he just, you know, he just felt very strongly about it and he'd really sort of get mad.

Mr. And you talk- about the Orrock house, his Daddy was the same way. John's Daddy. He had brothers and all in the war. They didn't talk about it. Now, I want to tell you, now, you didn't talk about it around 'em, either. Those older people, you didn't change their minds like the wind blows.

Mrs. Well, we're just further removed from it now and we don't have that same feeling, altogether.

And to change the subject just a little bit. Regarding, you know, the Spotsylvania Preservation Foundation is interested in restoring the old

jail at the Courthouse. And any stories, or anything that you can tell us about the old jail would help.

Mr. I don't know a whole lot to tell you about the old jail. It's just a plain old building there. Then it was, I don't remember when, or what, they went there and put stucco on a whole lot of it.

Why did they put stucco on it?

Mr. Because the building was getting in bad shape.

Oh, the brick? The brick? Because it was brick under the stucco. Correct?

Mr. I couldn't tell you to save my soul, dear, if it was brick or what it was. But I know it was getting in bad shape, and it was a big discussion over it. Putting that stucco on it.

Oh, a big discussion between?

Mr. People. Different people's ideas. I mean I don't think it got into a committee. But it was just like you and I talking. You asked me if it was brick underneath of it.

I won't tell you yes, I won't tell you no. And some people knew what was under it, and I don't remember right now, I couldn't tell you to save my life what was under it. You could go by there and the door would be swinging open. See men standing inside locked up in there, faces up at the door, looking at people going along. People go along and holler at 'em.

And you were in, you were in the jail at that time when it was a working jail?

Mr. Yes, but....

Mrs. You weren't put there though, you weren't incarcerated!

But, you were in... I mean, let's rephrase that. You were in... you had made an appearance in the jail, just to check it out?

Mr. Well, OX That's somewhat near more like what it was. I really can't answer you as to

why I was there. I know there were some of us there were on jury had to go over there, but what for, I don't know. I couldn't tell you to save my life. And it might be as just well off for you to say I never was in the jail because I couldn't swear why I was over there. I was on a lot of trials in the county, especially landowners. You

know, at that time you had to have so many landowners on jury that had owned land in the county. Especially highway people. They requested that so many jurors were people that owned land or know something about land, the value of land. And I got hooked into right many juries that way. Because there at one time to get a jury of people, landowners were getting scarce, except for these little house spots. But that weren't what the state would consider. On the highway at one time, I don't know how many acres, but you had to have so much acreage to be classified a landowner. And there was eight or ten or twelve of us got hooked pretty near... especially when they widened 208 on through there. And some more, I mean...

And so you went to the courthouse on horseback then? Or were you in...

Mr. Nah, I was in...

You were in the car?

Mr. I was driving cars.

So your recollection of the jail is just that you remember being there, but you don't know why.

Mr. That's right. I don't know why the judge sent us over there, or why the deputy sheriff carried us over there, for something or what. My mind's blank. I mean I really don't know... and you have been some places and you don't know why you went?

Many.

Mr. Many. Well.

So, basically, that's all you know? You don't ... you don't recall thinking to yourself about... you, the building, the jail? Was there anything that stood out in your mind besides...

Mr. The only thing I can remember is, as a young boy going by there and see these faces behind the bars there locked up. I wonder what all them doing in there. But knowing any of them in there, who put them, what they were put in therefor, or whether there was a trial, I have no idea.

So you really didn't know what a jail was, I mean you were young, but you didn't know why they were behind...

Mr. I knew they'd done something they shouldn't do.

Mr. I knew that. Now, whether they stole... I don't reckon they sold crack and all that stuff like got locked up at the court the other night, because they'd never heard stuff around in those days. Mostly it was somebody'd bootlegged whiskey and sold it. There was plenty of that floating around.

Do you remember the sheriff at that time?

Mr. Was it White?

That was his name?

Mr. I think he was sheriff. White, or ... aw, shucks.

Mrs. Maxie Blade, I remember, but that was before ... he was way back...

Mr. What was his name? Conner? And...

A good sheriff?

Mr. I never got into trouble, so he never bothered me. Oh, who was the man who had one hand who was sheriff?

Mrs. Roberts.

Mr. Roberts. He had a nub right there. That's all the hand he had, that nub coming there.

That was all the blackjack he needed. He didn't need to carry a blackjack, that nub on that arm.

He was a man about two foot, six, five or six, weighed over 200 pounds. He ... that nub ... he'dj ust hit...

How did he lose his hand?

Mr. I don't know. I couldn't tell you.

Mrs. He was sheriff for a right good while. He lived right there in the house at the courthouse.

Mr. Maxie Blades was sheriff a long time.

Where did they live? The...

Mr. Well, Maxie Blades first lived up there at ... you'll know what I'm talking about if I say, uh ...
well, anyway he built a house, that big brick house right there at the courthouse just before you get to the Inn.

Spotswood?

Mr. Spotswood Inn. That's where he lived last.

Mrs. Brick house there. It's a brick house, there, just past Robert E. Lee School, but on the opposite side of the road. It's just past where the Post Office is now. And it's right next to the little frame building, it was originally the post office. Is there a florist in it now?
What's in that little building?

There's a gift shop there...

Mrs. Well, the gift shop is between the Spotswood Inn and the brick house that Sheriff Blades built.

I think it's some kind of car...

Mrs. Yes, a garage building, and then, but there's that brick house that's still there, isn't it?

Yes.

Mrs. Well, that was Sheriff Blades' his house. He built that. But he lived out in the county somewhere.

He lived up there about where Marye's school ... not Marye's ... oh, you can't think of what you want to say!

Mrs. Belmont? No?

Mr. No, the other side of Snell's up there. Berkeley. Right up there next to Berkeley school.

You know where Berkeley School is?

No, I don't. I don't know where Berkeley School is.

Mr. Do you know where Thornburg is?

Yes! Thornburg.

Mr. Do you know where Snell's?

Yes!

Mr. Well, you come up from Thornburg to Snell's, take a left and go up the road about four or five miles. School up on there.

So, is there anything that we haven't touched on that you would like to talk about?

Mr. I think we touched on right smart.

We've touched on everything, you think?

Mr. I don't know of anything. You know of anything I left out?

Mrs. Well, I could tell a lot of things you left out. I don't know whether I ought to, but I could. Tell about stealing your Mama's pie out the window.

Mr. I didn't take it out the window, I stole it off the table.

He stole a pie off the table?

Mrs. And ate all of it.

Why? So you could eat it all?

Mrs. And he ate it! And his Mother was...

The whole pie?

Mrs. And his mother was worried to death going to make him sick and...

Mr. The neighbor brought a lemon pie with meringue on it, set it up there. And I was out playing in the yard. I don't know, eight or nine years old. I came in the house, I saw the neighbor bring it. So they were back in the other room talking. I went in there and swiped that and ate the whole thing!

And did you feel sick afterward?

Mr. No. Doctor asked ... she called the doctor, the doctor said, "You give it to him or he steal it?" She said, "He stole it." He said, "It won't make him sick if he stole it.

Who was the doctor? Who was your doctor?

Mr. At that time it was Dr. Dickerson, but he's been dead for years and years. Lived right up the road here about three or four houses.

And he made house calls?

Mr. Uh-huh.

Mrs. And Dr. Harris that lived over in Spotsylvania Courthouse, he was the doctor then. And he's the one that was Mrs. Hilldrup's doctor when Gordon was born, and then when his sister was born. And he came over here, I heard Miz Hilldrup say, he set around and talked with Mr. Hilldrup all day long waiting for Gordon to arrive. And Gordon's Grandmother, Mrs. Hilldrup's mother, lived on the other side of Spotsylvania Courthouse at Snow Hill. Do you know where Snow Hill is? Well, that was Gordon's grandparent's home. And Grandma Gordon came over here and stayed. And when Gordon was born, and she said, Mr. Hilldrup said, "Boy, I wish I had a dozen like that! " And she said to him, she said, "Ned Hilldrup, you're a fool and don't know it! "

He sounds like he was quite a character.

We're continuing our interview with Gordon and Anne Hilldrup. And Gordon and Anne would like to talk about their church.

Well, I was raised in the church and have worked in the church all my life. First one thing and then the other. And in '37, '38, I was made a Deacon in the church. I was 17 years old at that time. And I came off Deacon rolls in October of this year.

Mrs. '99.

Mr. '99. So. Now I went off sometimes once in a while for a year's rest and come back. Rotate. But I was... and I doubt if I'll ever go back any more now. On the board. But I keep up with things and she came here in ... what was it? Forty what?

Mrs. We were married in '46

Mr. When did you join?

Mrs. I joined Zion ... I moved my membership there in '47. And I've been there ever since '47.

Mr. And she was ... served as a Sunday school teacher and different things. She was clerk of the church for twenty-one years and she was Sunday school teacher up until last year or so. And our church burnt. We had to build a church. I was working ... the contractor who took the church on... that he would need to have one person be responsible to. And I would carry the information back to the church members and see if they approve of what he was doing. And if they didn't I'd go back to him and say we have to work something else out. Between that, we rebuilt the church and all. And then we added to the church afterwards, and I was working with that.

Mrs. And you worked to keep the ... to help to raise money. To build, rebuild the church.

Mr. After the fire, we had to rebuild the church... rebuild the church. And money at that time was hard to get... hard to raise.

Why did you have to rebuild the church?

Mr. What were we to do? The church burned to the ground and never left a thing, Honey.

Oh.

Mr. What could we do without a church?

That's right

Mr. We had seven or eight hundred members at that time.

How many members?

Mr. Seven or eight hundred, I don't remember just what at that time.

Did you use something else while it was being rebuilt?

Mr. We used part of the school system. Let us use

Mrs.Chancellor Elementary...

Mr. Chancellor Elementary School over there. And they got in there and it wasn't too long.

You'd be surprised at how quick they got the building back to where we could get in it.

That time you could get carpenters. Men would work. You could get help.

Yep .

Mr. And got it built.

Mrs. And lot of the ... the, uh ...

Mr. Neighborhood people ...

Would help.

Farmers. Lot of 'em. Some of the neighbors from all around would take trucks and go up to the brick factory up there on old No. 1, now.

Mrs. Haul the bricks.

Mr. Haul the bricks, haul cinder blocks for us. Things like that and ...

Mrs. Saved money.

Mr. That saved money so you wouldn't have to pay 'em to do it. And if we could get 'em quick and get 'em delivered quick, and we got it built quick. But the contractor dealt with one person and the church dealt with one person. I would take him information and whatever he'd fix up carry it to the church they'd read, it listen at it if that didn't suit them, want to do it, go back and forth.. and I worked right smart and good and hard at getting it going. As I said, I've been there in the church ever since, been on the Board. We've had two or three upsets in church. Catholics don't have those kinds of things. New preachers come in, try to take over everything. Change everything. Catholics don't have that trouble.

Mrs. Oh, well. The church has been through some good times and hard times. And after all, it's made up of people. People are not perfect, but they've weathered the storm come out. So I guess for a little small country church, we...

You know everybody?

Mrs. Just about. Just about. Everybody knows you. And they used to have suppers and raised... you know, and serve suppers. And people would come from all around the community and in Fredericksburg, from Fredericksburg. Because it was a smaller community then, and everybody knew everybody. They'd come and eat supper and have a good time together, and that was one of the ways they raised money to help...

Mr. A lot of times they'd have a cake walks. You know what that is?

Cake walk?

Mr. People would make cakes and bring 'em to the church there. And people would walk and put prices on 'em. Put 'em up under hammer and bid on 'em.

Oh, they did?

Mr. Yeah, and help raise money to build the church back up. We raised right smart money that way.

Mrs. I'll tell you another way they did it, too. There were a lot of dairy farmers then. I mean it was nearly altogether dairies around this area. And a lot of the farmers would give a calf for the church to have. And they'd all take 'em ... they'd have a special day. I mean go to a ... a stock market day.

They would advertise in the paper that these calves were gonna be on sale for the benefit of the church. And they would sell 'em, like, not all of them in a pen, but they would sell 'em like one right behind the other and people knew what they were buying. The money was going to the church and the stock market would sell 'em for the church without charging them anything, or a fee for it. And so a lot of the farmers would donate a calf, and they'd take it down to the market and auction it off, and somebody would buy it maybe to raise it, or to butcher it, or whatever.

Mr. Most of the time they raised them.

Mrs. Raised them most of the time.

Mr. Most of them were dairy calves and most of them went back on somebody's dairy.

Mrs. And that was another way they'd raise money.

Hum. And when you rebuilt the church, did you just rebuild it exactly as it had been before or did you expand it?

Mrs. It was a frame church before when it burned and then they rebuilt and built a brick church, which you see there now. And then in later years they added a Sunday school addition down on the lower end of it. I don't know how many years later, but anyway ... for Sunday School rooms.

Mr. Church burned in what?

Mrs. Forty ... nine.

Mr. They built the other one in '60. Sunday school annex put on in '60.

When was it built, the first church?

Mr. 1853.

1853? So that must be one of the oldest churches... is it the oldest church?

Mrs. It started out as a "bush harbor. "

Mr. That was the third original church that was really organized there. They had churches here and there, as she said, bush harbors and that thing...

Mrs. You know what a bush harbor church was? You meet under the trees or something like that....

Oh.

Mrs. And that's what they called "bush harbor. " They built a little thing like poles and cover it with, I guess, bushes or things like that to make shade. And they'd meet underneath and it's almost like out in the open, you know, and that's where they had church. And it started out as what they called a ... what did they call the church?

Mr. A temple?

Mrs. No, it was called a temperance, it was a temperance, but what did they call it? Oh, I can't think, but anyway, the name that they gave. But it was because of the temperance movement and Zion was started because...

Mr. It was a dry church.

Mrs. Temperance movement and because of the fact that the members should pledge that there would be no use of alcohol in any shape or form...

Mr. If any member was caught with alcohol, he was called up before the church and dismissed.

Now what has happened to churches today?

No comment.

Mrs. I know! They don't do that now.

I imagine that would be a very humiliating experience.

Mrs. I would think so, you know. The constitutions say that if, you know, that if you didn't pay, if you didn't pay your dues to your church, they

could do that, too. I don't mean they had set dues, but if you didn't contribute, I should say that, contribute to the church, they'd call you before the church, too. And I've heard his Daddy say, and he can remember, but that was before I came into the picture, that they'd... it was after the depression and people didn't have money, and the churches didn't have full time pastors. Most of 'em would, pastors would serve maybe two or three churches. So you wouldn't have preaching every Sunday ... you'd have Sunday school, like every Sunday, but maybe you wouldn't have preaching but twice a month because your pastor was at another church. But a lot of time times they would come and preach and they would pay every Sunday. After they'd finish preaching, they'd take up a collection and whoever was treasurer would count the money and if they didn't have enough to pay the preacher they'd go out on the churchyard and say well, brother so-and-so, how about giving me a quarter...

Mr. A quarter

Mrs. Or fifty cents. We need so much to have enough to pay the pastor before he leaves. And then they'd go ask some other members to give him a little bit more money 'til he could get enough...

Mr. I saw that myself and knew when that happened myself .

Mrs. Pay the pastor ...

Mr. I remember it, too.

Mrs. And they got ready, I remember his Daddy, they laughed, telling how one of the pastors wrote a book, wrote a book on the memory of being a preacher. And he said ... in this area ... and he said they brought up in church about putting a fence around the cemetery. And he said one of the members, and it was Gordon's Daddy, said, "Well, what in the world do you want a fence, to go to the expense of putting a fence around the cemetery? He said, "Those in there now can't come out, and those that are out on the outside don't want to go in, so what do you want to put a fence around it for?"

Well, when you were working the dairy farm, church was very important. So you managed to get off on a Sunday? Part of the day? To go to church?

Mr. I got up and done my work every morning. I got to the barn at 3 o'clock every morning. The men came to work and we generally went home on Sunday mornings at 7 o'clock and then we'd come back in the afternoons around 3 o'clock to get through the afternoon work. We didn't do nothing but the essential things on Sunday.

So it was basically you stood by Sunday being a partial day of rest.

Mr. Well, yes.

It wasn't a day of rest?

Mr. It was a day of change

A day of change!

Mrs. The cows had to be milked and that's what they did and fed 'em and then they didn't do anything else.

Dressed like your Sunday best? Your clothes? Your Sunday clothes. Did you dress specifically for Sunday?

Mr. Oh, yes.

To go to church? That was a long day for you, I mean from 3 o'clock in the morning?

Mr. Well, we were at it seven days a week.

I guess when you hit your... when you put you head on the pillow, that was it!

Mrs. Put his head on the pillow and he was asleep. That's right. I don't know how he did it. Because a lot of times, when he was working in organizations ... I've seen him, a lot of times ... when he'd go ... when he was working with the Fair ... course, he was a whole lot younger ... he would go down to the Fair, after he'd finish his day's work, and he'd go down there to the office and be around down there in the office and help whatever they needed to do. Maybe go out on the fairgrounds to see about something for 'em or do something like that. Because, I think you were a director at that time, and sometimes he wouldn't come home until about 2 o'clock in the morning. Then he'd go to bed for about an hour and the get up and go to the barns and milk...

How did you do it?

Mrs. And then work all day long!

How did you do it?

Mr. How did I do it?

Yes! Determination?

Mr. Just good, fresh air.

Mrs. Healthy. Sometimes he'd come home, get in the bed, and I wouldn't even know when he got in the bed. Then he'd get up in the mornings and go to milking and I still didn't know when he got out. The only way I knew, when it was time for me to get up to get breakfast, and I'd see where he'd laid in the bed.

Do you still get up that early? After doing it all those years?

Mrs. No, but he still gets up at 6 o'clock, but I don't. I don't get up before seven. I used to get up. He'd get up and go milking and I always worked it to get up and have breakfast ready so that when he came in, breakfast was ready for him to eat. And then, 'course, his parents ... we lived here with his parents.

You got along with his parents?

Mrs. Well, yes, we got along and...

So you didn't have any in-law quarters like they do today?

Mrs. No, no. But his Daddy's health was not too good at that time that we were married. And he couldn't get out and do the heavy farm work like he did. He'd do the gardening and things like that. Then there was Farmer's Creamery in Fredericksburg. A local creamery at that time. And they would do the milking and then they had milk in ten gallon, big ten gallon cans, and the men would load the truck with the milk before they went home for breakfast. And Mr. Hilldrup would get up and I'd give him his breakfast. And he'd eat his breakfast so that when they finished milking and had the truck loaded, he was ready get the milk to Fredericksburg to the creamery to have it dumped. And by that time, then Gordon would be ready to come in to eat his breakfast. So we sorta had a cafeteria going! And then after that, his mother would come down and eat his breakfast, her breakfast, and then in later years after his Dad died, my mother came here to live, too. So I had both mothers and Gordon and myself and we had a gay time!

That was nice, having everybody close by.

Mrs. Yes. And so, we managed. Sometimes there were times when you felt like you could pull your hair out. This one didn't suit that one didn't suit the other one, but anyway, you just bit your tongue and you went on. You learned how to get along.

Mr. And your tongue is still holding?

Mrs. That's right. But when I look back, you know, it was crying times, sometimes, but you just got along because that's what you needed to do. And

people, lots of times people say, oh, I don't know how in the world you did that, I don't know how you did that. I say, well...

Mr. Where there's a will, there's a way.

Mrs. That's right. I said, I reckon the good Lord repared me for it because my Dad died when I was eight years old and it was during the Depression and my mother had to go to work and she went up north and lived in Philadelphia.

Gordon's Daddy would go with me to go grocery shopping because Gordon's Mother was a stay-at-home person. She never wanted to go anywhere. She'd go to church, but I mean, she didn't go anywhere. She'd go to see her mother over in Spotsylvania Courthouse, but other than that ... and his Daddy would love to go, love to go, but he never could get Mrs. Hilldrup to do any going. She was one of these people that believed that she was supposed to stay at home.

So he always used to do the grocery shopping because he'd do grocery shopping when he'd take the milk in to Fredericksburg. But then, he got to where he would go and get the groceries because the creamery was out and they collected the milk in the bulk tanks. And then he would still go get groceries. Then he got to where he didn't want to drive or he didn't feel capable to drive, so then Id go to town with him. It was Fredericksburg Hardware then, and not like it is today, but he knew Mr. Stoner who owned it. And he'd go there and they had a bench in there and some of the men would gather and sit and talk. So Gordon's Daddy would give me the money to go get the groceries. And he'd sit and talk and Id go get groceries because Safeway was right down the street there at that time. It was a Safeway Store. And then Id come back and get him and then Id take him, if he needed to go somewhere else he needed to go, like to the doctor or something, that day. So we'd make our rounds and then we'd come home. And he'd give me a twenty dollar bill most of the time to go get the groceries. And I could get all the groceries that I needed for twenty dollars and sometimes have a little bit left over, but you wouldn't do it today. And that hasn't been so many years, so many years ago. It's been a right good while too, but still. I know that he...

Mr. What I got for you yesterday, wouldn't twenty dollars wouldn't looked at it.

Mrs. No, I know that. What I'm saying is back then we bought a lot of stuff, too. Of course, we did not buy any meat. A little lamb, because that was what he needed to eat because of some of the sickness he had Ulcers. So they said that meat was easy to digest, but we had our own beef and our own pork own chicken and so...

Mr. And our own milk

Mrs. We didn't buy a lot of meat but we bought ... I can remember a twenty dollar bill buying...

Did you have your own chickens? Eggs?

Mrs. Still do.

Mr. Still do.

Still do? So what do you have right now? You have chickens...

Mr. Twenty-five pullets, hens, they are now ... and we get eggs.

Mrs. Brown eggs!

Ah, the brown ones, the best!

Mrs. That's right.

Did you churn your own butter when it was a dairy farm?

Mr. No. We sold milk and it was sold on rates of butterfat and we didn't ... we could buy butter.

Mrs. If you took the cream off, you didn't have any butterfat.

Mr. You didn't get paid for the milk.

Mrs. You got paid for it, but you got just a little bit because they based the price on the butterfat of your milk, so you didn't take your cream off.

No. I guess not.

Mrs. We'd get milk for the house. And then, whatever cream was on that, we'd take it off, you know, and use it. Gordon bought butter. Didn't buy margarine. Gordon's Daddy...

Mr. Wasn't such thing as margarine.

Mrs. Yes, it was margarine, too! But you had to buy it, itd be white and you had little package of coloring with it and you had to mix it because it was against the law for them to color it.

When you first bought margarine.

It was white?

Mrs. It was white. And then there was a little package of coloring. And you'd sprinkle that over it and take your hands and mix it all up and get it so it was a uniform color. And then it would end up being, if you mixed it like you should, as much as you should, then you would get, it would be yellow looking just like your butter would be. But they were not allowed, and it's only been so many years that you could buy margarine that already had the coloring in it before you bought it. But the dairy industry fought doing that because it was in competition with butter and they felt like, that you know, if they put it on the counter with butter people would mistake it for butter, or they'd buy that instead of buying butter...

Mr. I don't see how they'd tell when they tasted it a couple of times.

Mrs. No. So you supported your business ... you didn't buy margarine! You bought butter. So that's what we did, we bought our butter.

Well, it sounds like living on a dairy farm did have its rewards.

Mrs. Oh, yes.

And, did you have an alarm clock that would wake you up at three o'clock in the morning? You did?

Mr. I did, but a lot of times it never went off I cut it off before it went off.

Mrs. Just for safety.

Mr. I just kept it for safety. Just like that night she said I spent one hour in bed. Well, I

turned it on when I went to bed. But when I put my feet on the floor I reached over and

flipped the trigger back. I'd gotten up before it went off or she'd woken up, it would have woken her up if it'd gone off.

How thoughtful. Wasn't that thoughtful? I'm sure there were many times when you just wanted to stay in bed.

Mr. No...

You didn't mind?

Mr. No.

And how many acres did you have then? Do you have the same amount now as you did then?

Mr. No. Well, I'll tell you, it's hard to tell you on that acreage. Because I bought several piceces of land and joined this land. After I quit farming myself, we had right at nine hundred and some acres.

Nine hundred?

Mr. Both schools over here come off the property. Sawhill come off it.

Mrs. Sawhill subdivision came off of it and two schools came off it.

Mr. Two schools came off it.

Mrs. But we still own all way around the house.

And how much was an acre at that time?

Mr. How much land was?

An acre.

Mr. I'm ashamed to tell you.

I'm sorry?

Mr. I said, I'm ashamed to tell you. Because Uncle Sam said that it didn't cost me nothing, hardly. I bought land for five dollars an acre.

And what is this worth now, an acre?

Mrs. Whatever you can get.

Mr. Whatever you can get. Depends on who wants it and whatever you can get.

Mrs. A small piece of land will bring more than a big piece. You can sell five acres and get more for it that you can if you sell a hundred acres. Because of the...

Mr. Just like you all. You didn't want a hundred acres. You wanted half of it. You'd take half of it. You'd have to pay just as much for the fifty acres as you would've, as they'd charge you for the hundred.

That's right. Did you want to tell us more about experience going to church as a young boy? Or as a young girl? Going to church did you spend ... I'm sure you spent a lot of time in church on Sundays.

Mr. Well, I don't know if you'd say a lot of time. We'd go to church, aim to get to church of a morning nine-thirty most of the time, wasn't it?

Mrs. Something like that.

Mr. Nine-thirty. Then

Mrs. Be twelve o'clock when we got through.

Mr. Twelve o'clock when we'd come out of there. A lot of times we didn't have any afternoon services in church. Then when we did have afternoon services, there was one at one o'clock and the morning services, all we had was Sunday school from nine 'til ten. Didn't have any preacher then. The churches, as she said, there was one pastor had four churches. He preached two Sundays a month in the morning and in the other churches, on the following Sunday he'd preach at another church in the afternoon of that the same Sunday. So, actually, I can't tell you exactly how much time we spent. We spent whatever was necessary, whatever was going on, whatever you needed to do.

Mrs. In the early times, your social activities were centered around school and church. Schools would have programs and you'd go to it and the children would take part. All the people in the community would come. And then at churches, you'd have programs and things, and you'd have not only your church but other church members would come. And Baptist people would come, and if the Methodist's had something, then you'd go to that. And so your social life was really centered around church and school, because there wasn't that much else going on. You had a movie to go to every once in a while, something like that, but people didn't go to the movies every day or every week like they do now.

Now, with you living in Spotsylvania County, growing up here, was Fredericksburg like a place you went for everything? For entertainment, for...

Mr. Well, at that time, a lot of the entertainment was right here in the neighborhood. Most of the entertainment, as she said, the schools would have things the churches would have ... and we visit back and forth. In other words, Zion would have something special, lot of the Methodists and other Baptist churches, they'd all meet there together, just like on sun-rising services. Used to be three or four churches would get together for that. And that sort of thing.

Mrs. But you did basically get a lot of the things, essential things, clothing that you didn't sew in the family, you'd go to the stores in town to buy clothes, buy your groceries and buy supplies that you needed for the farm. Also the supply stores, feed stores, and fertilizer places, all that was in Fredericksburg. You'd go there to get that, or make arrangements for them to deliver it or whatever for your farm supplies. So, basically, Fredericksburg... and it was still a lot of competition between Fredericksburg and the county in a lot of things just like it is now.

Mr. And just like there's competition between Chancellor District ... and

(Tape ran out)

O.K., we're ready to go again.

Mr. Most of the families around those days, people that are a generation ahead of me, were, had a lot of children. Now a lot of them died when they were born, but there were a lot of children in those families. And when they get spread around, they get married to this one and that one... if you married so-and-so and wanted to marry was kin to so-and-so, you...

Mrs. Well, people didn't move around and they lived in the community in which they were born and they married within the communities, you know. This one's daughter would marry this one's son, and they were families that had grown up together and knew each other. Now that's not true because people move around so. And your child might marry someone that grew up goodness knows where, but then, they didn't do that.

You are talking about the generation before you?

Mr. Yeah.

And those families, you were saying how many kids average?

Mr. Average? Six or eight and a lot of them more. There's two families right in this neighborhood, one of fourteen and one of sixteen. I went to school with a lot of children, there were fourteen and sixteen children in the family.

Mrs. Never had a ...

Could you give us their names?

Mr. One family was the Hash family.

Hash?

Mr. H-A-S-H

O.K.

Mrs. Lived on Gordon Road. 627.

Mr. And the other family was Burgess.

And they had a big family?

Mr. They had a big family. I don't know exactly how many children they had. I don't think they had sixteen. I think the Limerick family was a large family. There was three families here in the neighborhood that had better than ten, twelve children in the family.

Mrs. And talking about help, another thing you used to do back then, everybody burned wood for heat, you know. And they'd spend all summer off and on when they had a spare day not working doing dairy work, cutting wood for the ... for the houses. And they'd cut wood and tried to keep it ... cut it this summer to be burned next year, 'cause you know you wanted it to dry out. That was a full time job, too. Cutting wood for all the men's houses and then for the house here, plus they had a big boiler that they heated wood ... used wood to heat and make steam for cleaning all the milk utensils and everything. So that was one of big jobs, too, for the farm, for a long time until they went to electricity ... using electricity for putting heat in the house and that sort of thing. That was a big job, too, cutting wood and getting ready for the next year, right?

Had to plan ahead.

Mrs. Yeah, you did. Wasn't waiting until tomorrow to do it.

Before we conclude our interview, is there anything else you have to add ... like to add?

Mr. I don't know of anything.

Well, thank you for allowing me to come and visit you. And we'll...

Mrs. We didn't have anything very exciting to tell you. We just lived an ordinary, country family's life. That's all.

Well, thank you for sharing it.

Mr. Did you get what you thought you was going to get?

Mr. Quantico Base up there employs, or Dahlgren. We couldn't....and all the good men, most of them come on the place soon got jobs. They didn't ask that many questions. When they applied for a job they were hired. Because they knew they'd worked on a farm they could ... and this man I'm talking about, he come here and if he stayed here on the place, didn't go home where his mother and them was. It was fine. But what ever Sunday he'd go home to where his mother was, you knew he wouldn't be back that evening.

Mrs. Cause he'd get drunk.

Mr. He'd get drunk, As long as he'd stay here, stay here for a month at a time, just as Sunday he'd goes home. His mother and them would go get him drunk.

And where did he live?

Mr. Over in Stafford.

Mrs. Came from over in Stafford.

Mr. Came from over in Stafford. His wife came out of West Virginia, her family did. And he was working here and he married the girl ... one of the girls.

Mrs. Tom was a good worker, but ... and as Gordon said, he wouldn't get drunk until he went home.

Mr. And he had a good job in town, but he'd go home over nights and they'd get him drunk. So he wouldn't go back in the morning. So he had to get away from home, he moved over here.

And he's here now.

Mrs. And he doesn't drink now. Doesn't go home. As far as I know, he stays sober all the time. And he raised two, four, five, six children. All of them were born here but one. Anyway. Sometimes you'd getup in the morning and you'd look and the help would have moved out in the night and never said a word to you. And then you'd have to start out looking for somebody else to take his place and that would be a hard job.

Mr. Daddy went looking for help and found a man in Winchester and he answered an ad. He went up there to meet him. We didn't know nothing about it, but he came on down here. We took the truck up there, loaded it brought it down here. Supposed to be

his wife, we didn't know. Next day sheriff's car pulled in the yard Wanted to know if so-and-so was around I said, " Yeah, there he is there in the barn. " He said, "Can I speak to him? " Walked up there, slapped handcuffs on him. Carried him on away from here.

He'd taken another man's wife and moved down here.

And he was from Winchester?

Mr. I asked the sheriff, "Who's going to pay for me moving him here?" He said, "That's your hard luck." I says, "Now, I'm going to tell you, his stuffs in the house up there and when you take him away from here, you make arrangements to get that stuff out the house. " I mean it had been twelve hours. So, folks from up there sent some trucks down here, moved him out. I don't want any of that stuff left in the house, he come back down here, accuse me of stealing it or something, letting somebody break in. That's the kind of help you put up with day in and day out.

Mrs. And talking about help, another thing you used to do back then, everybody burned wood for heat, you know. And they'd spend all summer off and on when they had a spare day not working doing dairy work, cutting wood for the ... for the houses. And they'd cut wood and tried to keep it ... cut it this summer to be burned next year, 'cause you know you wanted it to dry out. That was a full time job, too. Cutting wood for all the men's houses and then for the house here, plus they had a big boiler that they heated wood ... used wood to heat and make steam for cleaning all the milk utensils and everything. So that was one of big jobs, too, for the farm, for a long time until they went to electricity ... using electricity for putting heat in the house and that sort of thing. That was a big job, too, cutting wood and getting ready for the next year, right?

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(Signature of Interviewer)_____

(Date) 8/3/2000

(Signature of Informant) _____

(Print Name)_____ (Date)_____

(Address)_____