

John Hall Interview

This is Jeanne Temple and I'm going to interview John Hall today, March 10, 1983. John, you want to tell me first about your father, where he was born, where he lived?

My father was Winfield [S.] Hall. He was born in East Chatham, New York, 1851, and he moved to Michigan where the rest of the children, the family, were born.

about what year?

about 1856.

Where did he settle?

Where Francis lived.

Where Francis's new house is or do you mean the old house?

The old house.

Who did he marry?

Harriet Alice Coleman.

How many children did they have?

Four.

Can you name them? (tape shut off and restarted) John, your father was the oldest of seven living children. Who did he marry?

Harriet Coleman.

Do you remember her parents' names?

Frank and Mary Coleman.

Where did they live?

They came from England and settled north of the [Rochester] Colony.

That's across Chapman Bridge on the west side?

Uh huh.

What year were your parents married?

1892.

How many children did they have?

Marjorie and I.

Just two. When they were married, where did they go to live?

Are you talking about Colemans?

We're talking about you and Marjorie when your parents were married, because you said you went to school at the Little Brick. So where did your parents live?

Right there on the farm.

Where you and Mae lived for so many years. They went there when they were first married?

Uh huh.

So then you and your sister, Marjorie, went to school at the Little Brick. Do you remember how old you were when you started?

I was six and she was seven.

Were you in the same grade though?

Yes.

You had about a mile to walk, didn't you?

A mile and three quarters.

A mile and three-quarters to walk. Did you walk it most of the time?

Entirely, no one took us. (?)

Right. Nowadays children get transported. What are some of the things you remember about your school days at the Little Brick?

Vera Taylor was our first teacher and you know who she was.

Some other people that have given me interviews that had Vera Taylor for a teacher. I think mother did. You remember what you took for your lunch, of course. You had to take a dinner pail. Do you remember what mother packed in your dinner pail?

We had sandwiches; usually had an egg or two and some dessert.

Did your father have apple trees?

Yes.

The reason I ask is because I remember Frank Hall always had apple trees down at the other farm. Who is your next teacher after Vera? Did you go to school to Walter Colby?

Yes. That was later. There was Hazel [E.] Daggett. The only one I never liked.

Why?

That's the reason I remember her. She was thrashing the kids. Not me, in particular but a whole lot of others.

Who were some of the youngsters that you remember being in school with you, some of the families that sent their children there to school?

Well, there was the Roses.

Where did they live?

Across from Seeleys.

Oh, that house has been gone for a long time, hasn't it?

And the Scrams[?].

Where did they live?

I don't know as I can tell you where they lived.

Which way, do you remember? Was it north, east, or south?

I think West.

West of the school. Of course, I know you went to school with my mother.

and Arthur and Isabelle and Agnes.

Was Joe Coleman out of school by the time you got there?

No.

Was he there in school too?

Yes, the old [?]

Do you remember any funny things that ever happened at school?

I remember when (?) Colby broke his leg. He was playing something to Pearl's [Orsamus M. Pearl family]. He broke his leg and he drove his horse to school, kept it in Olsen's barn. He went out at noon to feed his horse on crutches. When he got back to school, three big boys in school held the door on him and he was hot-tempered. He

threw away his crutches and he busted that door right in. Well, Arthur was one of those boys. He got Arthur and Shelby [?]

I've heard mother talk about it.

and dragged them right over a seat, one in each hand. He was powerful... Vick said...

Now who was Vick?

Vick Daley. [Victor R. Daley]

You told me that you didn't go to the 8th grade there because Marjorie wanted to go into Elsie. I suppose your dad didn't want her going alone and so you went to drive.

There was no other way to get her there, you know.

So then you drove a buggy into Elsie in the good weather and then a cutter in the winter?

Uh huh.

.Where did you stable your horse when you got here?

Back of the school house in Carpenter's barn.

Was it a livery stable or just--

No. It was just a barn.

Just a private barn.

There were three horses.

Now what Libey was that?

George Libey.

Oh, George.

George Libey and Elmer Day? went to school with me we drove together and George Somers had the other stable.

Did your dad have to pay so much a week? How did he arrange for you to leave your horse there?

We paid 35¢ a week.

For the privilege. When you got to school in the morning, you had to stable your horse and unharness the horse and get him settled for the day before you went to class. What time did school start, the classes?

9:00.

I was going to say you couldn't have them too early because the country kids couldn't make it, could they? What do you remember of teachers or classes here in Elsie?

Kate Finch taught the 7th and 8th grade and I always heard the story about Kate Finch of how strict she was. I didn't know where to go in this lobby you know. She was engineering the place then, asked me who I was and who my folks were, wanted to know who my mother was. "It was Harriet Coleman." "Well!" she said. "She went to school to me the first year I taught school in the Colony."

Oh, that was interesting. She had mother and son in class.

She took me in and she was just as nice. I lost all my fear of her.

And then you stayed on the four years and graduated from Elsie. What year was your graduation?

1918.

You were old enough and certainly in high school aware of World War I because many of your friends were being drafted, weren't they, at that age?

Uh huh.

Did you have to register? Do you remember any of the things about the war years? I know they had some rationing, didn't they?

Oh, yes.

It was difficult to get--. When you were in high school, you met your wife, didn't you, or the lady that would be your wife? Did she graduate the same year?

Yes.

What was her name her full name?

Mae Emmons.

What year were you married?

In 1920.

Where did you go to live?

Back on the farm.

Were both of your parents--I'm talking about your stepmother now and father--were both of them dead by the time you were married?

My father was dead but my stepmother was still living.

And you were there with her?

Yes.

You have some notes there, John. I wish you would go ahead and talk from those notes now before I talk too much, things that you wanted to tell me.

I didn't have anything more than just the grange. You asked me about the grange.

When was the grange organized at the Colony? Do you remember?

Well, I got it the building was *The Ancient Order of Gleaners* and it was built about 1900 as near as I can guess. I don't know how long they did go. It was a fraternal organization and the grange took that over in 1927.

And was chartered then as the Maple River Grange, wasn't it? That was the thing. Can you tell me a little bit about the organization of the grange? What did you call the head person?

He was the Worthy Master. There were 7 degrees in the grange and this was the subordinate grange, 4 degrees. Then there was the Pomona Grange and that was the county. There was the state grange and the national grange. The state grange was 1 degree; ...Pomona; the national grange was the 7th degree.

Do you remember some of the early members or officers of the Maple River Grange?

Rev. Fisher was the first Master and then Vern Temple and Luman was the third one.

That's Luman Hall.

That was [19]32. I was Master in '33 and I can't remember who came after me.

I, as a child, remember going there with Mother. I don't know any specific office that my mother held but I know that she quite often would be in charge of the program that they would have.

Lecturer.

I guess they let us kids sit in the meeting. I suppose they thought we didn't, you know, it wasn't all that secret and I can remember that there were three ladies that were always to the front there. Was it Flora?

Ceres, Pomona, and Flora.

I was quite impressed with that as a child. I was quite impressed with that. I can remember a lot of the things the grange did for the community. They had suppers and they had programs. It was through the grange that Mrs. Hilliard put on those plays for the young people that went to the state and did so well.

You said that Everet Day was a Master and Ernie [Ernest O.] Donovan also had been Master. When did the Grange finally, what will we say, close?

About 1960.

The Maple River Grange. What about Pomona Grange in this county?

They're just in existence and that's all.

Now there is a state grange yet.

Oh yes. They're quite active.

And a national grange?

Yes, and national.

I know in the southern part of the state, well not too far south, I know where there are one or two active granges yet and have built new halls and they're quite active.

There was a cheese factory.

I want to hear about that because I don't remember it at all.

That was built in about 1910, as I remember it, and it run until 1918.

and made cheese there. Farmers took their milk into it?

Uh huh. A man by the name of [John A.] Coverdale was the first cheese maker.

Did you ever have any that cheese, did you remember?

Yes.

Good cheese?

Good cheese, and Burton McNaughton was cheesemaker after that. Roy Coleman was Secretary and Treasurer.

of the company?

Yes. It was the Mapleton Cheese Company.

Do you suppose that a number of farmers in the area organized and pooled their capital and built and bought stock and built the building? As you think back now, do you suppose that they made quite well on their investment?

I think they did. There was no default on payments to the farmers.

Then why did it close down?

I don't know. I can't tell that.

I just wondered if it was because that would have been just about World War I. I know from what my mother has told me that she worked and did a man's labor on the farm helping my grandfather because you couldn't hire a man to do anything. You know all the milking was by hand and maybe they just simply didn't have labor enough to run it because an awful lot of young men from Duplain Twp. went to service. Anyway, they didn't default or go under or go bankrupt.

I think that the reason that cheese factory... is because the one in Elsie and kind of faded or something.

At that time the Colony was a very prosperous area and there is good farm land around there and it was quite a center for business then. It's kind of curious as to why they located there except it was the site of the old mill and land that wasn't good for anything else. That little patch of land wasn't big enough to have a farm on, you know, just north of our place so-- I'd like to know what year you got your first car and what kind it was?

My first car was a Chevrolet 490.

What year?

1922.

Do you remember what you paid for it? I'll be shocked.

It was a used car. I think I paid \$500 for it.

\$500 today wouldn't buy your tires hardly, would it, anymore?

Wouldn't put tires on it.

How many children did you and Mae have?

Two.

A boy and a girl, as I know them.

A girl and a boy.

All right, a girl first and then a boy. Your girl, I know, is Geraldine. What's her married name?

Davies.

Geraldine Davies and Geraldine had a girl and a boy, right. Your son's name is Spencer. What year was he born?

[19]27.

How many children does he have? I'm just trying to figure out how many grandchildren you have, John.

Well, he has, let's see, four.

Four children. So you have six grandchildren? Any great-grandchildren?

I have four.

I know that the reason I asked you about a car--we bought a Chevrolet last fall, a demonstrator model, and we certainly didn't get a car for \$500. Did that car last you quite a while? It was a good car, probably well made?

We didn't have it too long. It was four days on the road and right in the garage.

Oh, it wasn't a very good car? What was your second car then?

1924 Ford with a VanAuken top.

With a what, VanAuken?

VanAuken top.

What kind of a top was that?

With a glass enclosure.

Oh, the top didn't fold down.

No.

Well, I can just remember the Model T that my folks had and my grandfather, the next car then later on.

Did that one last? Was that a better car?

The Ford was the better. Yes, very good.

Where'd you buy it? Did you deal here in Elsie?

I got the Chevrolet in Owosso and I got the Ford in St. Johns, Leon Hulse.

Leon Hulse had a dealership, did he? I wonder if he was relation to Ed Hulse. Probably was, wasn't he?

Uh huh.

I don't suppose we paid as much attention to mileage then as we do now. Do you remember anything about what kind of mileage you got?

No I don't. It wasn't very big mileage.

Of course, gasoline was pretty cheap too, wasn't it, so that you weren't as aware of fill-ups costing so much as they do now. So then Geraldine and Spencer lived on the farm where you had lived as a boy and went to the same school that you went and went all through the 8th grade there, I presume.

Geraldine went one year to Elsie. I think it was about the fifth grade.

She rode in with someone then?

She stayed with her grandmother there.

Oh, Grandmother Emmons. Did she like that, sort of, but then came back to the country school the next year?

Uh huh. She went to school with ... walked to school.

Yes, they would have gone there. That made it quite different. I wasn't aware that Geraldine - 'cause I know her through the grange. That's where we got to know each other and I remember Geraldine. I wasn't aware that she had gone into Elsie to go to school that year. Did she come home weekends then?

Yes. She graduated in [19]38.

Yes, that was the same year that I graduated only I graduated from St. Johns instead of Elsie. Spencer then went here to Elsie to school too and you and Mae?

Yes.

So this really is your alma mater are you not? You're not divided up. When Geraldine was going here to school it was still the same big, old, red brick building too, wasn't it? They hadn't even built that little addition on the side.

No.

In 1938 it was exactly same high school building that you and Mae had gone to, hadn't it?

I found a picture of the school house.

What about the stores that you remember in the Colony, John?

The Pearls had one and Burl Teeter?

As I recall, Burl Teeter lived where Elmer Thornton does. Was that the Teeter place?

Yah.

George Weale ran a threshing--. Now that would have been horse-drawn and horse-powered threshing, wouldn't it?

No. It would be powered.

With an engine, a stationary engine, though not a tractor.

He run over Charlie [Charles C.] Morrice. It run over his head.

Run over Charlie Morrice when they were threshing?

Somewhere or another he was threshing and Charlie's mother said. It didn't kill him. She said, "Well, the Lord helped save you that time, didn't he?" "No. He didn't. George Weale did.

I guess accidents happen which just proves to me that farming is a very dangerous thing. Herb Holmes lived there in our place after Weales did. Now, what's the next thing about store...I don't know if that was every day in the week, but the number of days a week, he went out with a horse-drawn wagon. Did you ever go in the old store? Do you remember going in there and getting anything? There was a post office in the Colony too but before you were born probably.

My father used to ride a horse to the Colony to get the mail.

When I was interviewing Amy Hudson, she told me that that's why her father and mother moved down here, was to be near a post office and a store and a school. They had lived up north in the lumbering section around Mt. Pleasant and Shepherd and they had young children that needed to be schooled. That's why they came down here.

We went to school to Jenny Hudson. I remember...

Oh did you? That would be Amy's sister, Jenny.

You haven't got to the blacksmith shop.

Who ran that?

Willard(?) Moore ran a blacksmith shop and a woodworking shop.

Now was that on the corner in the Colony where Clarence Shinn lives now? That was where that was.

He lived in the same house. Andrew [Hainer] lived across on that corner where Roofs live and then Tucker. I think they lived in a house right north of the blacksmith shop.

Yes, I have been told that right north of the blacksmith shop and across from where Reverend Fisher lived, there was a house right in there. So that would be where Ben [Benjamin B.] Tucker lived.

They'd set around the blacksmith's shop and tell war stories.

I'll bet Ben could tell some because he was in the Civil War.

So was Andrew.

Andrew [B.] Hainer was too? My, wouldn't it be nice if I could have had my tape recorder and had those men's stories? That would have been something.

I've got some names on here.

Well, let's hear them.

There was Harry and Frank Cleveland.

Where did the Clevelands live?

Frank lived across from the Disciple Church on the corner.

The house is gone now, isn't it, or not?

That's where Alvin Clark lives.

Of course, he's dead now but I know the house you mean.

He's dead? I didn't know that.

Oh yeah. Mrs. Clark is in North Carolina, South Carolina, somewhere. I can't tell you the name. The young people that live there, I think their name is Cuthbert that live there.

And then Harry [Cleveland] lived-- There was some houses along the road or street.

Oh yes, across from us and north. There were houses in there.

They were stone masons, brick masons, and they moved buildings.

John, perhaps you can tell me--I know I could ask Don [Donald Temple, Jeanne's husband] or Mother--but I believe they're the ones that raised the Methodist Church and put that basement under it. Don't you think it was the Cleveland Brothers?

I think so.

It seems to me as though that's what I've heard. That's what the kind of work they did.

There was Smead[?] He was a painter.

A painter and they lived west on that little road, didn't they?

They lived--

Would that be where--

Rademacher.

Yes, Ed Rademacher—where Mrs. Ed Rademacher lives. Well then, who lived where Mabel and Harry Berry live now?

Harry Bryant, Dr. Bryant.

Anita's father.

He was a baby doctor, a good one. He doctored us kids a lot.

Did he have an office in the Colony?

In his house where Berry's live.

He had his office there?

Oliver Fish's lived where [?] lives.

Oh yeah, in that little house.

She was a weaver. She wove rugs and carpets. My folks used to take rags for rugs that she made; had a loom.

I guess the ladies used to do that. In the winter time they'd go through the worn-out clothes from the year before and cut them and sew them and wrap them in big balls and then the lady would make the rugs for them. We're talking about all these people that lived in the Colony. Most of them had a very small amount of land but they all had a trade. Still most of them probably kept a cow, didn't they, and a few chickens if they could so that their expenses for living weren't very much. Money was very hard to come by and had to be saved. Do you remember the Harmons, Frank and Charlie, at this time? They lived south of the Colony.

Yes.

In your early days, going to church with your family was always horse and buggy, wasn't it, or cutter?

Uh huh.

And churches had socials, I think.

Chicken pie suppers.

Chicken pie suppers, right.

They called them apron sales. Did you know that?

No! Why was it an apron sale?

Well, I don't know. They had aprons hung up on a wire, you know. That was the name of it. Apron sale. Chicken pie supper went with it.

John, you've been a Mason for a long time. I'd like to talk to you a little bit about that, what year did you joined the Masons?

Well, in 1920.

The year you were married?

Yes, just before we were married.

You joined here at Elsie and this is the Free and Accepted Masons #238. Who was Master when you joined?

Harry Crowell[?]

Do you remember any of the other officers when you were initiated or any of the other members?

Henry VanDusen was Senior Warden; [?] was Junior Warden; and George Schenck was secretary.

George Schenck. Now, they ran the nursery down there, didn't they? Schenck's Nursery.

Yes.

You have belonged about 63 years, haven't you?

Yes.

Have you held all of the offices that are open to you in the lodge?

Yes.

What are some of the other related Masonic organizations that you've belonged to?

Well, there was [?].

What number was that?

That was 113 but they combined with the one in Owosso and the Council in Durand, Council #38. Then the Templars in Owosso, 49.

I hear some of the Masons occasionally talking about going to Consistory in Bay City. Do you belong there too?

No. That is a Scottish Rite.

And yours is a York?

York Rite.

Don has a friend in St. Louis, Missouri, who is older than he is but who's has been quite active and has gone through, I don't know how far exactly, how many degrees, but quite high. When we've been down there, I've finally studied out the difference in the York and the Scottish Rite.

... Scottish Rite Consistory.

Then sometime during there you joined the Order of the Eastern Star.

1932.

That's Chapter #69. Did Mae join at the same time?

Yes.

You joined together. What offices have you held in there?

All but the points.

All that men could hold, right? I know what those are, all but the points, and the Associate Matron and the Conductress, Associate Conductress, and the Worthy Matron. What year were you and Mae in the East[ern Star] as Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron?

[19]39.

I think I remember that you had the honor of initiating your daughter and initiating Geraldine into the order because while Geraldine and I are close together in age she has me beat for membership by about 5 years, I think.

She went in, it would be 44 years.

I joined in 1944. Mae held many offices in Eastern Star because I remember when I joined, I believe she was a Star Point. I'm not sure of it, but I think she was Ruth once, being right behind me. At the time of her illness, she was secretary, wasn't she? She took over and was secretary.

She's been secretary 20 years.

A long time. What year did Mae pass away? We didn't mention that.

[19]78, 5th of Feb.

We've got some time to go back and talk about farming. As a little boy on a farm, what are some things that you remember that would be certainly different than you see across the road, for instance? How many cows did your dad have?

We had 8 cows. You see, my father had a stroke.

That's interesting. Your father had a stroke when?

1910 and he was more or less unable to get much work on the farm.

An invalid sort of--

We kept our cows and mother and I did all the farming except the field work. We had cows.

So you were outdoors every morning early before school milking cows and taking care of them.

That put me back a year in school. I was out so much one year.

That brings up a point 'cause you told me that you and Marjorie started together and yet, from the time you went to high school, she was a year ahead of you.

We went to the school to Hugh Watson. Hugh Watson was teaching. And that year I didn't go to school, well just enough to keep the truant officer off me.

That have been the year that your father was so ill, probably?

Yes. We had to report it, you know. You did the best you could.

Certainly, you did. Did you sell your milk whole?

Yes.

Did you have to take it into the creamery or was there a milkman that came around and picked it up?

We had a milk hauler. Here's another interesting point. The first minister in the church there that I remember was (?) Finley and he also hauled the milk. We put our milk out on a milk stand.

Every farm had a little wooden stand, didn't they?

It was just high enough so he could throw big cans, 30-gallon cans, around onto his wagon without lifting them too much.

Did your milk then go down to the Colony?

Yes. Well, let's see.

Because you said they built that about 1910.

It must have gone somewhere else.

Well, they had a little creamery in Elsie, I know.

Probably went to Elsie.

Then you received a check for your milk. Did your mother have quite a flock of chickens so you had lots of eggs?

Chickens and we kept hogs.

Oh you did?

We had 25-30 hogs turn over every year.

That you sold? Well now, that's interesting because we see our neighbors. When they sell hogs, they have this great big trailer they come in. When you sold your hogs, if you were going to sell 20 hogs, what did you do? Bring them up to Elsie so they went on the train?

Well, we hired somebody. We didn't have any means of getting them to market ourselves. We had them taken in a wagon, stock truck.

But do you think they would have gone to Elsie and then gone to the train to a packing company?

Ya.

Ralph Woodard was a buyer then, wasn't he. Did your folks always plan to butcher a hog in the fall so you had--

We had all of our meat on the farm.

Did you butcher a beef?

Un huh.

I know I talked to Mother about that and she said, "Yes, we always butchered a pork because they could brine pork." You could keep pork in brine if the winter wasn't cold but beef was harder to keep.

We smoked the ham shoulders and buried them in the oat bin.

Didn't the rats ever get to them?

No.

In the oats. Did you put other pieces in a brine like I've heard people talk about putting down a pork barrel?

Yes.

What were the crops that you raised?

We raised wheat, oats, corn. We rotated our crops--corn, oats, wheat, hay, pasture. We had five fields, ten acres each, and then we had a smaller field.

Was that farm then just 60 acres?

It was 75. We had 9 acres of woods, timber.

Did you make maple syrup?

No.

I know people used to do it. Did you ever keep bees for honey?

No.

If a farm was free and clear for your father, when he sold his hogs in the fall or sold the milk, that was clear profit for him, really, because in those days you didn't buy in much feed, did you?

No. We raised everything we fed.

Probably the cows weren't as scientifically fed but still they did well, didn't they? How many horses did you usually keep for work?

We had two to work and one to drive.

Your dad didn't raise his own horses ever, did they?

No.

I don't think too many people did. Keeping brood mares and raising colts is quite a tricky business and breaking them and having a quiet team that wasn't going to run away too. What kind of a buggy did you have, John, to drive?

Well, it was a top buggy, a new one. We bought it in Ovid.

There was a buggy factory in Ovid, wasn't there?

Yes. Sam[uel] Pearl had it, Orris's [Orasmus's] brother.

Was it a buggy? I don't I don't know the right names, but it had a seat in the front and a seat in the back?

No. It was just a single.

With a long--

No. It had a boot. They called it a boot. You could lift it up and put your packages in the back.

Oh, I see, but how did the four of you go in one buggy or didn't you go very often, the four of you? If your mother and your father and you and Marjorie--

Well, we'd all ride in the same buggy, I guess.

I suppose maybe one or two of you got to be held on somebody's lap.

Yes. Well, they used to take one of us to the fair.

Where was the fair?

In St. Johns. Marjorie, she always wanted to go to the fair and every other year they'd take her and take me.

The in-between year.

Well, she wanted to go every year and we picked up hickory nuts. She and I both picked up hickory nuts. We were supposed to sell them and get the money for them. Then she wanted to go to a fair so bad that she told me she'd give me all her share of the hickory nut money if she could go in my place. Boy, I took advantage of that!

I'll bet. Where did you sell your hickory nuts, here in Elsie?

I don't remember. I presume we did.

Did you crack them out?

No.

You just sold them and let people crack their own.

Yes. Seems to me we got \$3 a bushel for them.

Hickory nuts today certainly are good and walnuts too if you've got the patience to crack them out.

When the fair was over, Marjorie forgot about what she said, and my father says, "A bargain's a bargain." She had no right to it. I never got to the fair only once or twice.

What was so fascinating about the fair for Marjorie? Was it just the trip or was it--

No. It was being with concessions and all that stuff.

All the excitement of the fair. I suppose then when your parents went to the fair, they packed a picnic lunch and ate out on the fairgrounds.

I remember when Grandmother Birmingham(?) died, my folks went to St. Louis for--

St. Louis, Missouri, at the World's Fair?

World's Fair.

Was it 1903? [1904]

Anyway, they got home in the middle of the night. There was 4" of water on the kitchen floor.

What had happened?

Well, we had a windmill and the lever [that] would shut off the windmill went down and hooked. We had an awful wind and the lever come out from under the hook and the windmill started and run water over in the tank.

Oh now, that brings something to my mind. In other words, in your parents' house then they had overhead tanks so that when you wanted a drink of water, you didn't have to run out and pump each time.

Do it out of a faucet.

That was a convenience that a lot of families didn't have. A lot of people didn't have that.

Wish we didn't have!

Oh dear, yes. I wouldn't want to come home to that either, but I bet they had a good time though at the St. Louis fair. Where did they get on the train, at Elsie or Ovid maybe?

I don't know.

I know that in 1925 my grandfather went to Shepardsville and bought a ticket for New York state. You could go anywhere in the world from Shepardsville, that train station.

Here's another thing that's interesting. When we were married, you didn't have to wait to get a license. You could buy one in the morning and get married in the afternoon. I was driving a horse and buggy then. I drove the horse to Shepardsville, tied her to the rail in front of the store. I got on a train and went to St. Johns. Hugh Watson was working in the county clerk's office when I was there. He was working way down in the back end. I got the license, come home, and everybody in Elsie knew it before I got home... It was all over.

Did they have telephones in that day?

No. He was living in Elsie.

Oh I see. He was probably married by then too.

I don't know.

I imagine so. He was older than you, older than Mother. So word got back and everybody in town knew it. Were you married that soon? You said you got your license. Were you married--

This was on Friday and married Saturday night.

Were you married here in Mrs. Emmon's house?

No. We got married at the Methodist parsonage.

Oh the Methodist. Who was the minister at that time do you recall?

Let's see. He was a tall fellow.

I wish I had my list. I've got the list of our ministers there at home from both churches. Was his name Birdsell?

No.

Kenny?

No, before that.

Robinson?

No.

Those are the only ones I --. That's about the year I was born and I don't remember who that would be. Did you and Mae go away on a trip?

We went to Lansing. We were gone 3 or 4 days. Marjorie [tape ends]