

**“Green Mountain Chronicles”**  
**Oral History Transcriptions, 1981-1989 (bulk: 1987-1988)**  
**MSA 199 & 200**

**Introduction**

This transcription is one of approximately 42 transcriptions of interviews with individuals conducted primarily in 1987 and 1988 in preparation for a radio program sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society entitled “Green Mountain Chronicles.”

**Scope and Content**

The transcriptions in this collection represent interviews of approximately 42 individuals conducted primarily in 1987 and 1988 by Mark Greenberg, Mary Kasamatsu, Eleanor Ott, and Tom Davis in preparation for a radio series entitled “Green Mountain Chronicles.” The series of 52 five-minute programs was broadcast by commercial and public radio stations throughout the state in late 1988 and early 1989. The earliest interview in the collection was conducted in 1981; the latest was in 1989.

The interviewers spoke with well known Vermonters such as Governors Philip Hoff, Deane Davis, and Madeleine Kunin; lesser known personalities such as Catherine Robbins Clifford, one of the first women to hike the entire length of the Long Trail; and historians such as Weston Cate. The following inventory of the collection highlights the major theme(s) of each interview. The following list of program tapes gives the title of each radio program.

The goal of the radio series was to tell the history of Vermont in the twentieth century using archival sound recordings and recent interviews. The project was undertaken by the VHS in celebration of its 150th anniversary in 1988 and was funded by a \$14,000 grant from the Vermont Council on the Humanities and Public Issues with additional support from New England Telephone Company.

MSA 199, Folder 0 contains background information on the project. The VHS website at [www.vermonthistory.org/gmchronicles](http://www.vermonthistory.org/gmchronicles) contains a list of the Green Mountain Chronicles radio broadcasts and audio files of those broadcasts.

Addie Kelsey  
April 13, 1988

Mary Kasamatsu  
Interviewer

- MK This is an interview for the Green Mountain Chronicles. This is the 13th of April and I'm with Addie Kelsey in Newport. Um, before I forget to ask you, what was your maiden name?
- AK Clough.
- MK Clough?
- AK C L O U G H yea.
- MK Okay, sometimes I do forget if I don't ask right at the beginning. You said you were born, where were you born?
- AK Claremont, New Hampshire.
- MK New Hampshire and you came to Newport...
- AK When I was pretty near a year old.
- MK Uh huh. So really all of your memories are from Newport.
- AK Oh yea, I did. (LAUGH)
- MK Sure, that's great. Um, let's begin with how you got involved in 4H?
- AK Well there was someone came at the school and wanted to know if we would like to have a 4H club and those that were interested they went some place, I forget where it was, but we were all to meet there and we formed the club and they were from different places. At one time there was a Mrs. Holbrook. She had two sons, they lived on the Albany Creek Road in Albany, Vermont and she was our leader. We had several and then the best one, the one that was more interested in anything was Miss Kuntz. And she was wonderful. She had been overseas and she came back and she got us all together and lots of times we met at her home which was the old ~~fog~~ house up on the hill over the lake where the Captain Fog used to live so he could see up the lake. She had an apartment there and we all went up there most of the time and ah, she talked to us about everything and she was wonderful.
- MK What kinds of things did, did she tell you about or teach you about in 4H?
- AK Well she taught something over there. I got her whole story in a, in the paper in there, all about her.

MK When she was, as your 4H leader, what kinds of things did you do?

AK Oh, we took, at first we took clothing and then we started taking cooking and we learned how to make cookies and muffins and things special things you know and lots of places we would meet we would make them. The mothers didn't care. We'd stir up some and different, different kinds and we would make them. And we would get together every little while. We called it the round-up. The 4H round-up, and we would all meet from Brownington, Orleans, Albany, Barton, Coventry and Newport and it would be quite a crowd. And we would go to a place like a school or the town hall where we could all sit down and we'd have a big dinner and we would eat a little and then we'd sing. (LAUGHING) And then we'd eat some more and sing and then we had choruses and we had RAH, RAH, RAHS that we would give you know, different things. For our own clubs and well we had the most wonderful times. It was just wonderful for us. We had just everything was, we were all happy doing things that we liked to do and getting into things that I think was wonderful for us at that, at that age and the things that we should be interested in. It gave us something to think about. And Miss Kuntz had a Ford car. It was blue and it had the snap-on curtains on the sides and there was no heater in it. (LAUGHING) She used to take us everywhere. And we didn't know enough to be cold then. (LAUGHING) We would cuddle up in the back seat. She'd take a whole load of us and we would just, ah, we would just have the best time and she'd take us all over everywhere. She was so good to us, Flora we called her. She had a sister Lessel that was a wonderful girl. She was a very dear friend of mine. She died here three years ago with cancer and I went to her funeral. And her daughter was killed in Burlington. A guy that was drinking ran into her and killed her on the sidewalk and I went to Lessel and well I gave her all the comfort I could. She had three sons besides her. She lived on the Derby Road. And we also went to what they called the Twin State Fair. And I was chosen as a delegate to go and I took my dress I made. And I was so proud of it. I can see just how it looked. It had a little turn back collar, two pockets at the bottom of the little kick pleat and I was so proud of that dress. And we stayed on the fair grounds in the big tents you know and we had cots to sleep on and we had our meals outside on the grounds and we stayed there for two days. And there were a lot of kids there. Some came in that we knew and of course we went to everything that was going on. All the things that was happening at the fair and we had a wonderful time. They brought us home and...

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MK Now what, wait a minute. Now you had a competition there right?

AK Oh yes, oh yes, there was other kids that brought in things too and all. The things that we had done were hung up on the sides of the walls so that they could be judged and I got a prize on my dress (LAUGH) and I was very proud of it. There was others there too that got things and well we met a lot of children that, we got acquainted with them and knew them and they got things too. And then...

MK What was the fair like then?

AK Pardon?

MK When was this? How old were you?

AK Ah, well I must have been around 13, 14 years old.

MK What was that fair like? You said you did different things.

AK Oh, it was, it was what they called the Twin State Fair. And it was New Hampshire and Vermont and it was held at White River Junction. And they don't have it anymore.

MK But what kinds of things were there?

AK Oh there was everything there. There was, they had horse races. They had cows and pigs and they had a dog show. They had sheep and ah, oh they had a big grandstand where everyone could sit and watch. They had music and ah, oh, just like an old fashion fair you know and we kids all run around and had an awful good time looking at everything. And ah, there was one thing that happened while I was there. Ah, they used the big, um, great big tacs to tac things up with and I got up in the morning and stepped on one and I drove it right into my heel. Well my girlfriend said oh, what are we going to put on it and I said well I don't know. I'm scared and it hurts. So we went way down the fair grounds. There was an old fella down there, he was an Italian. Come right in girl he said. So we went in and he said put your foot right up here. I told him what I'd done. The, the place wasn't open where we had someone to see to us. It was too early. So he, I put my foot way up and he painted it all over with iodine and it ached that forenoon but it all went away. (LAUGH) I didn't have any bad affects from it. (LAUGHING) I was so scared. That was the only thing that happened down there. That, but they had everything there. It was a wonderful

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fair. They came from all around and we really enjoyed ourselves. They were, they came and got us, brought us home and...

MK Did they have games and amusements and rides or those kinds of things up there?

AK Oh yes, there was games to play and prizes to win and there was lots of horse races and things that were going on all day. And they had a big band that played and boy we really had a wonderful time except my foot kind of ached (LAUGHING) half the day with a tac that was in it. It was a long big one and it were drove way in. I put my foot right on it. Well anyway it was alright. The old Italian he was the nicest old man. Oh yes, little girl, you put your foot right up here, he said, I'll see to it. (LAUGHING) And we really had a, a lot of fun. And we went different, every, every year we'd have the round-up and we'd go like to Orleans, and Irasburg and Albany and we didn't go to Coventry because it wasn't big enough, but the places and Brownington. We went around different places and we saw a lot of kids and a lot of them I saw for years. Well we'd stop and talk and remember when we were in the 4H, yes and lots of times some of the old things will come back that. We used to sing one song, Monday Soup, Tuesday Roast Beef, Wednesday (LAUGHING).

MK Do you remember the rest?

AK A little, yea.

MK Would you sing it for me?

AK Little things that we learned you know. And they were fun.

MK Do you remember all of that song, all of the \_\_\_\_\_?

AK Let me see, there was Monday soup, Tuesday Roast Beef, Wednesday, oh, what was it? Ah, I don't know.

IK Pea Soup!

AK Um, let's see. It was, I don't know. I know we used to sing it and we would sing all these things while we were eating. We'd start singing and then everybody would wait til we got done and then we'd start in singing again. And each one had their own song for each club you know. We each had a different name and we would have a lot of fun singing.

MK Do you remember any of the other songs?

AK Ah,

MK What was your club song?

AK Well let me see. I can't remember that either. Um, we used to sing "Who are, Who are, Who are we, ah, 4H, 4H, can't you see. (LAUGHING) I don't know. Then we had a lot of course, RAH, RAH, RAH's in you know that we'd bring in for, for the cheers. Ah, I don't know. I know that we had a lot of interesting good things. Things that children really should have at that age to keep them happy and busy. Then we had the big time when we went to Burlington. We stayed in the dormitories and we had our meals at a big hall. And we had everything to eat. And we went to North Beach. We went to the stores. And we took a ride the whole length of the lake on the old Ticondaroga which is now a museum out there and we had such fun.

MK What was that like? Tell me about it.

AK Oh, that was wonderful. It was the most beautiful day and we went right on the deck and we set up there and we just watched all the way. We went way down to the end of it and turned around and came back and we had things to eat and we watched the gulls flying over the lake and we sung and we, oh, we just had the best time that day. Oh, it was such fun. Oh, and I found out afterwards that, that the Ticondaroga was taken off the lake and I said oh, my goodness, I'm so glad I had a ride on it, because it was really wonderful. And we had a lot of fun that day. We had all kinds of things to eat all the way down and the man that run it was such a nice man. He come around every little while to see if we were all alright. And when we got back, we were tired, but it was a good tired. We had a nice place to stay. And we had nice beds and a great big dormitory. And we went over, one place there where they were making maple candy and they gave us all some maple candy. And oh, everyone was wonderful to us. We went up the beach one day and we, we had fun up there and they, they just took us everywhere around the streets and all the interesting places. Of course, it wasn't as big as it is now. But for us it was, because we came from a small place and it was really a big thrill. And there was, oh, I don't know how many was there, but there was a lot of us children. A lot of us. We enjoyed every minute of it. And I think that it was the most happy time that we could have had in our lives, because we never, we never forgot it. I never did. And at any time when the 4H was

mentioned, I'd always say well I belonged to it and it was one of the best times that I ever had. More fun, more friends and more interesting things for us children to do that kept us, kept us busy. It was great and Miss Kuntz was the most wonderful person. Oh, she was a dear. She was so good to us girls and she, she took us everywhere. After that, she was a representative down in Montpelier. And she never forgot us. And I went to see her lots of times. She lived in Derby Line and I'd go to see her and her sister Ann, Aunt Ann. And of course, I was at her sisters when she lost her girl and when she, when she died. I kept in touch with her and she kept in touch with us. They were wonderful, wonderful people, good kind people. I lost track of lots and lots of them, but I, I know Miss Kuntz was so, so wonderful to us. always looked to Flora. (LAUGH) She was as nice as she could be. And it was a wonderful experience. It was something the kids needed, because at that time, it was a small place and we didn't have too much teenagers to, to keep us busy and that did. It was just what we needed to get out and see things, do things and, and at the same time we were learning something.

MK I was just going to say, it sounds like it really did fill a need socially for children?

AK It did. It did. It was something that young people needed at that time, because there wasn't too much. And it got us out and got us doing things that were wonderful. My mother thought it was the nicest thing for us children. I had a wonderful mother. And she thought it was just great. We certainly did. We had a wonderful time and I enjoyed every minute of it. And I often think of the kids that were in there. I'd like to know if any of them are still alive, but I don't know of anyone only Doris and the last time I saw her she was over in the Grand Union and she said you keep right on writing those poems Addie and I said yes I will. And we had black, uh, you can see them on her. Black satin, ah, bloomers like that came down to here and a blouse. Sometimes we wore a little black tie with it that we done all our hopping around with. We, ah (LAUGHING) they didn't have slacks then you know and that's what we wore. The big black, they were a heavy sateen and an elastic in the leg. She's got on a pair right there, Doris has. And most of the girls had them. (LAUGHING) And that's what we dressed in to play games. We had a big place out there where we played basketball and we'd put them on and we played basketball. And (LAUGHING) we had a wonderful time. It was such fun, just, just what we all needed.

looking at  
photograph } →

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MK Sure.

AK It certainly was.

MK That's great.

AK I'll never will, never will forget it and I think that, that they were, they were a wonderful thing. They still are. I think 4H is wonderful. That and the girl and the boy scouts. I think it's, it's, my girl belonged to girl scouts and she enjoyed it so much. She had an awful good time. And ah, I think that it really was the best thing that could have ever happened to the children at that time. Because back then, 1923, '24, '25, there wasn't too much. And that really, really helped. Yea, it certainly did.

MK Now, were your parents living right here in Newport?

AK Oh yes, yes, my father was a railroad man. And yea, we lived right here in Newport. And we used to have to go along alone you know and it was dark. There weren't many street lights you know. They were far apart and (HA!), there was one girl, she was a Pelkey girl. She's dead too. She died with cancer. And she used to say, "Well, I wish you was going my way." We had to part after we got a certain way and go alone. But my mother used to leave the door open so I could see it and so we wouldn't be, I wouldn't be scared, because I had to go way over by the river, way up through there and it was pretty dark. And we most always had our meetings, well lots of times, Flora couldn't get them until it was first part of the evening. And by the time we got ready to go home, it was dark. And, we'd run because we didn't (LAUGHING), we didn't like walking in the dark alone. (LAUGHING) Nothing ever happened but still it was kind of scary and she went up one way and I went the other. After we got over about, oh, probably a mile, then we had to go one way and the other way, but we were alright. (LAUGH) But, the lighting that there is now on the streets, it was kind of dark. In fact, I, when I was little, we had lamps. And when I come from school, my mother used to get kind of worried because we got out quarter of four then and I had a mile and a half to walk. And by the time I got home, it was almost dark and she'd be watching for me. She was getting ready to light the lamps. And I didn't see any electric lights at all til we moved over on the east side and then we had electric lights. We had lamps til I was ten years old. And a...

MK Now did you...



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AK And an outside toilet. No flush toilets til we moved over there. Then we had a bathroom with a flush toilet and we had electric lights. That's the first that I'd seen them.  
(LAUGHING)

MK So you had, okay, you didn't have electric lights until you were ten.

AK Til I was ten years old.

MK Did you have some chores connected with those lamps? Did you have to clean the glass chimneys in the lamps, or?

AK Oh, well my father had a, kept a horse and I used to go to the barn and light the lantern and he'd always tell me be very careful and not, you know, drop it because there was hay around. And we used to take the lantern to go out to the toilet too. Way outside, way down through.  
(LAUGHING) At night, we'd take the lantern to go to the toilet outdoors. Yea, it was a nice, nice one. They had two seats, but we still had to go outdoors. There was no toilet in the house. Not til I was ten years old. Yea.  
(LAUGHING)

MK So you were responsible for, that lantern in the barn  
          ?

AK Yes, I had to take the lantern to the barn and be very careful. We had a beautiful horse. And my father used to take us up to the village. It was about two miles and we'd go in the buggy. I know when I had chicken pox, my mother took me. She drove me up and, and I could look down and see the, the mud on the wheels. And then in the winter, we had what they called a sleigh and we also had a pung, that had two seats and we had buffalo robes over us and my mother used to keep bricks in the top of the big stoves in the living room and she'd wrap them up in a big piece of cloth and put them in the bottom of the, of the sleigh, so our feet wouldn't be cold going to the village. And there was, first I remember at all was the AP Store and that was wonderful. To go in that, a big store. Because the store that I remember, it was very small. It was just a little country store and I could, I can remember, the only thing I can remember was the kerosene. I could smell it because my mother used to have to buy it to put in the lamps, in our lantern. And he had a big pump by the door and the first thing you open the door, you'd smell the kerosene you know coming out through the fresh air. And we'd have to buy it and he'd put a

potato over the end of the kerosene can so that it wouldn't leak into the groceries going home. (LAUGHING)

MK This was at the country store or the AP store?

AK Yea, no it was at the old store where we went first. The little old, he was an awful nice old man. He was good. I know during the war, there wasn't any sugar. And he, they would have some come in and when my mother would get home with the groceries, she'd find a little bag of sugar, two pounds he'd put in because he knew we needed it and of course, he'd charge her for it, but I mean it was put in as a little secret because they didn't have very much. And it was hard to get on account of the war, that was. And we used...

MK Now was this World War I or II?

AK Yea, 1917, '18, when our boys went. Yes, a lot of boys went down there and I stood out in the front yard and I'd watch the troop trains go by and we'd wave to the boys, you know. Load after load after load of the boys would be going by and we'd wave our hands and then when it ended, they made such a noise that it scared me half to death. My mother had a long white apron and I went and hid under it. I went and pulled her apron down over my head. (LAUGHING) I was so scared. I kept saying Mama, what is it, Mama what is it, because the big round house where the trains met and all the repairs and everything, that's where my father worked was right across the tracks and they commenced to blow all whistles on all those trains. And they made an awful noise and I was so scared and I went and hid under my mother's great long apron. (LAUGHING)

MK And that was the end of World War I.

AK Well it was, it was quite a thing. I was, it was pretty quiet. Of course, there was no lights down that way. It was all a country road and dark and (LAUGH)

MK Did your mother know when those whistles went off, why they went off?

AK She knew, she knew what it was, yes, they hollered over and said, "the war is over," and my mother knew, but I was scared because all that blowing was scaring me because I didn't know what was going on. (LAUGHING) Everyone was out looking. That was 1917, '18, yea.

MK So how old were you then?

AK Well I was about seven, yea.

MK Uh huh. So you were young enough to be pretty shy ?

AK In those days you know, children were very shy. They weren't forward the way they are now. They were, well I can remember sitting in the kitchen and I'd have a big catalog and I used to cut out the figures in it, the boys and the girls and everything, cut them all out and I'd play that they were out in the woods. I'd put them all in my mother's plants you know and play on the kitchen table. Little things like that and we were happy, just as happy as could be. We didn't have any, too much, but I had a doll and a teddy bear, but we didn't have the things that they have today. They wasn't around. We weren't hungry and we weren't cold. We were well seen to. And we had a big stove in the kitchen, another big one in the living room and we were always warm. My father burned coal in the living room. We used to pop a lot of corn on the, we'd open the door after the coals had burned down and pop big things of popcorn. We had one of these old fashion ones with the handle on it, that long so we wouldn't burn our fingers and we'd pop corn and oh, we'd have a great time. We'd have apples and just, just have a good time. Yea, I can remember our Christmas and Thanksgiving and we always had plenty. Plenty to eat. We was never hungry. I don't ever remember being hungry. Lots of kids used to ask for food out of my dinner pail that were hungry. They'd say, "Give it to me. You'll, you got some left, you give it to me." Little French children from out of the village, over there by the lake. They were hungry and I'd give it to them, whatever I had left. Apple, orange or sandwich, cookie, big molasses cookies my mother used to make with raisins in them, big pieces of molasses cake. (LAUGHING) We really, she was a beautiful cook. She made everything. I remember the first time I ever saw a bake cart. He drove in the yard and I said to Mama, there's somebody in the yard. I said, I don't know what he's got and she went out and it was a man selling bread and we had never seen anything only my mother's homemade bread you know and cookies. He had big drawers he pulled out and I can remember peeking down in the (LAUGHING) curiosity to see what he had. And yes, there was a lot of things in those days that, well today is an awful change.

MK Very different, yea.

AK Awful, awful.

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MK Did your father, did your father stay working with the railroad right on through the depression?

AK Did I what, dear?

MK Did your father keep working with the railroad on through the depression?

AK No, no, there was what they called a big strike that happened. And a...

MK When was that?

AK Oh, I think it was, it was just after the war because I know the man said all these men that are leaving, these men that are coming home from the war will grab those jobs. They had some kind of a union or something. They all went out on strike and my father went out with them. And the boss said if I were you, I'd stay, but all the men went out and they didn't like the idea of being there. They called them, I don't know, they had some name for them and my father said no. He wasn't going to go back and so he had a business of his own and we moved from the railroad house over to the east side when I was ten years old. So that's about what happened.

MK And that's when you got electricity then?

AK That's where the electricity was. That's...

MK Now what was that like? First, do you remember what you felt the first time you ever...

AK I didn't hardly believe it. I, I, I said, lights! Yea, we are going to have lights and we are going to flush toilet. I tend to flush it and look down and see it, because I had never, never seen any. Everyone down there all had the same, lamps and outdoor toilets. And they didn't, we used to have little candles and we'd very carefully put on the Christmas tree and be very careful nothing happened to them, but we didn't leave them lit very long. My mother'd watch us and then she'd have us put them out at Christmas time. But we had a Christmas tree. And a, well both my sisters, one was five and one was eight years older than I was, so I didn't have too much in common with them. They were so old that I played with the neighbors children. The ones that, you know, were my age. We had an awful good time because I had a sled and we could slide and we used to go down on the pond back of the house where the bullrushes grew up through and skate. We'd have an old chair to skate with until we

learned to skate. We'd hit the bullrushes and over we'd go. But it was fun. (LAUGHING) We had a lot of fun. We just, those things were our world. And in the summer, the man would come to cut the hay and he'd let us ride in the barn on a load of hay. That was fun too. Down to the big barn down there. He'd dump it all off into the bay. "Can we ride?" "Yea, hop on, and he'd give us all a ride down into the barn, so we could jump off into the hay mow. It was really fun. Yea and he, he was good to us kids. We really, those are really the best, I think, I said to my older sister, "I think we lived in the best times, and she said, "Yes, I think we did too." There wasn't that, there was bad times, but I mean they were, ah, not like the things that there are going on now. They were more quiet. Lived a more even life I think. We always had, my father used to buy maple syrup a dollar a gallon. We always had plenty of maple syrup. My mother used to use it for cooking. And one of my girlfriends used to have a big pail under the sink, under the shelf and covered all up, a big wooden pail and it would always be full and she'd go along and break out great big chunks of it and she would take the hot bread out of the oven and she'd butter it and then put big chunks of maple sugar on the top of it.

IK Oh boy!

AK And my mother would, would have little cookies made with maple sugar on the top and ah, well everyone I guess used it then. We had plenty of it. I said the other day, I wonder what my father would think if he knew maple syrup was 35, 40 dollars a gallon. He wouldn't believe it. He lived to be 83. And a, he just couldn't believe it. He just couldn't. He was healthy as a bear. He was never sick all his life. He was just fine. He, my mother was too. She was a very healthy woman, very. She lived to be 96 years old. Ivan and I kept her with us, took care of her til the Lord took her. She stayed with us. She fell in the night. She got up and fell and broke her hip. Being 96, it was too much for her. She, the Lord took her, but she had good care. I know the, the guy that came and got her in the ambulance, he was a, he was a clerk/treasurer and he said, "Addie," he said "you got nothing to feel bad about. You took good care of your mother." He went in and they lifted her out. I said, "Yes I did Freddy." Everybody said you took good care of your mother. I have no regrets. She wasn't put in a nursing home and all I ever think of her, I think was happy thoughts. She was well taken care of and loved. She saw

all her grandchildren and great grandchildren, but one. There was one she didn't see and she had a pile of them. I think 40, 40 some, yea.

MK You've got some really wonderful memories.

AK Yes, yea.

MK You really do, yea.

AK They are all things that, yea, I have my two sisters. One is 85. The other is 82. I see them every day. (LAUGHING) Yea, they are, both lost their husbands and they are all alone, but well they get around. One fell and broke her hip, but she walks and the other one had a gall bladder taken out, but she gets around. They are pretty good. She'll be 85 this 24th of April, she has a birthday. And I said I wonder what Mama would think if she could see us all. She said, I don't know. She lived to be 96 years old, so.

MK I was wondering, how did your family do during the depression?

AK Well, we, we got along pretty well. It was hard, but uh, we had some, well I was brought up to be economical. As one of my sisters said, "Well, leave it to Addie if you, if you can work a way out of it." I did, I got along some way. I done my cooking and uh, I economized on things. I was brought up to, to find some way to do something. I used to make soups and use lots of vegetables and things that were not as expensive. Sometimes we didn't have a lot of meat, but well I would make milk gravies and eggs weren't very expensive and of course then, chicken wasn't too expensive. And well we made things, my mother used to say make, "make it do," and we did. (LAUGHING) We had some way that we got along. We were all brought up to, to not waste anything. As my sister says, I never liked to waste anything. She picks up all the little odds and ends and brings them up and I feed the birds and the dog next door. (LAUGHING) Because sometimes I don't think he gets very much to eat. (LAUGHING) Oh dear. (LAUGH) I've done the best I could and that's all anybody can do.

MK Sure.

AK I think that, but I never, we were never hungry. We always had, my father oh, he always wanted to make sure we had plenty of wood and plenty of coal and the house was banked up and the, plenty of food. We never, I never went to bed hungry and I've heard others say well I've been so

hungry at night with nothing to eat. But we never, we always had enough. We weren't rich, but we weren't poor. We had something that and we were warm. My mother used to make our clothes and my father used to buy us things sometimes. I know he took me up to the store and bought me a new coat. Oh, I was so proud. It had three little collars on it, buttoned up here. I got my picture taken in it in there. I was, do you want to see it? It's way in there. You go in there in the hall, you look upon the wall and there's, when we were kids and then when my older sister was 80. You see it right up there in the big picture.

IK Oh yea, over there.

AK (LAUGHING) I was ten years old there.

MK Oh, okay.

AK That's really something. We don't look neglected up there, do we?

MK No, you don't at all.

AK That was taken way down where we had the toilet out in the shed.

MK Okay.

IK That's the three of them.

AK That's at the party. That's the three of us. One is eight years older and the other is five. (LAUGHING)

IK \_\_\_\_\_

MK That's great. (ADDIE LAUGHS) That's really nice.

AK Yea, we certainly, we certainly had a good life.

MK I guess.

AK Very good.

MK You know, the reason I was asking you about the depression. Um, one of the things we've been hearing from people is that the folks who were living in a town where there was a single industry or maybe a couple of industries, like Springfield or Barre with the granite, that people in the towns had a much harder time during the depression because in some cases they didn't have the

space for a garden or they, you know, they had only that one job. And they, you know, they weren't farmers, they didn't have the cow in the back and a garden and all that to rely on.

AK Yea, we...

MK And the people that were in more rural areas did a lot better. They were, sure they were, you know it was hard times, but they were kind of used to making do.

AK We had a garden. We always had a garden, great big garden. We had our own potatoes, our own beets and carrots. And we had, my mother used to make pickles. And we had plenty. We always had plenty. We had a nice big garden, everything. We used to give away to the neighbors. My father'd go across the road and give them great pans of lettuce and all kinds of stuff. And we had pumpkins. And we had squash, cucumbers, everything. We always had a uh, oh, beautiful, my father was, my parents were both farm people. They came off a farm. Their parents were farmers. And they knew how to keep a garden. My mother'd work right out in the garden. She loved to. And flowers, she used to have the most beautiful flowers. I can see her pansy bed now. Great big beautiful bed of pansies she had out there. And oh, she had some, she always was putting in her flowers. And she had a green thumb. I guess some of it rubbed off on me. My plants are out all on the porch. They don't look so good as they did, but I love, I love flowers and I love plants. Ivan and I had a garden. We always had one up until two years ago and then he can't, we can't see to one anymore. But we had a, I have a friend up in Derby and we used to have a piece of ground up there and we had a nice garden. We had our own tomatoes, and carrots, beets and everything. I don't think we wasted any time. (LAUGHING) We were always busy. (LAUGHING) And that's the way to be. Keep busy and my grandmother lived to be 94, her, her grandmother. And she used to get up in her lap and she'd make what she called fences on her hands. Her hands were wrinkled and she'd draw up the skin and she'd make little fences and she used to look at them and she'd think my, she's awful old. Will I ever be that old. She lived to be even older. She was 96. And she'd spin her spinning wheel. My grandmother would, oh she would make the things for the family you know and she'd sit there and spin. And my grandfather would say, now mother, I'm alright. I'm doing my spinning she'd say. And they, oh they had, that's the farm home right there. My grandfather built, my great-grandfather built that. In there on the wall, you see that big white house, right underneath the clock,



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well my grandfather built that. They came over here from across the sea and he built that and my mother was born there. It's called Goss Corner. It's in Moultonborough, New Hampshire and that is where my mother came from.

MK Ah!

AK And my father was born up on what they call Bear Mountain, way up and he said he used to wake up in the morning and there'd be, there'd be snow all over the floor and it would be so cold. Yea, that's, that's the old home.

MK It's beautiful.

AK That was my mother's home. They had what they called grandmother's kitchen. It was a big place off there and fire places, I wished you could see the fire places that was in there, built right in. And my grandmother had her baking oven in one side so that she could bake everything. It was, that was all...

MK That's a big house.

AK Yea, that's was

MK It was just the front of here and then it went way back.

AK And out front there was apple trees and plum trees. They had all kinds of fruit there, everything. My grandfather used to put up great big barrels of apples and ship them out for a dollar a barrel. A dollar a barrel and there weren't supposed to be a spot them. They were supposed to be perfect, every one of them. All wrapped and grandpa used to ship, they'd ship them off down to the cities. Yea, they were wonderful people. I had a wonderful grandfather and grandmother. They were wonderful people. Wonderful people and my great grandmother was too. She came from Sutton, Vermont. You know, her mother, that's my baby. [dog moaned]

MK Oh!

AK She, her mother died and my great-grandfather, his name was Adams, he took my grandmother on horseback and he rode from Sutton, Vermont down into Moultonborough to her sisters and left her there. That was my grandmother. Because he had no way to take care of her. He went down through the woods with her on horseback and took that little girl. He stopped overnight and went on the next day and took her way down there. And her name was Olive Adams and she had a son and he graduated from, from

Dartmouth College and he was a very famous doctor. His instruments, his surgical instruments that he had are in the wall down there in the college. He was one of the famous doctors that graduated from Dartmouth College in Hanover. And I asked one of the doctors down there that came up to see my husband. I said, have you ever seen them. Sure he said. I said that was my...

End of Side 1

MK So Olive, Olive Adams had children.

AK Olive, Olive Adams had, yea and her name was Goss. She married a Goss. My great grandmother. His name was Jonathan and his son was Joseph Stillman and that was my grandfather, my mother's father. And that was the old home. (LAUGHING)

MK That's just wonderful.

AK Yea.

MK It's great that you, that you're that connected to your past.

AK Yea.

MK It really \_\_\_\_\_...

AK I've been down there and been all over that house where she was born. I've been there several times. I went down with my mother. And you know, it was funny. She said she wanted to see an old friend of hers she said. I'd like to see him. His wife had died and they said he's all alone. She said, I know what we'll do. So we went over. She said now you go to the door and you rap and if he comes to the door, you say to him, ah, do you know who I am. So I did. I rapped on the door and he come to the door and I said, "Hello." Well, he said, "Hello." An old man. I said, "Do you know who I am?" He said, "No, I don't." But he said, "You look just like Ed Goss." That was my mother's brother. And he was about 80 years old. (LAUGHING) And I laughed. He said, "You laugh just like your mother." He said, "I used to hear her laugh down the road when she was a girl he said. She sounded so happy." He said, "You've got to be Addie Goss's girl." I said, "I am." (LAUGHING) Oh, dear. Yea, we got quite a history going way back. A long time ago. Way back in 17 something, because my grandmother was born down here and my great-grandmother was born down here in Sutton. (LAUGH)

- MK Now I wonder, you growing up right here in Newport. You must have heard some stories or know of people who could tell some stories about the bootlegging days. Did you ever hear of any bootlegging going back and forth across the lake?
- AK Any what dear?
- MK Bootlegging during prohibition, during \_\_\_\_\_.
- AK Oh lord yes, I knew a lot of them. Oh yes, sure they used to go up the Beebe Road and on the Lake Road and sure I've seen them come in. She was asking about the bootleggers, Ivan.
- IK Oh yea.
- AK Yes, we knew the bootleggers. They used to...
- IK My father used to drive a, one of the cars across the lake.
- AK Sure, right down on the ice.
- IK Sure, sure.
- AK They used to go right into the barn, shut the barn door. They'd go right by. The cops would go running right by. They'd never catch them.
- IK We had a gravel pit and they used to come up and they'd think somebody was chasing them, they'd drive over in that gravel pit. (ADDIE LAUGHING) They'd hide awhile and then they'd take off again.
- AK Yes, I knew a girl that lived in North Troy and she used to help run, help them run booze down the Lake Road, up here. Oh yes, they used to come down the lake. Oh yea, we knew, we knew almost all of them. And right across the road from us, there was a guy that sold it. And I'd hear somebody (ADDIE KNOCKS ON TABLE), "Hey Bill, (ADDIE KNOCKS MORE TIMES) Bill get up, get up, heh Bill." And I'd go to the window and look out. And oh yes, oh yes, yup, Bill's got a customer. (LAUGHING) Sure, oh yes, we remember the bootleggers. I guess we do. Yea, oh yea, they were all around through here. Some of them they caught, but a lot more they didn't.
- MK People, people helped them out didn't they?

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AK Oh sure. Everybody was a friend of theirs. They wouldn't tell on them you know. No.

IK If they drove in, like they drove in our gravel pit, they used to give them, the boss, two, three bottles of whiskey you know.

AK They'd give him two bottles of liquor and they'd say drive right in. Or they'd open the barn door right up and they'd drive right in and shut the door right down. That's all there was to it. Nobody ever saw them. The cops would go right by. (PHONE RINGING) Yea, this used to be — You know, Saturday night used to be the big night here. Everybody was out. All the stores were open and everybody come out. And there was a line of people from the old clock that, down on Coventry Street there, clear up through. You wouldn't hardly see a space but what was filled with people. All out doing their shopping. And then everybody would go into the movies and they'd all go see the show. And there was only, well I guess first it was 10 cents and then it went up to a quarter. And all the kids would go to the movies and get some popcorn. Popcorn, 10 cents a bag. Great big bags of, and all butter on it. Not oleo, but butter. And (LAUGHING) everybody went to the movies. And that was Saturday night. Not Friday, but Saturday. Everybody come out, done all their shopping, done all the visiting on the street corners, hello, how are you and all, they'd talk over all their farm business, all their cows and everything going on and oh, everybody had a ball on Saturday night. That was the big deal. Now they don't pay any attention to it. You can't find anybody on the street Saturday night. (LAUGHING) It's all Friday night if they go down and they don't like they used to. Why that street used to be lined right down through.

MK Now why do you think that is that people don't go out like that?

AK I don't know. They don't seem to.

MK When did you notice the change beginning to happen?

AK Well, let me see. Oh probably, oh I'd say about twenty years ago they stopped. They stopped having Saturday night. They changed it over to Friday night. And we used to, there used to be a band stand right down here where the Mobil Station is and my girlfriend, well she died about four years ago with cancer, Luva. We used to go up and get some popcorn and dance around the bandstand. We'd have a ball. We'd have the best time. The old, the fella

who used to have the popcorn stand, old, Mr. Police, he had a big stand right outside of his store and oh, he had awful good popcorn. And everybody would go up there and get popcorn and then we'd go down and they'd play and we'd dance all around the. (LAUGH) That was a big thrill too. Oh that was a big deal to go to, oh, we used, we'd have such fun. Little simple things you know, nothing much, but just things that went on around town that kids could go to and then down back of my sisters was the old swimming hole and I wrote a poem about that and the kids used to go down. And they had an old pile of railroad logs you know that they built up in the middle, the fathers put down there and everybody'd go down and sit on the logs and they'd all jump in. They'd have a ball swimming right in the river there. There was a big drop off hole, but well there was only two or three, there was one girl that did drown. And but the rest of them was fine. They all went swimming and they had an awful good time having a swimming hole down there. Everybody went down and jumped in and I was, I wrote in my poem, a lot of those kids they separated and got away from each other but a lot of them were in the service, a lot of those kids that went swimming down there. They went in the Army, the Navy, and Air Force and the girls had jobs and a lot of those kids that was down in there and well there was more simple things then than there is now. But still we had some good times. We really did. We used to, to have once in awhile, we'd have a sleigh ride too. And we'd have a lot of hay in the, in the, they used to come down from off the hill with two great big farm horses and we'd have a lot of hay and we'd have big robes to cover up with and they'd take us for a straw ride, hay ride and oh, we'd have a lot of fun. I remember the first one I went, I was probably, oh I think I was around twelve and my mother had bought me a nice big heavy tan color, I can see it now, sweater with a button over around the neck, big turned up way around, nice heavy one. I put that on and she said, "you be careful now and don't catch, catch it on a nail, because," she said "it will pull." It was something new. I wanted to be very careful. So I did, I watched my new sweater very careful on that straw ride. But we had a good time. Oh dear, one would pull the rug off one and one off the other and (LAUGHING) and we'd have an awful good time just riding. They brought us all home. He was from off the Pine Hill Road. One of the \_\_\_\_\_ boys and we really had fun at that too. Then those all went out of style. Now I see they've started a few. Once in awhile they will have a straw ride, hay ride. They take them on their own land. But no more just come down and pick up the kids. (LAUGH)

MK I remember when I was a kid growing up that the church would do hayrides for the kids.

AK Yea, oh yea.

MK So they would be church activities.

AK Oh yes.

MK I remember that.

AK Well we...

MK And actually our 4H did it too. (LAUGHING)

AK (LAUGHING) Yea, well we used, we used to go to church too. We went to church and we had the church Christmas tree and we had a lot of fun there too, singing and I always loved to sing. And I, they'd always have me sing. And all the Christmas carols, we had lots of fun singing them. We used to have some good times too going to church. Ivan and I go to church every Sunday. We always go to church, right up through all the years we'd go to church. And I can remember through the spring, sometimes it was cold, oh my it would be awful cold and we'd go, we'd wrap all up and almost freeze trying to wear a straw hat. (LAUGHING) Now, they don't bother with them anymore, they just disregard the hats and go whatever. I don't think they wear any anymore. But we had, we had straw hats at Easter. If we put one on, freeze our ears in it. I've seen snow all over the ground, wicked cold and then again it would lovely. I don't think the weather is like it used to be though because where, when we lived on Glen Road, we'd have two weeks at least, sometimes two and a half of just sugaring weather. We don't have that anymore. It's not a bit like it used to be. The weather isn't the same. We used to have loads of snow. February, my mother used to say was the month of snow and it was. We'd have loads of snow. Then March it would snow quite a bit. It's a lot different. There's an awful lot of difference. I've noticed it for years now. And I have a nephew in San Diego. He was in the Navy for twenty years and he said it's not the same out there either. He's lived there for a long, long time and he said, no it's not the same. He said it's altogether different. The weather is different than it used to be. He said we don't, we don't have the same weather. And I don't think we do either. I think it's different. I think it's changed a lot since I was a kid, an awful, awful lot. It's not the same thing at all. I used to like to go out and pile wood and help my father put the hay into the barn. I'd go up

and climb in on the ladder and he'd throw it up and I'd get it all down the back of my neck and into my hair and I didn't care. I was happy, I was puttin away the hay and then I'd get in the cart and ride back down to the hay field with him and that was all, that was fun. That was and I used to like to go out in the garden. I used to get a penny a can for potato bugs. My father'd say if you'd pick all the potato bugs, I'll give you a penny. And that's what we got, was a penny and 5 cents was the biggest thing in the world then, 5 cents. Now they'd look at a 5 cent piece like you was insulted. You can't get anything for a nickel.

MK I used to be able to buy gum for 5 cents for a pack of gum as a kid and now it's like 40 cents...

AK A big chocolate bar for a nickel. And now, oh you can't, you can't get anything for a nickel. But we used to do chores and they'd give us some money and we'd save it all up and then when we'd go to town, we'd have a treat. Now I'm telling you we'd really buy something. (LAUGHING) Oh dear, it was really. And I remember the first pair of overshoes I ever had. Oh, I was so proud of those overshoes. They were what, my father called them four buckle artics and they snapped up the front. They were black. Oh, I thought they were the loveliest things. I had them to go to school. I wore either a pair of brown or black stockings and we had <sup>on</sup> heavy underwear, you know. And I wore, sometimes I had a heavy dress, but sometimes I had a skirt. But there was no slacks then you know. And we had to pull these big stockings up over our underwear and then I used to tuck, I had leggings that buttoned on the side. They were black with black buttons and they went under my foot and I'd tuck them in around my rubbers. Then when I got my overshoes, I didn't have to wear those anymore. Weren't I glad. I wore my new buckle artics. The kids said, "Where did you get those?" "My papa bought those for me." "Oh, well we don't have any." Well, I had some and I wore them to school. (LAUGHING) That was at the South School. It's now, they make doilies and things up there. That was a brand new school when I started school up there. That was in 19, oh '17 I guess.

IK \_\_\_\_\_...

AK Alright dear. And that was, there was four rooms. And I think there was two or three grades in a room. It was four big rooms. Then there was a great big place where we all got together you know and had the stage and things going on, and parties, things like that. Valentine parties and that's another thing. We used to have May Day

and we'd make May baskets. We'd save all the match boxes, that the matches, that the big matches you know. They don't have them too much now.

MK Kitchen safety matches?

AK Yea. The great big ones.

MK Uh huh.

AK And we'd save all them and we'd be so busy about May time, making May baskets. Oh, we'd trim them all up pretty and we'd buy some candy and put in and put a handle on them. Then we'd run up to our friends door and drop them and then rap on the door and then run. And oh, why that was the biggest deal then. I know the boy next door used to bring one over, he and his sister. She's dead too. I went down and held her hand. She's gone. A lot of my, they are all gone. It makes me feel bad. The last thing they said, I love you. You know, you think about them. We used to go to school and she was one of eight and she didn't have any mittens. And I had some, so I used to give her one of mine and we'd hold hands with that one, put the other hand in our pocket and run to school so Evelyn's hands would be warm too. I'd share my mittens with her. And she's gone. Well anyway, we done things in those days that was fun. They'd run over, they'd leave the basket and she'd say Walter made you a, he went in the Army and went way out west. He brought you over a May basket and then we'd laugh and I'd make some and we'd run around the neighborhood. They don't do that anymore. No more fun with May baskets. I forget what made them stop it. It was something that had to do with some other country and they didn't like it very well. I don't know. But it really, there's really been an awful, awful change in things around and not...

MK I wanted to go back to something you said when you were talking, a couple of things when you were talking about the prohibition days.

AK Oh.

MK Your neighbor Bill, when people would knock on Bill's door.

AK Yea.

MK What kind of stuff did Bill sell? Did he have different varieties? Or, did he just have straight moonshine or...



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AK I suppose he had some kind of Canadian booze. I suppose he did. I never bought any. (LAUGHING)

MK Yea.

AK But I suppose he did because I'd know they'd rap on the, rap on the door and they'd holler to him and he kept it way out round somewhere and they would, ah, rap on the door and they'd put the lights out. They wouldn't have any lights you know. But I'd see his little flashlight going out back you know. And I'd know he had another customer. Oh yes, there was quite a lot of them. One old lady used to make it and sell it. She kept it out in the back shed, a whole great big and I'd see them going up there to her door. She'd make some kind of homemade brew you know. And I said, "Why do all them people go there for? And they said, "oh she makes home brew." They made their own. And she...

MK Now did she sell it by the bottle or by the glass or...

AK She sold it by the bottle. She had, she used to have the kids pick her a lot of bottles and she'd have them filled and so one night, I know my husband was telling about it and how they laughed. They told the old lady that the cops was coming and going to raid us. So they said we'll take all you got and hide it til they come and they took it all. (LAUGHING) They took all she had and took it out and she never saw, oh was she mad, oh, weren't she whuppin' mad! Oh, they took all her home brew and lugged it way off somewhere and told her the cops was coming and there weren't nobody coming at all. (LAUGHING) Oh, that was funny. Oh dear, yea I've heard him and you know Halloween night they used to do quite a lot of mischief. And I remember one. My father always kept his, his wagon in the yard and the boys used to like to get hold of it you know. They'd like to get hold of his wagon. And there was quite a gang coming down the street and my mother said she'd see them coming so she thought she'd go out and watch them. So she went out the back door and she didn't put the light on and she saw them come up in the yard. She went out. There was a big pile of bobbin wood that we had to burn. You know, they are about that long. They were bobbins from the mill. My father used to go get them. And so she said, boys, now don't touch my husband's wagon. You leave it alone. Okay. So they kind of went off. So she come back in. She hadn't anymore gotten in the house for up they come again. So she went out to the wood pile and she picked up two of them bobbins. She let one fly and it hit one guy right on top of the head. My father said she should have played in a ball team. He said when she threw

something, it hit. Well my husband said I'm just like her. He said, when you throw, you never miss. (LAUGHING) He's always laughing about me throwing something. Hit him right top of the head. Well now I'm telling you, there was some words come out of him that I wouldn't want to repeat. She said well then you go home and you leave my husband's wagon alone she said. You<sup>got</sup> no business over here and you leave it alone. You<sup>got</sup> no business touching it. And they went off, swearing. Down over the bridge and weren't they hollering and weren't they mad. She said, "Don't come back again, because I got another stick of bobbin wood." They didn't, they went home. That tickled my mother. It was Halloween night, years and years ago. I probably was, I don't know, ten or eleven years old.

MK Now in the picture of her that I've seen, she was not a real big woman, was she?

AK No, no, my mother was tall and slim. I had a wonderful mother. Oh, she was the dearest thing. I loved her to pieces. Such a good mother. She had the most beautiful voice and we used to sing. She sung in a choir for years down where she came from in the church. And we used to sing. We'd be you know doing things like dishes or something and we'd sing all the old songs you know. And my father, he liked music too. He'd sit and rock and he'd sing "Oh Pretty Red Wing" and old songs that he used to and the old southern songs you know that they used to sing. And ah...

MK Now how did he learn those? How did he learn those southern songs?

AK Well he, he knew them. He come from down where they, they sung all those old songs when he was young and he knew them. They were like "Old Black Joe" and songs that they used to sing then. They didn't have so many as they do now. But he would sing and I would sing with him. Then my mother would sing. We liked music very, very much. I always liked to sing. I liked to, I like music. I used to, they used to give me all the parts to sing in the school. They said I had a nice voice and I used to, I used to sing all the songs that the holidays and things going on they'd give me a part to, to sing or whatever was in the plays. And it was, it was nice. It was awfully nice. I enjoyed every minute of it. We had a lot of fun going to school. I got good marks in school and I liked it. And we used to have a long walk home. A long ways, we never had no rides. Well I did ride for awhile. I was sick one winter and my father—they had what they called a school team and he went way down below where we lived and

picked up kids. So he hired <sup>[my father]</sup> the school team because we didn't live far enough out for me to ride without paying. So he paid the old fella to give me a ride and I rode for awhile because I had been sick. I had a, a awful time. I had what they called diphth~~er~~ia and I was very, very sick, but my legs weren't very strong so I rode in the school team. The old fella, he had a big long beard, come way out over his, and he used to get icicles on it, so all the icicles would be hanging all over his beard. He was a nice old man. He'd set up there and drive the old horse along you know. Oh dear, huh, everybody down that way most had a horse. Horse and cows or something you know. I know my girlfriend, they had three, four cows and Mrs. Seals used to make all her butter and cream and everything you know she'd have handy to use and we'd have a great time watching our mothers cook and make things. And Barbara she'd come over and she liked my mother's big pans of molasses cake with the big fat raisins they used to have in. Oh my, it was so good. And she was a nice cook too. She used to make all her own bread and everything. They were, oh they were nice people. This boy here died <sup>[looking at photo]</sup> last year and I don't know, I guess they are all gone. I don't know of any of them. I don't think so.

MK Does this one go back in there?

AK Yes, I'll put that back because I don't, I don't want to lose my 4H picture. That goes in here. Right there, in there.

MK Well thank you so much. I really had a good time.  
(LAUGHING)

AK Well we've had a lot of laughs haven't we?

MK We have, yea.

AK There's been a, as I say, there's been a lot of changes. There's just one thing that my mother wanted to see and I'm sorry she didn't see it. She was always talking about the men going on the moon. And she said, "Do you think they'll ever get up there Addie?" And I said, "Oh Mama, I don't know. They are doing some awful..." and she died in 1968 and it weren't too long after that they landed on the moon. I said I wished my mother could have known that they did land on the moon. She didn't. But well, she had a lot of nice things to remember anyway. (LAUGH)