# Preface

This manuscript is the product of a tape-recorded interview conducted by Marjorie Taylor for the Oral History Office on May 11, 1974. Linda Jett transcribed the manuscript and Marjorie Taylor edited and reviewed the transcript.

Archibald Taylor Dunn, born in Cass County Illinois, August 26, 1891, was interviewed in his own home near Beardstown, Illinois, May 11, 1974. His paternal grandparents were English people who settled in the Sangamon River Valley in the 1840s while his maternal grandfather, also an immigrant, was a native of Scotland. His maternal grandmother was born in a log cabin about five miles from the present day Dunn home.

Following the death of his father, a farmer, when he was seven, he and his mother lived with his grandparents and young aunts and uncles. He attended a nearby one-room rural school and did his share of the farm chores.

His mother, several years later, moved to Decatur that her young son might be enrolled in the preparatory department of Millikin University where he received a bachelor's degree in 1913. He began farming after his graduation on the same land his father had cultivated during his life. He and his wife, the former Bessie Jacobson on Niatic, Illinois whom he married in 1915, have two sons. Both are involved in agriculture, one as a farmer and the other as an implement dealer.

Mr. Dunn produced corn and wheat and has been especially interested in feeding cattle. Usually at least two men were employed on a full time basis. He has been interested in community affairs and has been much concerned with flood control in the Illinois-Sangamon River basins. He has been active in the local rural Presbyterian Church where he served as an officer for many years. He has also served as an officer in the Cass County Farm Bureau and been active in soil conservation work.

Although he has past his 84th birthday, Mr. Dunn continues to plan the farm activities, runs a tractor or a combine himself and is quite knowledgeable in both local and national affairs. He believes proper land usage is a responsibility of all farmers.

Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Sangamon State University is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for views expressed therein; these are for the reader to judge.

Archibald Taylor Dunn, May 11, 1974, Beardstown, Illinois.

Marjorie Taylor, Interviewer.

Q: What year did you start to farm, Archie?

A: Oh, I started to farm--I put in the crops the fall of 1913, 1914 was my first year.

Q: You graduated from Millikin that spring though? You were telling me about the wages you paid then. Would you tell that again? What you paid that first year when you started to farm.

A: I paid thirty dollars a month but the average wage was a dollar a day, twenty-six dollars a month. But I paid thirty. Oscar Savage worked for me the first four years I farmed.

Q: You were talking about the taxes. What's the difference in taxing between 1913 and 1973 proportionately?

A: My taxes the first year as I remember was a hundred and fifty dollars. And I hauled my oats to Schultz's Mill in town and Mr. Schultz took an interest in me and was very friendly to me. And he gave me five cents premium on my wheat and I had three thousand bushels and that paid the taxes.

Q: The premium, the nickel premium?

A: Well, the taxes have been thirty-five hundred here. And our taxes are not as high here as they are where Carl is.

Q: Now, you hauled with a wagon and horses to get that grain to town?

A: Yes.

Q: Did you make two trips a day?

A: Yes. That's all we could make.

Q: Well, now Dad used to talk about making one trip a day to the mill and then they'd stop at noon and eat crackers and cheese. Do you remember those trips?

A: Yes, I remember over at Bluff Springs. Your father was quite a driver in a way, I guess. I don't know how else you would say it. We'd leave up there at five o'clock and haul wheat to Bluff Springs. And he bought me a soda pop one time at that store over there. And it was hot.

And I threw up by the time I got back to the road again. I threw up all over the wagon. And we'd get home about nine o'clock or ten o'clock. And in those days we used to use horses and we'd stay in the lower fields until six o'clock and come up here and get those horses tended to. I suppose it was about ten miles from Bluff Springs. What would it be?

Q: I would think so.

A: It would be pretty close to it. And we'd water our horses over at Mr. Trussel's. He was always nice to us. And I'd always remember that flat top house that Carl's had. And that house it wasn't very far to Bluff Springs. And of course, we were always afraid of these elevators and if a freight train come along, afraid of the dump.

MD: [Mrs. Dunn] You had to go up to go into the elevator.

A: You had to go up and you had to dump the wagon. (tape stopped)

Q: Now, you tell me the story about the whip. Let's hear that one.

A: Well, they wouldn't let me play with the ball on Sunday. They wouldn't let you take a whip after the cows on Sunday night. Now your father [John H. Taylor] and Uncle Allie, they never remembered that. And my grandfather, [William Taylor] I heard him say one time that this was the most wonderful country in the world. He said, "In Scotland we couldn't own any land. We had to rent from the Duke of Argyll." I remember that much about it. He sat out in the kitchen and smoked clay pipes and he smoked a very mild tobacco but he smoked, he was always out there and usually sat in the kitchen on one of those cane bottom chairs, straight chairs. It wasn't a rocking chair. Do you remember him?

Q: No, no. He was dead long before my time. Were those chairs the straight up ones with the cane about this wide?

A: Yes.

Q: Wonder where they came from. I still have them in the basement. They look pretty rough now and I wondered where they came from.

A: I have no idea. But I never remember him working any only I remember went out to help Joe [hired man] feed the cows, the cattle, in the winter time, and he was feeding fodder and fell off the wagon. I remember that.

Q: He was old then, wasn't he?

A: Well.

Q: Considering.

A: We thought so in those days. He was eighty-one when he died as I remember. And my father [Harry Dunn] died the year before. My father died January 22 and my grandfather died the next winter. I think he died the 12th of February. I may be wrong. Might be the 12th of January. But I think it was the 12th of February. I might be wrong about that.

And he always wore a white shirt. I never saw him wear overalls. He always wore a white shirt. And they had a lot of washing to do in those days. It was a rub-a-dub-dub. It was done by hand. My mother didn't want a washing machine and I bought a washing machine and I made her quite unhappy. Put it down here in the basement. And they weren't very good. They didn't last very long in those days. They had wooden propeller insides and thongs would come off of it.

Q: Did your grandfather say very much about Scotland, things they ate and the things they did?

A: No, I never heard them say very much about Scotland. They were so glad to get in this county. They thought it was the most wonderful thing that they could own land. And that's what they were looking for when they came here was for land. I think they came to Ohio and stayed in Ohio the first year or two. And then they were going, as I remember it, they were going to Iowa. And had an early snow and they were out here by Campbell's. And they stayed there overnight. I don't know whether it was in the house or whether they just stayed in their wagon. I don't know. Possibly just stayed in the wagon. But Campbell told them about this valley. And they knew what valleys were in Scotland. And they came down here. Uncle Robert came down about where that place is up there, about where Houck Hill is now perhaps. And he saw this valley and he went back and he told them that's where they wanted to stop. So they stopped there and they bought Uncle Robert's place. That was the first land they owned. [Probably the owner of the land before the Campbells settled on the farm.]

Q: I thought they bought that Bierhaus place and spent the winter on that and then came down here in the spring.

A: Well, that could be.

Q: I believe that's what Aunt Flora left in some writings she had done.

A: See there were six boys and a girl.

Q: I think there were eight. Four boys and a girl and then four more boys. That's what Orvie [J. Orville Taylor] told me.

A: You think there was eight boys?

Q: Yes.

A: I never knew there was eight of them. I thought there was six. There was Uncle Robert and his partner. What was his name?

Q: Robert and Alexander and Angus and John and Neil and Archibald and Duncan and William and Flora.

A: Oh, I didn't know there was that many of them.

Q: And I had never heard it put that way but I was talking to Orvie the other day and he said four boys and then a girl and then four more boys.

A: The sister married McNeil.

Q: That's right.

A: These three brothers, these others, they all went to farming. They all bought land apparently and I thought two of them went together. One in each set got married and never lived with them except Uncle Archie.

Q: Uncle Archie was our grandfather's partner and John lived with him. John, according to the 1880 census of Cass County, was classified as an idiot. He had had some kind of a sickness. Now, my father used to tell about he remembered him when he was little and they had him go out and pick up apples and things like that. But he'd been sick. There was a John. If I'd thought about it I'd brought that down for you. You might liked to have seen all that. Awfully nice good Scot names.

A: There were nine of them according to you.

MD: Nine, counting the girl. Eight boys and a girl.

Q: Now you talked about what Will Reid used to say in church when he prayed in Gaelic. Would you put that on there? I want to hear that. I want a record of that.

A: (Mr. Dunn speaks in Gaelic) I don't know. Maybe you can figure that out. He was a tall man and slender. And he was a little bit stoop but oh, he and Mr. Scott could pray long and serious.

Q: Did you ever know any of the old Horroms?

A: No, I never knew any of the Horroms.

Q: You knew Uncle Will?

A: Yes, I knew Uncle Will. I knew Uncle Joe a little bit.

Q: Oh, you did.

A: Mother and I went up there one time when we lived in Decatur. We went over there and I guess we stayed at Uncle Will's all night. I don't remember. My mother seemed to know those cousins a little bit--Uncle Joe and all of them. And that one that was there--I don't know whether that was Uncle Joe's daughter that married the International man.

Q: Bennett.

A: Vincennes, Indiana, some place.

Q: They're all dead. The last one, you know, died just last winter.

A: Who was that?

Q: Bess.

A: Was Walter dead?

Q: I think so. Uncle Will has a granddaughter in the Presbyterian Home in Springfield and she's blind. And I took her down to Missouri one time on some business. It was quite a trip I assure you. Clear down to Branson, almost to the Arkansas line. So I call her once in a while. I haven't called her for a while. She goes down, she's had eye transplant three times, cornea transplant. She's blind. Archie, I want you to put on there about hauling wheat to St. Louis and about the building the courthouse foundation.

A: Well, your Dad and Uncle Allie never remembered that. And I'm sure that they took wheat to St. Louis on the river, on the ice. And I know that they did because I've heard them talk about that. Now the river would been very shallow in those days. There was no locks in it. The Illinois River only flowed six hundred cubic feet per second. And in that case why you could wade across. So I guess it wasn't such a dangerous thing.

Q: Well, now somebody else told me a little more about that story and I believe it was Mary Sudbrink. She said they brought back salt to use in the packing plants in Beardstown.

A: I suppose they did.

Q: So I think their stories are the same.

A: I imagine they brought back salt.

Q: Now, about that foundation for the courthouse.

A: I don't know anything about it.

Q: Did they cut the stone for the Beardstown courthouse?

A: They did?

Q: Well, you told me about it. And how they cut it so rapidly that they thought they'd agreed to pay them too much money. They cut out there at Bluff Springs out of sandstone. You don't remember that story?

MD: That was a long time ago.

Q: And it's still sandstone. Now Orvie told me that one. And Dad always told it. And I thought you told me about it.

A: No.

Q: Well, then I've told you one.

A: I didn't know about that.

Q: How many horses did you have on the farm when you first started to farm?

A: Well, I tried to farm with ten.

Q: What was a horse worth?

A: Oh, horses were worth hundred to a hundred and twenty-five dollars. Corn planters were worth forty-five dollars. I remember that. Cultivators were under thirty dollars. My father must have bought this place in 1889. I'm not sure. But he bought it from the Dunns. And that family came from England. They came from England the next day after they were married. And they settled down here where the Tuecke house is now, that Tuecke owns.

Q: Were they part of that contingent put together by Grigg?

A: Yes, that came in there at Grigg's neighborhood. And I don't know when they came here. But the water got up and they bought this place in 1857. And I don't know why this place is not straight by the world. It's unusual. There's north in there. Down there about that green house is about straight north. This place lays off of being straight with the world, lays off a quarter and a mile. In other words, you start down there at that house and go a mile up here at the top of the hill and it straightens up. And over on this side from that quarter of a mile up this way it goes back to the back end of this pasture. And I've never heard anybody explain why that was done. Another farm up the road here, they say there's one over there that's that way. Some reason for it I suppose. It was because of the water. I don't know. There used to be a slough down at the Dick's place as I remember. And Mr. Dick cleared that off and they put tile down there.

Q: When did you get your first tractor?

A: Well, I got my first tractor in 1919. It was a Ford tractor. I guess your dad and Uncle Allie got tractors about the same time. Shell sold them to us.

Q: How long did you continue to keep horses after that?

A: Well, I had horses until after the war.

Q: Which war?

A: The Second World War. Ernie Logue sold my last horses or I sold them to him. I didn't have very many horses there at the last. But usually kept four horses to work in the fields. Winnie Gregory could drive horses strung out. He could drive six horses to a gang plow. I was never very good at that.

Q: Gregory. Now did he marry the Clark girl? I wonder what ever happened--now they aren't around here any more, are they?

A: Who?

Q: Arizona Clark.

A: She married Winnie Gregory. And they lived over here about four years and she left him. And she went to Peoria and I guess he did too. As far as I know he still lives in Peoria. And I don't know . . .

MD: He got married and she got married.

A: She's been the head of the dining room for Caterpillar Tractor. Late years I supposed she retired now.

Q: And you say he could drive six horses at a time?

A: Yes, he could drive six horses and do a good job of it. He drives four hitched to the plow and two in front.

Q: What's a diamond plow, Archie?

A: I don't know.

Q: It's a very early one.

A: I think it threw dirt both ways. But I can be wrong.

Q: Did you ever hear the story about our grandmother being so fast at planting corn?

A: No, but I knew my grandmother had to plant corn.

Q: Which grandmother, do you mean your grandmother Dunn?

A: Yes. I mean my mother.

Q: Your mother? (Susie Taylor Dunn)

A: Yes. See they lived first up there on that place above Chandlerville and Aunt Miza and my mother helped in the field. They marked this corn off both ways and they'd sit on a sled and drop that corn. And they had to mark the field both ways as I remember. But I don't remember when they moved down to where Uncle Allie is. That was the Horrom farm.

Q: They moved down there about 1877 or 1878, I think.

A: Well, my mother was born in 1866 and my father was born in 1864.

Q: A long time ago. They moved down to the Horrom place and bought that after Grandfather Horrom died. Well, now when did they build the house down there where Uncle Allie lives now?

A: Your dad built that house. It was after he finished school. Would it be 1901?

Q: He didn't finish school until 1902.

A: Well, he built it in 1902 then. Uncle Allie wasn't there.

Q: Did they tear the whole house down?

A: No, there was one part that was left there. Because that house had the front part and then it had three rooms back. And they took out those two middle rooms in the middle. There were one story rooms. And that house now is composed of the front part and what was the kitchen. The kitchen was moved . . .

Q: Back.

A: . . . well, moved to the front. But the two middle rooms were taken out. There was a sitting room and a dining room was in the middle. And they had . . .

MD: Well, you mean they just divided them into different rooms.

A: They were torn down.

Q: You mean replaced?

A: They were torn down. And we lived, moved that one part out and we lived in it. And my mother and Aunt Miza and Aunt Flora and grandmother all lived in one room. And they had a dining room. And they boarded the men. They boarded the workmen. And your dad and Joe and I slept upstairs and we had to climb a ladder as I remember it to get upstairs. And of course there wasn't any heat up there. They never had any heat and the rooms were slept in up there. One night I got to laughing and knocked the bed down. And your dad got so mad. And he wouldn't get up and straighten that. And we slept in that bed all night with one quarter of it down. And Joe (Devault, the hired man) was always in pretty good humor. He laughed too. (laughter) But that made your dad awful mad and I turned over too hard or something and knocked the bed down at the corner.

Q: Who built the house, who were the workmen?

A: My Uncle Will (Horrom) built the house.

Q: Where did he sleep, at the barn?

A: Yes, the men slept in the barn. And many men slept in the barn. They had the men that did the brick work were from Beardstown, Emeyers. And they had that horse that they drove to that one horse wagon. It was a Princess M mare and she was big and they thought the world of her. She was quite a fancy horse but she was big. She weighed, oh, fourteen or fifteen hundred I guess. At my father's sale, he bought a mare. My father had good horses. My grandfather Taylor didn't. He didn't have good horses. He didn't care whether the big horse was on the left or right just so they could go someplace. But my father had things pretty nice. He had a Columbus buggy. It cost a hundred and forty dollars I think in those days and he had a sleigh. And he had a pretty nice driving team. And he didn't use collars on his horses like most of them do. They wore a breast harness like you used for a buggy. And he always turned out a team that looked pretty nice. And when he died, why my

mother kept Fred. He was a sorrel horse and he developed ringworm. And Queen was the one that my father rode and drove most of the time. But I think she was older. I think Uncle Will (Dunn) bought her and used her in the laundry here in town. And I remember going to church in the sleigh. Some kids had a snowmen built up the road here. My father just laughed and laughed about that. And they had the garden east of the house up here. And my mother went out there. She and the girl working for her had the tick--they used straw ticks so they could sleep on (them). And my mother stepped on a snake. She thought she got bit. And my father just laughed and laughed. And I can remember that. And that's about all I remember. I was only seven when my father died so I don't remember everything. And my mother was up there and of course, she didn't know what to do. And she was pretty upset and everything. And then my grandfather wouldn't listen to anything why she come up there as I remember. And grandfather, he died the next winter. He lived about a year. So went through some terrible times there.

Q: Awful hard for a little boy so young.

A: Well, it had quite an influence on me later. I was always afraid of sickness and so forth. Why wouldn't I?

Q: Did your grandfather play with you?

A: No, I don't believe he did. I don't believe he paid much attention to me. I believe I'm a lot more lively now than he was. I don't believe the grandmother did much except sit around in the rocking chair with a shawl on her shoulders. I don't believe grandfather had to do much in those days. In fact, I don't know as far as my memory is concerned, I never remember them doing much work. He rented those places. He rented—that place was rented to Scott and Will Reid. And Will Reid lived down there, I guess that house there at the bridge. Uncle Angus wanted to farm. And it caused a lot of difficults with Scotts and Reids and so forth. They didn't like it. And I just couldn't blame them. It left them without a place to go. Of course, they left Scott--Scott lived down there for quite a while. But Uncle Angus was the one that wanted to farm. As I remember it he was the one that did that. But I don't remember a whole lot about them. Only those horses. I remember my father used to make fun of grandfather not having much pride about how horses where hitched up or anything like that. I never saw him work in the field. I never saw him when he wasn't wearing a white shirt.

Q: Did he go to town very often?

A: I don't think he did.

Q: Who bought the groceries?

A: Well, you see, Aunt Miza would go to town a good deal. They had that horse named Patchen that they got from Watkins. And he was quite a fancy horse. And he had been raced. And he was an awful hard mouth horse but he could take a buggy to town pretty fast and he was a pretty gentle horse as I remember.

Q: Did they goe to Virginia?

A: No, they went to Chandlerville in those days. They didn't know much about Virginia as I remember. You had to go Virginia to get the train. The train would go about five o'clock in the morning. And I remember they wanted to go to Springfield one time and Aunt Miza and I suppose Aunt Flora and my mother and I, maybe they were taking us to go to Decatur, I'm not sure. And it was awful muddy. And it froze the night before. And Joe hit the horse with a whip and that old spring wagon--the back seat wasn't fastened in--the thing went off backwards and Aunt Miza went out on her head. And I thought it was pretty serious. I thought it killed her. But she got up and she went to Springfield. Brushed her clothes off, straighten her hat up and she went on to Springfield. And that train would be full of people, be a lot of people get on the train at Virginia. And there were four trains a day running those times or three trains a day, each way.

Q: How much did it cost?

A: I don't remember that.

Q: Then you changed trains in Springfield to on to Decatur?

A: Yes. We'd go to the interurban. We'd walk there from that station over to the interurban which was quite a ways. And we went over to Decatur in 1906. And the interurban had been started about three years. And they ran every hour and every other train was a limited. It would only stop at the towns. But they had one train that stopped--it was just one car or sometimes two. It stopped out on the highway even. It was pretty nice. Millikin was started in 1903. Roosevelt was there to dedicate the university. When I was there they had Taft there. Taft was back and Archibald Butts, you have heard of him! He was his body guard. Oh, he was a fine looking man and I supposed he weighed three hundred pounds or something like that. Taft was so fat he couldn't lace his shoes, you know. And the president (of Millikin, Dr. Taylor) made arrangements to have Corvin Roach take his hat and Ben take his coat. And the president came in there and Roach took both the hat and the coat. And that ended in a cussing match that Doctor Taylor heard. And it was very amusing to me.

Q: Were you close by?

A: Yes. I was close by. We all had a seat, we had our chapel seats. We had good seats.

Q: Was Taft a good speaker?

A: As I remember he was. Archibald Butts was such a stately looking man and I looked at him more than he did the president.

Q: I'd always understood that Taft was a very brilliant man.

A: Well, I believe he was but he awful fat. I remember that more than anything.

Q: Four hundred pounds.

A: Four hundred?

Q: Yes. I read that.

A: Well, I wouldn't be surprised. He couldn't see to fasten his shoes, I know that. His stomach was in the way. And he couldn't lean over to fasten them.

Q: And he had a special bathtub at the White House!

A: Millikin was about as big in those days as it is now. There were twelve hundred there. You see they had the academy. You see there's very few people going to high school in those days. Warren Sudbrink went to high school in here. Warren Sudbrink and Lee Blohm graduated here in high school. And they went to the University of Illinois together and Warren took agriculture and Lee Blohm took languages. And Warren just stayed one year and Lee Blohm used to come down to see us every year. And my mother was always glad to him. And he graduated at the University of Illinois cum laude in language. And he took the examination to become a . . .

Q: Consul?

A: Yes. And he failed. His politics were wrong. And he had been--he got to be the head of the Clinton schools. And when he failed at this examination he gave up that school and he took the school at Maroa. And he bought a graphophone and he learned to speak Spanish. And the next time he passed his examination.

Q: He lived in Latin America all his life didn't he then?

A: Well, no. He was in several places. He was in Mexico last job he had. He died about three or four years ago and we were down there. And you know, I didn't have nerve enough to go see him because I knew his association with top government men, generals and navy men and so forth. And we were within forty miles and didn't go.

Q: Why, Archie.

A: Well, I'm that way.

Q: Well, he would have been awfully glad to see you.

A: Well, we usually had him out here when we found out they were here. They didn't usually let us know. But we've had him and his wife both out here. But he usually came out here every time, didn't he, Mom? You see, he didn't like farming. You see, he didn't. He'd help his father down there but the father wanted him to plow and he'd got out to the field and he'd take a book with him. And he'd read at the ends. Oh, he was smart. He did like school. He graduated cum laude. I guess he got a pretty good jolt when he didn't pass the examination of languages. I don't think that was his trouble. I think it was political. I mean politics worked in those days . . .

Q: More than now. Were he and Warren the same age?

A: Yes. They were about the same age. And I think that Mrs. Huss in here, Edna Dunn, I think she was in that class at the high school. I think there was maybe . . .

Q: Archie, did you ever hear about your Aunt Carrie going to the college in Virginia?

A: No.

Q: Well, she and Mary Sudbrink's mother went to the old Presbyterian School, the old Cumberland School, out there where the present high school is.

A: Well, that's the reason they call that college out there. George Cline went to Pleasant Plains to school. And grandmother . . .

Q: Aunt Carrie Sudbrink and Jennie Sudbrink and let me see.

A: I think they only went to school about a year. Those people, my grandmother and my mother went to school about a year. (tape stopped) I think she (Aunt Lou) just lacked one year of graduating. And then they got down to the end, why your dad and Uncle Allie both finished school.

Q: Well, girls weren't suppose to go to school in those days.

A: My mother went to school with Hudsons. Mr. and Mrs. Hudson.

MD: Over at Jacksonville?

A: No, at Lincoln. And they became missionaries, you know. And they came back here with five kids. I think they were missionaries in Japan. And Gary was the oldest one and he got to be a Rhodes scholar and graduated. He was president at the Illinois College over here a while. And he's the only Rhodes scholar I was ever in school with. And they were a remarkable family. And they came back to this country and they bought a dairy out west of Decatur. And that's house is still up there and that barn has been kept just as nice as when they were there. And those boys drove that milk into Decatur every morning before they went to school. And I think Gary was president of Blackburn a while.

Q: Oh, yes. I know who you mean now.

A: And then he was president of Illinois College. He's still living. And _____ was a medical missionary to Beirut, Syria. And I haven't seen them for five years but I think he lives up along west side of Lake Michigan somewhere above Chicago. And the other two boys, one of them is head of the medical at Ohio State and the other one is the head of one of these foundations. And Rowena, the daughter, she married an Englishman and she's been dead for several years.

Q: She lived abroad.

A: Yes, they lived in England a while. Remarkable family.

Q: They were all Cumberland Presbyterians to start out I take it?

MD: Rowena, she married a man who was a missionary. She was back here in this country.

A: Well, I think maybe she taught at Blackburn a while didn't she?

MD: No.

A: I saw Mrs. Hudson at my class reunion and I didn't know her. That made me feel worse than anything that I've ever have happened to me. I didn't know Mrs. Hudson.

Q: And she was the age of your mother?

A: She would be about the age of my mother. I think when I saw her at my fifieth reunion that would have been in 1963.

Q: Oh, she couldn't have been living that long.

A: Well, I saw her there. Smith. I was talking to, what was Smith's name?

MD: Wesley Smith.

A: No, the one that was in my class. Ed Smith

MD: Edgar Smith.

A: And then I was talking to him and he came out there in front of the church over there. We went to that bacclaureate and went to church there anyway. And they came out. Or Ed Smith came out and then Mrs. Hudson came out. And I suppose she wouldn't have known me. Somebody had to tell her.

Q: You lost your curls.

A: Yes, I lost my curls. I never liked them. I didn't miss them much. Caused me a lot of trouble. The Sudbrinks, you know, and the Taylors--the Sudbrinks used to bring a wagon up at Illiopolis.

Q: Well, that was to visit the other grandparents.

A: Yes, you see, Mr. Sudbrink died and Mrs. Sudbrink married a man named Bottrell. And he moved to Illiopolis and they'd go there and see him about, oh, every so often. They'd go in the wagon. It was an all day trip.

Q: Why, I'd think it would be.

A: And Duncan Taylors used to drive them over there. They had relatives. Pete Meyreis, they'd put Pete Meyreis' horse and Duncan

Taylor's horse together and they'd go in a surrey. They had a more comfortable ride than in the wagon. It would take them all day to make the trip. But they made a few trips over there. And what were those people's name?

MD: Campbell.

A: Yes, Campbell. And one of them's buried up here and they say that graves been emptied.

Q: Well, they moved those people. And they came, somebody came to find out about those Campbells. And Lee Edda and I just couldn't figure out who they were. And finally, she said, "I believe there's a connection there with Alice Dour." And so Alice knew all about it. I think that's when they moved them.

A: I guess that's about the last funeral I ever went to up there. Didn't they put the hearse--put the coffin on the wagon and Duncan's mules. So that's been quite a while ago.

Q: Archie, do you ever remember where a Collins' family lived here in the bottom.

A: Collins?

Q: Velda Kendall's mother was a Collins.

A: I don't know.

Q: Steve Cawood's daughter told me her mother was a first cousin to Velda's mother. No, her mother was a first cousin to Velda. Little bit of a thing wasn't she?

A: She was old. She used to come to church, and her father.

Q: I don't remember him.

A: Well, Duncan Taylor's wife was a Kendall.

Q: And her mother was a Collins and she's related to Steve Cawood's wife.

A: And there were talented, they were musical people as I remember. Not very many musical people in the Taylor family are there?

Q: Now the Horroms were. Uncle Will has a grandson that has a big organ business in Florida. And this woman that's blind has an organ in her room there at the Presbyterian Home.

A: Well, Aunt Lou played the organ at church. I don't know whether it was a mechanical organ or not. I can still hear Aunt Lou laughed. She always laughed so loud. You know George H. does too. He's awfully loud. Just like Aunt Lou.

Q: Aunt Lou really enjoyed things. Did you know I have her on tape on her ninety-fourth birthday? The cutest thing. And she named all of her brothers and sisters and gives their birthdates and tells who she sat with in school and tells who some of the preachers were.

MD: I remember her toward the last when she was washing the windows. She stood on the top of that high ladder and she would wash those windows.

Q: She couldn't see how high up she was. Her eyes was so poor at that time.

MD: But she always got it done.

Q: I always said she could tell the difference between a ten dollar bill and a five. I thought she smelled it. And she used to bother me, she'd said, "Now, how much money do I have on deposit?" And I couldn't tell her how much without looking. I said, "Aunt Lou, I'll have to find out." "Well, how much did you get for the corn? How much a bushel was it?" (tape stopped)

Tell me about the first telephone you remember.

A: Well, my father died in 1899 and there was a fence over here because my house was on the hill. And Hershal Wilson and my father were working on two things. They were working for the telephone and working for a mail route. And this isn't what you asked for. But my father had insurance. That's the thing that saved this farm. There were some that didn't believe in insurance. And insurance was supposeed to be kind of wicked in those days. And I think my father had seven thousand dollars of insurance.

Q: That was a lot then wasn't it?

A: Well, my father I think was a pretty progressive man.

End of Side One, Tape One

A: Well, you know, you have to rein for supper in the field or any where--eat grass. Get their heads down. And over rein is the thing that holds their head up. And on this farm, most farm harness and bridles, the over rein comes right through by the side of their heads. But over rein will go over and come over the top and that'll hold their heads up high, you know. That's what you wanted to make a horse look nice when you were driving them. You always wanted a horse reined up. They were easier to handle and everything else. And George Cline used over reins which most people used on a driving team, he used that on his mules. And it always made for a showy team to go along the road. Ed Watkins worked for him one year. And my, those men turned out an awful lot of work. George Cline was an awful hard worker until he got that bout with rheumatism that time. That was a terrible thing. He suffered.

Q: When was that? Was he a young man?

A: Well, he was still up here on this place up here. And they had to turn him over in bed with a sheet. He couldn't stand to be turned. He had rheumatism I guess. Of course, I don't know.

Q: From the rheumatic fever maybe.

A: I suppose it was. But George Cline was never a yes man to anybody except his wife. She wasn't very big but she could handle him. (laughter)

Q: Tell me about the threshing and the corn shelling when you were a kid.

A: Well, I remember when they didn't have blowers on the threshing machine when they had to drag the straw away with horses and poles. And then they came out and then they had to cut the bands by hand. And I remember seeing corn sacked but once. They sacked corn. And wheat, they sacked all the wheat practically and buried in the straw stack until they hauled it away.

Q: Wait a minute. You say they buried the sacked wheat in a straw stack for protection.

A: Yes. Keep the rain from bothering it.

Q: I never knew that.

A: And then they'd haul it to Beardstown. And they all--haul eighteen sacks to a load. Didn't have tops on the wagon or didn't have any end gate in the back. They'd just leave those sacks in there. Took a long time to unload because a man had to carry each sack back to the back end of the wagon to unload it.

Q: Would that be thirty-six bushels to a wagon then?

A: Thirty-six bushels per wagon.

Q: Gunny sacks?

A: No. What were these sacks that we used to get? They were made of cotton weren't they, these sacks that we'd get?

Q: Canvas maybe?

A: No.

MD: We used to wash them and used them around. I don't know. Mrs. Dunn had quite a few of them.

A: Well, my father owned two or three hundred sacks and you rented them from the mill.

Q: Were they linen?

MD: No, they're heavier than that.

Q: A canvas thing.

MD: Kind of a canvas, yes.

A: And Joe never did bring weigh over a hundred fifteen or a hundred twenty pounds, and he could lift one of those sacks and put it on his shoulder and carry it to the wagon easier than anybody I ever did see.

Q: Well, how much would the two bushels of wheat weigh?

A: Well, it'd be hundred twenty pounds of wheat and a sack would weigh a pound. And clover, they used to put two and a half bushels in a sack. And my father-in-law wanted some clover seed and couldn't find any in a year so I bought some--I had a new truck, Ford. That must have been about 1929. I don't know. I went over to Rushville and I bought a load, fifty bushels of clover seed. And I took it over to him. He wouldn't let me put it in a shed outside. He wanted it carried to the basement. And you knew it pretty near killed me. I couldn't carry a hundred, a hundred and fifty pounds. And I remember that and I had to do it--he wouldn't let me drive in the yard. I had to carry it as far as from here to the garage. And say I was never so glad to get anything done in my life. I believe that was the hardest job I ever had. I didn't want to fail before him. And clover seed went up and he sold it.

Q: Did he share the profit with you?

MD: Oh, no.

Q: When did you start using commercial fertilizer and lime and things like that?

A: I started using lime in 1914. I bought a carload of lime. Oscar Savage worked for me and they made a lot of fun of me over at Bluff Springs. The remarks weren't very nice, some of them. And I was over there unloading that load of lime and a man named Leonhard whose family is this school teacher I guess. Maybe their uncle. Said, "I'd like to see that young fellow. Anybody that doesn't have more sense than to put lime on and put rock on his land." So I popped up out of the car and I said, "Here I am." And they made a lot of fun of me. And Oscar Savage, he got hot over it. And he didn't think anybody had any sense that put rock on their land. We'd get up at five o'clock in the morning and leave here and go over to Bluff Springs, we'd haul four loads of lime, two tons, and go down to the field with it. It'd be about night before when we'd get through. We worked awfully hard. And we didn't have a good way to test this land. And we'd put lime, some places didn't even need it. But I think your father had bought some lime before then. I may be wrong.

Q: That's right.

A: I think Warren Sudbrink bought the first lime that had been bought in the valley. And the thing that made a little publicity, not very much,

Bert Taylor got interested in limestone and sweet clover. Brooks lived up here on his farm and Brooks didn't tell Bert what he was doing. He sowed sweet clover. And Bert Taylor went down there one Sunday and he drove around the wheat with a horse and buggy. And the sweet clover was higher than the wheat. And Bert got all upset about it. He said, "You're going to lose all this wheat." And I think as I heard it, Brooks told me, "You'll raise pretty good corn though after this." Brooks was from the southeast some place. And in another year or two why Bert was convinced on limestone. And you know what he did. He bought a trainload of limestone. It was the first trainload that was ever sold in Illinois as far as I know. Thirty cars. And he let his friends have it in Virginia. This land this side of Virginia, a lot of that land got so it wasn't producing very much. The Campbell land and a lot of that other land. And Bert Taylor never wanted the good land. Limestone worked better on that than it does here. In fact limestone worked better up here on these hills today than it will down here because it gets away down here. But he bought--so I've used lime ever since. And I need lime awful bad right now. I've got about a hundred and ten tons down there in the field. I don't know that I'm going to get it spread because it's getting so late. Joe's going to spread it for me.

Q: Archie, did you know there was a lime quarry on Acharua Farm where they lived?

A: Where who lives?

Q: In Scotland. And Cheslea and I discussed that. Cheslea said, "I want you to see the lime quarry when you are in Scotland." And I asked about it. It was back in the field. But Janet Barbour said they always, the old timers, would dig the lime out and put it on the field in the spring. So I asked Cheslea and he said that's why--he thought dad was the first to get it. And he'd been made so much fun of. He said, "Why, I think that's where he got the idea. His father knew about it back in the old country."

A: Well, I think maybe Warren Sudbrink was the first. But I don't know.

Q: Maybe it was the same year.

A: Could be. But I think Warren Sudbrink had one load of limestone. He went to the University of Illinois and his first year there must have been about 19--, I don't know.

MD: Well, he'd be about the age of Ralph Davidson. He would be four years older than you. Maybe a little more.

A: Well, when did Warren go to school? Warren went to school, must have been about 1905. We moved to Decatur in 1906 and I think that he had gone to Illinois the year before. He and Lee Blohm were in the same school. They graduated here at Beardstown High School.

Q: Well, did you haul out manure from the barn too?

A: Yes, we used to haul it by hand and throw it out. Some of these men were pretty good about spreading that in the field. We didn't have manure spreaders in those early days.

MD: We just put it on the wagon.

A: Just put it on a wagon.

Q: A rack wagon?

A: No. We usually put it on a bed wagon. Some of them used a rack wagon but the rack wagon in those days were made the wrong height and they just had boards on the outside. They weren't solid. And it was a long time afterwards that they had rack wagons to haul bundles with. And the First World War Robert Garm in here was the head of the food thing for Cass County and he come out and look at it. They had a rule that you had to have all solid racks to haul bundles with. It just couldn't be done. We didn't have enough help. Help was terrifically scarce then. Not maybe as much for farm as it is now but the only reason that we got by down here in war time was that these railroad men come out and shocked the wheat for us. They'd come out after four o'clock and they'd shock wheat until dark. And they were awful nice to me.

Q: Who were some of them?

A: Well, Willie Armstrong was one of them that I remember.

MD: Willie worked on the farm.

A: Yes, but he was working on the railroad in there. He worked on the railroad there. He was an engine hostler. He got those engines running at night. They used to have a bunch of engines in there. And he'd run those engines a little bit. They'd run them to get coal and get water in there and one thing or another.

MD: Mr. Huffman's brother-in-law was one.

A: Yes, he was one. I don't remember the other men right off hand. I kind of forget names pretty easy.

Q: How would they get out here? Would you go get them or did they have a car? They didn't have a car did they?

A: Yes, they had a car in those days. They had cars in those days. We had our first car in 1916. I don't know when you folks did.

Q: I think 1917 maybe.

A: I think maybe I was a little ahead. I always got more cars than Uncle Allie or your dad.

Q: I think we've got an old 1917 license nailed up out in the shed.

A: There was a difference in them. There's a difference in brothers and a difference in the family. My boys are not much like me. Carl's more like me. But he wants to be like his mother but he's more like me. (laughter) You know these boys, they just worship their mother. There's no other word that explains it to me.

MD: Mrs. Angel says that George Dunn and George H.'s grandson looks like Archie. He's just a year old.

Q: Now what name does he have?

MD: Scott and Brian.

A: I think they're Democrats.

Q: Oh, you do.

A: B-R-I-A-N though.

Q: B-R-I-A-N. That's Irish isn't it?

MD: I don't know. Maybe it's Greek or Grecian.

A: And there's so much difference in our folks. They're tall men. Jim's not very tall. But his grandfather, I bet he's six-six. I don't know. He's just terribly tall.

Q: Well, Cheslea's boys are so tall I think. Cheslea's Henry, he's way up over six feet.

MD: I wonder, do they get that from the Dorrs?

Q: No. They get it from my mother's mother's family, the Allens. They were all very tall people.

A: You know my mother was always disappointed in me. I have such ugly hands. Oh, boy. See, my father had such beautiful hands and my hands were so . . .

Q: They've done a lot of work though.

A: And that always kind of bothered me that she would keep talking about it. My father was pretty nearly six feet.

MD: Your father died and after people die, why they're perfect.

Q: You know I remember your mother would give us lumps of sugar if we had the hiccups. And so we would deliberately try to get the hiccups. And I read not long ago that the American Medical Society says that sugar is good for hiccups. And I thought Aunt Susie knew that way back when. You remember that, about the hiccups and the sugar?

A: No. But I remember my mother did one of the hardest things that I think a woman can do. She kept boarders in Decatur for two years. And

you know that's the hardest thing there is to do, I think, is to satisfy people with what they eat.

Q: Well, she wanted you to have an education.

MD: Those people did a lot of things in order to get that.

A: Well, this place used to bring in about a couple thousand dollars gross on an average in a year. And there weren't any expenses. And taxes weren't very high and the law was pretty strict on inheritance in those days. And it always bothered my mother a good deal because according to the law she only owned a third of the place. I owned two thirds of it I guess. I may be wrong about that.

Q: I think that's still the law if there's no will.

A: And I don't think it was right with her but she was the one that had the money. And my father had money in it too. My father paid twenty-two thousand for this place. It must have been 1889. And he got the horses and the work stuff and a couple of old plows. And they were riding plows. And they cost twenty-seven dollars. And he had to buy new plows and he bought walking plows that cost sixteen dollars. And he bought--because of that extra money, that eleven dollars--he didn't have it.

Q: So they walked?

A: So they walked. They plowed a lot of stuff down here. I can remember them plowing the hedge fence on this side of the road. There wasn't any of these gullies in the field like there are now. Hedge fences were quite a protection to the land. I remember Grandma Taylor, pretty well. She'd hide stuff from me and my wife does the same thing. That is stuff to eat.

Q: You mean candy and cookies?

A: Yes. Cookies. And they always had cookies up there. Aunt Flora baked cookies. And it was pretty hard to get to them. And they baked an apple pie up there one time and there wasn't anybody around so I about ate a whole pie. I don't like applie pie since. It about made me sick.

Q: Aunt Miza was the pie baker wasn't she?

A: Yes. She baked pies. And Aunt Flora picked up the sticks and helped wash dishes and so forth.

Q: And made the cookies?

A: And made the cookies and the cakes.

MD: Aunt Miza made the pies.

Q: Aunt Miza was a great pie baker. I've never seen such pies as she could bake.

A: She was a good cook. She was an awful big worker. I never remember my grandmother doing very much.

Q: Well, she'd sit and sew quilt pieces.

A: Yes, some. She was always doing something in her rocking chair. She'd rock.

Q: What kind of a chair did she sit in?

A: A rocking chair.

Q: Which one, do you remember?

A: No, I don't remember.

Q: It wasn't like those old straight chairs, the little low chair?

A: No, no. It was a cane chair I think or you know, made out of rows or something.

MD: Like they're woven now only they're big pieces.

A: Yes, I think so.

MD: They're all woven solid. I don't know where I've seen those but I have.

A: She was the boss now. She'd get Joe up in the mornings and she got him up early. And at noon when we went in, why, as soon as we had dinner, why she'd make us go in and lie on the floor. And she'd sit around with a fan and keep the flies off of us so we could sleep.

Q: Didn't you have screens?

A: Well, I think so but they had flies. I remember that.

Q: Oh, I remember.

A: Flies used to be terrible. You're not old enough to remember flies?

MD: We used to have a lot of soft maple trees. And I remember mother and Gussie and the girl and I would shoo them out of the dining room and on into the kitchen. You just did that with every room. But flies were just awful.

A: Well, I've seen flies on these porches so thick you couldn't see the ceiling.

MD: Oh, it used to be just terrible. We've done something.

Q: I guess it's the environmental protectionists who are testing in court now.

A: Well, I suppose they sprayed the cattle and the lots and so forth, I suppose that got rid of them. I don't know. You don't have flies like you used to. Don't have mosquitoes like you used to.

Q: We have termites now.

A: Yes, Uncle Allie's house's got termites in it they tell me.

Q: I've got a few.

MD: Have you?

Q: I'm afraid so. I'm not sure.

A: Well, it's kind of hard to get rid of termites. I shouldn't say it isn't hard. I think it is but they have so much better method of handling them than they used to.

Q: Did you sell cream and eggs?

A: Yes, and it was a terrible thing to do. They'd say your eggs were bad and your cream was sour. And I've sold cream not so terribly long ago when we still had cows. I took it over to Jacksonville.

MD: But that was when you sold it in five-gallon cans.

A: Five-gallon cans of cream. And one place that I took it said the cream was sour. So I took it to another place and sold it. That's one of the bad things today is selling this grain and the way it's tested and so forth. These testers are not right. And I took some soy beans I guess it was, I took them to four places.

Q: Well, you had chickens. I can remember that. And red raspberries. Archie, I must tell the red raspberries are all over Scotland. And you know our folks wanted red raspberries and mackerel and put vinegar on everything.

A: Yes, I remember. They used to buy mackerel, my gosh, my grandmother bought a lot of mackerel.

Q: Well, that's where it comes from.

A: Well, it didn't look good to me. The eyes, the still eyes on those fish.

Q: Where would she buy?

A: Well, the stores kept it.

Q: In a barrel?

MD: I think it was a barrel. I never ate it but it seems to be I have seen it.

A: All of this stuff was in barrels in the old days: coffee and sugar and flour. And we used to sell wheat in Beardstown and leave so much of it for flour.

Q: And trade it off. How did they do that?

A: Oh, just a habit I think. Of course, Horrom run that mill at Chandlerville that went broke, didn't he?

Q: I don't know. Which Horrom was that?

A: Well, that must have been my grandmother's brother. I don't know.

Q: Was it Uncle Alvey?

A: Maybe it was her uncle.

Q: Uncle Leeman?

A: No, it was Alvin, wasn't it?

Q: I don't know. Well, now Cyrus was Addison McNeil's grandfather, wasn't it?

A: Well, I wouldn't know that. We were related to the McNeils. We were related to everybody in this valley almost or were at one time except Dicks and Houcks.

Q: And the Wilsons.

MD: The Wilsons through Aunt Dessie.

A: We were a little better related to the Wilsons I guess. We were related to all these people down here in the bottom, the Hagers.

Q: Who was that?

A: What was his name down here. Ran Clear Lake.

Q: Doug Hager. Yes.

A: Frank Lebkuecher lived down there. Jacob Lebkuecher. Their father came in here from Germany. And he was a uncle of Mr. Schultz, Mr. John Schultz came here and lived here and worked on the farm the first year he was here and he didn't like farm work. And he went down and got a job at the mill at Baujan's Mill. And fell in love with Miss Baujan. And Mr. Baujan wouldn't give them consent to get married until he had two thousand dollars. You know the rest of it?

Q: No, I don't know that part of it.

A: Well, so he wanted to marry her so he bought a saloon here in town. He bought what they called the Croppie Hole across from, right along this auto supply business. It was east of there. It was on the lot just to

the left of the mitten factory in town, that glove factory. And he made two thousand dollars in less than a year and he married her.

MD: And he sold the saloon.

A: And then it wasn't very long before he owned the mill. Baujan lost out and he bought it.

Q: I think the tape was off when you were telling about your father being interested in the road and telephones. Would you tell that again please?

A: Well, I remember, it must have been about 1898 then that Hershel Wilson came down here and he and my father were looking over this fence out here and they were talking about a mail route and a telephone. So that's the first I remember about telephones and the mail route. And I don't know when the mail route came. I know when the mail route came up the road. Fred Hillig who was the carrier first. And I don't know who lives down here. Maybe Germer I don't know. But I think they had the mail route up there out of Virginia before they got this one down here. And the telephone line ran from Beardstown up to where Elmo French lived. Jake Theivagt lived there. And he was a Sunday school superintendent there at one time. And he had two phones. He had one from Chandlerville and he had one from here. And sometimes he'd raise the wires across or connect them and you could talk through to the other line. He would always blow a whistle when he went along the road. Pete Myreis. And he had steam engines and they'd go along the road here. Pete Myreis would always blow the whistle even when we lived up on the hill. I was born up here on a hill. This house and my father was too. My father was born in 1864 and they came up here in 1857. But the older ones of the family, they were born down there at Grigg's Chapel in that place that Tuekes owns now.

Q: When was this house on the hill built?

A: Well, I have no idea. The front part of it is new. The front part of it is lined. I mean it's a lot newer. Put their oak cells on it. And the window frames and the door frames are all 4 x 4's. Heavy material.

Where did Uncle Robert's folks come from? Did they come from close there? That is the Cunninghams.

Q: No, they came from Edinburgh I think.

A: They were worth more money. They had more money, didn't they, than the Taylors?

Q: Yes.

A: But the older ones always handled the money in those days, didn't they?

Q: Yes.

A: Well, how many of our parents worked at this distillery here in Beardstown?

Q: I don't know anything about that.

A: Well, they worked at the distillery when they first came here.

Q: Well, they all did in Campbeltown.

A: Well, their parents had died--no, their mother came with them.

Q: She came along.

A: But her father had died.

Q: Yes. And then the story was that Aunt Flora had wrote that her father had told her it was such--his mother grieved so over never seeing her sister again. And she was Janet McCoig McEachern. Oh, I'm sure that would have been Aunt Rebecca's grandmother. And Archie McEachern's grandmother. When Robert Taylor went to Scotland he stayed with Archibald McEachern. And there was a lady, one of the women that worked at the hotel told me all about Archie McEachern. I have her on tape. Oh she said, "He was a fine good man." And he was so interested in very religious people apparently.

A: Was Scotland Presbyterian?

Q: Yes, and they're all quite interested in the Kirks.

A: Are there many Catholics there?

Q: Yes, there would be a little Catholic. Of course, I really don't know. I couldn't tell you.

MD: You were not around looking for the Catholic church?

Q: No.

A: Well, they tell me that Dunn is a common name in England as Smith is here in this country.

Q: I wouldn't be surprised. And they're also some Dunns from Scotland. Now, they flipped back and forth across the border. They just didn't stay still.

A: John Walker who was president of the Illinois Department of Labor at one time was from Scotland. And he asked me if I knew anything about my parents--Dunns.

Q: Archie, did you ever see anything they brought with them from Scotland?

A: No.

Q: I think they were just too poor, don't you?

A: Well, there wasn't any way of conveying anything. I suppose they were on the ocean for six weeks weren't they?

Q: Did your father ever tell about the trip over, I mean your grandfather? Did you ever know anything about that?

A: No.

Q: Dad used to tell the story that Uncle Mac wore out his shoes. They danced so much on the way over.

MD: That would be a little bit different than we usually hear.

Q: And they also called him Father MacNeil. He became so involved with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. (Shiloh) But now, Archie, another thing. Did your grandfather use good English? Did he make errors in his speech?

A: Well, I think he talked pretty good. He had kind of a brogue but I don't think he talked very much.

Q: You don't.

A: I don't believe he was a talker. I don't believe he talked like Aunt Lou. I don't remember he talked very much.

MD: I don't believe your mother used quite as good language as Aunt Lou.

A: No, my mother didn't. My mother said ain't. And that was the only bad language she used.

MD: No, I don't think she was quite as good. But I think Aunt Lou . . .

Q: My mother said that Aunt Lou was the student of the family. She always put it that way that Aunt Lou was the student of the entire family.

MD: I don't remember.

A: My mother wouldn't quit using ain't. I don't know. It seems to be all right today.

Q: Anything does today. And you don't know anything about the old Horroms then at all?

A: I don't know anything about the Horroms. I never talked very much about them. My grandmother never talked. I knew Uncle Will and I knew Uncle Joe.

Q: Well, now one of the county histories says they left Dearborn County, Indiana, in December, I believe 1829 and got here in March. Been out in the weather almost four months. One of the first families.

A: She ever tell you about your dad and the bumblebee?

Q: No, I think I'd like to hear that one.

A: We were plowing out not so very far down in the field there. I always helped him, you know, I didn't help Uncle Allie. When we came back in the summertime I'd help your dad. Was there when they built the barn and everything. I made thirteen gates for him one day out there. And we were plowing down there in the fields in the stubble. And there was a little clover there. And ran across a bumblebee's nest and got stung on the head. He said, "I'll be sick. I'll be sick." And he was scared right now and we stopped those horses, you know. And I went back to him. He said, "Rub some dirt on my head." He said, "Put some water on there. Rub some dirt in there." And I spit on his head. And it made him sick. He threw up. And it was just as yellow as it could be that he threw up. And he was allergic to a bee sting.

Q: And he knew it?

A: And he was scared and he knew it. And he scared me too. But I remember I spit on his head and I rubbed that dirt in there.

Q: I remember him doing that to me one time.

MD: I guess your spit was effective.

A: I'd have been killed up there back of where you lived at one time if it hadn't been for Uncle Allie. Uncle Allie was riding a colt and he wanted my saddle. And he had a flat saddle and I was riding his saddle. And the horse I was riding jumped across that creek back there and I went off and my foot was caught in the stirrup and my horse started to run. And he jumped off his horse and caught that horse. It would have killed me just as sure as anything could have been.

Q: Well, now tell me about this. Did you ever hear that Aunt Ann grew up, she was a McAllister, and she was Uncle Joe's wife, and she grew up in a cabin out there where our old corncrib is?

A: No, I never heard that. I thought the McAllister's--there's a bunch of McAllisters that live down around Meradosia now.

Q: Same tribe.

A: And I think she used to come down there once in a great while.

Q: Is that right?

A: I think so.

Q: I've always heard that story. Now how long they lived there I don't know. But the Horroms originally lived across the road there in that place where John N. used to be just east of the church, didn't he, their first cabin was there? Can you verify that?

A: No, I don't remember that.

MD: Who was it that used to live across the road on the other side from the church? There used to be a house there.

A: Well, Burns.

Q: Gene Burns.

A: Yes. Gene Burns lived there for a while. There was a Perry Burns, what was that Burns' name down at Chandlerville? Could have been his father.

Q: Well, didn't Bill Everhart live there at one time too?

A: Yes, I guess maybe he did.

Q: Didn't that house just about fall in the creek?

A: Yes.

Q: Do you remember the old church, either the Baptist or the Cumberland?

A: Well, I guess I don't. This church up here was built in 1891 and that was the year I was born. And a fellow by the name of Sam Cook hauled the brick for the church and he hauled them with oxen. And the oxen were awful contrary. And up there where Dave Fielden lived was always a seep hole out there in front. And they used to call that a deer lick. I guess the deer used to come there and get water. And those oxen, once in a while they would go out there with that wagon, they couldn't control it. And they'd go out there and get a drink wagon and all.

Q: Where did they haul the bricks from?

A: Chandlerville I think. But Sam Cook hauled those bricks.

MD: They had a railroad at Chandlerville then.

A: The railroad had a brick yard.

MD: And there was a brick yard in Chandlerville.

A: And there was a brick yard in all these places. There was a brick yard in Beardstown. Myers Brick Yard. Myers was a wealthy people in Beardstown and had the brick yard and they were the ice people.

MD: Was there a brick yard in Virginia?

A: Yes, there was a brick yard in Virginia. That's what makes that pond out there. There's been a lot of bricks out of that place in Virginia. I've hauled bricks from Virginia, hauled bricks from Virginia to that barn where Uncle Allie lives and Uncle Johnny's barn. And used to try to haul two loads a day and get up at five o'clock. And I started working a

team up there when I was eight years old. And I had a team that Uncle Angus had, I had Mollie and Fern. And Mollie was grey and Fern was black. And one of them was lazy. And I had to used a whip on that one to keep up. They'd haul those bricks down through the Henderson's place. It isn't very far from Virginia across there, go across the hills. Not over five miles I don't believe, if that. We used to come down through Ross's. And then sometimes we'd have heavy loads, we come through that other place up there. I can't remember who that was. That way you'd miss that hill there at Ross's. And I remember when Henderson used to feed cattle back there and they feeded cattle, Alex Hogan fed those cattle. And he have as high as seven hundred. And they fed those cattle at one time with oxen and then with horses and I think at the last they were feeding them with mules. And the horse, whatever they used to feed with ran right out with the cattle, horses and mules got a full feed right out with the cattle. He had those graineries built of logs. And Alex Hogan could feed those cattle. He could scoop more corn than any man I ever remember seeing. And his son is still living.

Q: Albert Hogan, yes.

A: And he was always nice to me and they pulled a lot of corn. They bought all the corn in the valley way down to the Sudbrink place. And they pulled that up through Uncle Allie's there. And I remember when they used oxen and they spliced those teams. They put a team of oxen along the corner of your team.

Q: You mean horses and oxen both?

A: Yes. Oxen were strong.

Q: I never knew that before.

A: Oxen were strong.

Q: Well, my dad never used oxen to farm, did he?

A: No, he never used oxen. But he saw all this.

Q: And then everybody had an orchard too didn't they?

A: Oh, yes. Everybody had an orchard. It was a pretty big orchard here. And the thing that gives me trouble they had a hedge, what do you call it?

MD: Nursery.

A: Hedge nursery.

Q: How did they keep the bugs away from the apples or did they have bugs like they do now and worms?

MD: Yes.