

**CONNECTICUT 20TH CENTURY AGRICULTURAL HISTORY PROJECT
ORAL HISTORIES**

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Name of Person Interviewed: Kenneth Green
Date of Interview: June 14, 2001
Draft #: R-1 January 27, 2020
Transcriber: Charter Oak Scanning, Adam Smith, Machine
Contract Firm: Charter Oak Scanning
Interviewee Address:

LL: Here interviewing Kenneth Green of Eastford, Connecticut. We thank you very much for agreeing to do this. Would you tell us first please where and when you were born?

KG: November 10th, 1911 here at this farm. My folks bought the farm in 1905. It's been with the family ever since.

LL: Where did they come from in 1905?

KG: [Unintelligible] the village here living down a mile from here.

LL: Eastford Village?

KG: Yes.

LL: Had one of them been born here in this area?

KG: My mother was born in Eastford. My father was born in Erving, Massachusetts.

LL: Do you know how they met?

KG: My mother was living in [Boston]. They met through friends at class, and they were married the 4th of February 1893, had nine kids. [Laughter]

LL: Okay. So, then they came back. So, you...

KG: They moved back to Eastford in 1895. When they moved, they had this farm in 1905.

LL: Had there been agriculture in your family before? Had people in your family been in agriculture before, the farm?

KG: My grandfather, he was a farmer.

LL: Then, but this farm did not belong to your grandfather?

KG: No.

LL: Yes. Your father and mother bought this land?

KG: Yes, 150, the farm was bought for \$800.00.

LL: In what year again was that do you think?

KG: 1905.

LL: 1905 for \$800.00 for 150 acres?

R: Right.

LL: There were nine of you?

R: There were nine children.

LL: Nine children?

KG: Altogether. It was eight from my knowledge, seven when they came here. So, we'd had seven. Three babies had died, but they've had seven kids, and it came out in May and I heard he was gone September and in February, September of 1905. I was born November 1911.

LL: What do you remember about living on the farm when you were a child?

KG: We raised the horse farm with the horses here, my father raised here. We had two sheeps, always the same, and I had some turkeys for a while a long time, skinny hens.

LL: I want to move then. [Laughter] What sorts of crops did you grow? What kind of crops did you grow?

KG: Corn and the wheat, some wheat, too, we cut them with a ham cradle.

LL: What did you call that? Did you have a special name for that?

KG: Cradle.

LL: I thought you called it something else. Were all the things that you raised for your family's use, or did you sell some of them?

KG: I had lots of the stuff, fruit, apples.

LL: Did you sell any of it, or did you just use it all?

KG: [Unintelligible] coming up [Unintelligible]. It made [Unintelligible] on the next morning, 15 cows.

LL: Fifteen cows? How many cows did you have altogether?

KG: We never had them counted altogether, [Laughter] racehorse.

LL: Horse? Yes, there's some pictures of them, some of the horses.

KG: [Unintelligible]

LL: That's one of the sights, but that's one there.

KG: [Unintelligible] with that.

LL: There's a picture of a foal right there.

KG: That one, yes, foal, Barry, Prince.

LL: Prince?

KG: [Unintelligible] the player horses with Queenie and Barry, Barry's a foal.

LL: Quin and Barry?

R: Queenie.

KG: Queenie and Barry.

LL: Queenie and Barry, okay.

R: With some mares and foals.

KG: The left one here was mated with Barry, a colt, in 1934. He died when he was about three weeks old. That's when the French – he was born in 1936. Raised them up, needed a lot of effort to run.

LL: What kind of horses were these?

KG: These were bred by a person called Storrs.

R: Which one? From up in Storrs, from that one that was so great up there. We have a memorial to him up on the barn.

LL: Really?

R: Yes, he's one of these.

LL: Was he at the university?

KG: Yes.

LL: That's where he was? When did you stop using oxen and horses?

KG: The last horse I had was 1958, or I had horses – I'm probably the last one in town to work with horses.

LL: You're the last one in town to work with horses?

KG: I guess I worked out throughout my life, [Unintelligible], going out in the woods.

LL: For other people?

KG: Yes.

LL: You hired your stuff out with the horses?

KG: Yes.

LL: How far did you travel to do this around the area?

KG: I worked in Eastford, Ashford, Chaplin, Pomfret, Woodstock.

LL: Do you remember? When did your family get electricity out here?

KG: We never had electricity. [Unintelligible] [Laughter]

LL: Did they have it wired once?

KG: They had it wired once, but I didn't find [Unintelligible] - I don't need. I never used it for anything on the ranch.

R: Do you have batteries or a generator?

KG: I had some batteries.

R: Batteries? Okay. So, the house, when you bought the house over here...

KG: It's been wired, but I haven't used for...

R: They had no electricity then. So, when Uncle Ken moved out in 1989 - was it or is it...?

KG: '88, was it?

R: That school was born in '88. So, it would've been in '89. Is that what you got? He still didn't have electricity. He burned wood and had kerosene lit.

LL: All right. I need to add to the tape, although we're going to use this [Unintelligible] is his niece, great, great?

R: Great, great, two greats. [Laughter]

LL: Then to what?

R: The connection?

LL: Yes.

R: Uncle Ken's brother was Ralph, was my husband's father's father.

LL: Your husband's grandfather was his brother?

R: So, that only makes him one great. That only makes you one great.

LL: Okay. [Laughter]

R: His name was Ralph.

KG: Your granddaughter is a great, great, great.

LL: Your granddaughter?

R: My granddaughter is the great, great, great. That's where the great, great comes from, you know? With my kid. So, I guess I'm only one great.

LL: Okay. [Laughter] Where did you go to school?

KG: Down in [Unintelligible] Eastford School.

LL: What was it like?

KG: They [Unintelligible] very well. Sometimes, I got in the room. Sometimes, I had my own room.

LL: So, how many kids were in the school? Or, how many were with you? Did you have like classes?

KG: Yes. Probably, we had 10.

LL: Did people go up and go into high school, or did they stop at the lower grade?

KG: Most of them went on to high school. I didn't.

R: Your sister, she went to something called "normal school."

KG: She went to a normal school around at night.

LL: Which is Eastern. She became a teacher?

KG: Yes. Ralph, he went to high school and traveled a lot. [Unintelligible]

LL: He worked for you [Unintelligible], but then did he go on to UConn? Didn't he go to UConn?

KG: Yes, UConn.

R: There were letters from him about the rat, "Dear Yvonne." [Laughter]

LL: Okay. Yes, how many of you stayed on to help farm – your father and mother help farm?

KG: I just, because Herbert will not let go of me.

LL: Herbert?

KG: Clarence went to trade school. In 1919, he went in the Navy for four years.

LL: This is a picture of Herbert with the foxes in the barn? Look at all the – there were 15 foxes, 14, 15 foxes, fox skins hanging in the barn.

R: That's one of the things that Herbert did.

LL: On this property?

R: Yes.

KG: Yes.

R: Exactly.

KG: He trapped them himself.

LL: Where did he sell the pelt?

KG: There's a guy coming around selling some lamb.

LL: Remember what his name was?

KG: No.

LL: There's another interesting thing about the horses. Your father used to – his name was Ariel?

KG: Yes.

LL: What did he do with the horses over on that road? You used to tell me about that road he worked on, making the roads with horses, or did you use the oxen to do the roads? Is it Chaplin – the road that goes to Mansfield, did he work on that road?

KG: Yes. Mule, he worked on that road.

LL: Did he work on the roads when they widened Crystal Pond Road?

KG: No.

LL: No?

KG: He worked over all that on spring [Unintelligible].

LL: Is that where they use that scoop, that metal scoop thing on the roads?

KG: No, he was grinding the metal [Unintelligible], gravel, metals in dump car.

LL: In the dump car? At that time, farmers could work off-season. Sometimes, they would get paid to help to do that, and sometimes, they did it in front of their own property just to spread the progress of the road.

KG: Not only that. Between the summertime, we rented a house over there. My mother and I used to [Unintelligible], and have been – got the state and all of that there.

R: Did you stop [Unintelligible] prior to do this?

KG: Yes.

LL: Then your dad was back here on the farm the summer you went there?

KG: He came here, but he stayed at home in the farm, but not [Unintelligible]. He worked on the road over there.

LL: That was Herbert also?

R: That's your father?

KG: My father.

LL: Your father, Ariel? Yes. What year was that?

KG: I don't know.

LL: Were you the only one that went over there with him? You're with him and father and the rest of the [Unintelligible] stayed in the farm?

KG: Run the farm.

LL: Then, eventually though, were you the only one who would stay?

KG: Yes. Now, Herbie with grandpa. [Unintelligible].

LL: He's the one that's running the orchard, their center is here, and then across the street was part of the farm?

KG: The land down, then next to [Unintelligible], built a building here, sell it. [Unintelligible]

LL: Was that Herbert's project alone though? Did you help Herbert with the orchard?

KG: I did some, but it's his. He's working on. He always had horses. He's got a tractor going. That's going to [Unintelligible].

LL: He got a tractor then? About what year was that have been? Can you recall?

KG: In the '40s it was.

LL: Did anyone in your family, coming from the First World War, going to the Second World War, World War II?

KG: Yes. I don't know about - , not the first one though. We didn't go. He all done this for me. [Unintelligible]

LL: Was it Ralph? Did Ralph go into the World War I? There are pictures of him in the army.

KG: Yes, he's wearing a uniform. I was told. He kind of come...

R: He was?

LL: Maybe.

R: He never went into the war though?

KG: No, he never was in the war.

R: Wasn't Clarence in the war?

KG: No, and actually, I was with him.

R: That's his grandpa.

KG: He's from the Navy.

LL: He was in the Navy in a ship though. He was in California.

KG: Yes.

LL: This was in 1920. So, even from the First World War?

R: Right.

LL: There were deferments during the war, if people were in agriculture.

KG: Yes, I was growing half a field. [Unintelligible] get there.

LL: What were your neighbors like? How close were your nearest neighbors?

KG: There wasn't anybody.

LL: Nobody?

KG: No, we haven't. The one [Unintelligible] people named King is the name.

LL: King? Over there, [Unintelligible]? King?

KG: Yes. then he sold it to Stanley Stromenski. He came out with his young wife and [Unintelligible].

LL: Stanley Stromenski?

KG: His wife died. He had an older stock of something, then a farm. He went in the war, First World War.

LL: Mr. Stromenski?

KG: Stromenski.

LL: He went to the war?

KG: He went, he went through hell and stayed on the farm.

LL: Took care of his son?

KG: Yes. Then after he came back, the house burned. They got a new house, and he sold it to a Jewish family.

LL: [Anders]? So, that must've been unusual that there was a Jewish family here. Was it? Is that unusual? After the war, the eastern?

KG: Yes. It was a Russian family, they can come with their mother, their father bombed out the same time [Unintelligible].

LL: A Russian family?

KG: Yes, right. We have a Jewish family and a Russian family traded bombs, and that fell and I would've even here.

LL: Their name was a giveaway. [Unintelligible] They created the ponds?

KG: Yes.

LL: Do you know why?

KG: No. I don't know.

LL: Yes, but originally, that land was part of your farm and then you sold?

R: No. The neighborhood wasn't going to buy your farm, was it?

KG: No.

R: No, that's the house there. They came in out [Unintelligible] they can half that after. That's the house he's talking about.

LL: Did you have neighbors the other direction?

KG: No, there were railroads for miles, all the corners.

LL: Way down the corners there. That was the only house?

KG: The corners up there, in the road.

LL: That old house on the corner?

KG: Yes.

LL: What did you do for fun when you were growing up?

KG: Work a bit. [Laughter]

R: Now, you had dogs, didn't you?

KG: Yes, I had a puppy, 1926, sent to Vermont, and then English shepherd puppy in the New England Homestead.

LL: In the New England Homestead?

KG: Yes.

LL: Okay.

KG: We did raise quite a number of puppies from her.

LL: What kind of dog was that?

KG: English shepherd.

LL: English shepherd. There are pictures of her somewhere.

KG: I don't know if I could [Unintelligible].

LL: How did you happen to get the New England Homestead?

KG: I had that for years and years and years.

LL: The newspaper or magazine?

KG: The weekly, on paper.

R: There's probably still some out here. When we got the house, it was still full of everything. This is Uncle Francisco, which was at the – going to normal school.

KG: I had a border collie and want [Unintelligible].

LL: A collie?

KG: A border collie.

LL: A border collie.

KG: He'll push us to catch the ball too far [Unintelligible], a border collie.

LL: Who was the shepherd?

KG: [Jill Perchip].

LL: Jill Perchip? Okay. Richard?

KG: Yes.

LL: Then you raised border collies, too?

KG: No, I didn't [Unintelligible].

LL: Then you sold them. How did you advertise them to sell?

KG: I just told them - advertisement in New England Homestead.

LL: How far did that New England Homestead?

KG: From Springfield.

LL: From Springfield, Mass?

KG: Yes.

LL: So, it covered Massachusetts and Connecticut?

R: No, it covered all New England.

LL: Yes, all right. Wow.

R: He got his puppies from Vermont.

LL: How did the puppy come? Did they come by train?

KG: Yes.

LL: Was that unusual then to do that?

KG: No. I got sold from Vermont.

LL: By train also? What did you put them in?

KG: [Unintelligible], mailman [Unintelligible] with hole on it, mail them. [Laughter]

LL: Really?

R: You didn't have to take them to Abington to the train?

KG: No.

LL: What kind of a box did you put them in? [Laughter] What kind of a box did you put them in?

KG: I don't know.

LL: You had like a wooden crate? Did you just put them in and mail them?

R: Mail them.

KG: By express.

LL: Good. [Laughter] Yes, I just asked your sister's name here is – there's another picture also – is Mary McKinley Gardener.

KG: That's her married name.

LL: Here's Mary. So, her middle name is McKinley?

KG: Gardener.

LL: Here, it's Mary McKinley Green.

KG: Her name is Mary McKinley Green.

LL: Where did the McKinley come from?

KG: President McKinley, I guess. I was named after Theodore Roosevelt. My middle name is Theodore.

LL: So, your family was very patriotic?

R: His mother was quite a woman.

LL: You talked about your mom, your mother? There's a picture of her up here.

R: You should tell her about the fascinating part about how your mother, your grandmother, how your mother was born and that part. It's really good. Here's his family, the children that survived.

KG: I'm middle, right down in front. [Laughter]

LL: Okay, here you are. [Laughter] So, there was a – this is his father, Ariel. What was his middle initial?

KG: Ariel Wesley.

R: Ariel Wesley, okay. Then your sister was the oldest, Mary McKinley?

KG: Yes, Mary McKinley, Ariel [Unintelligible], and then Ralph [Unintelligible], Clarence Benjamin, and Herbert Ernest, Kenneth Theodore.

R: Wait a minute. Herbert Ernest, who else is in this picture? Ariel's over here on this side. This is Ariel, right?

KG: Yes.

R: This is Herbert. This is Ralph. This is Clarence. This is you. Who am I missing?

KG: Nobody.

LL: Good. [Laughter] So, your mother, tell us about your mother.

R: Go back to her mother. That's the interesting part. Her name is Nancy.

KG: Her mother was married to a [Bosworth]. She hadn't...

LL: [Bosworth]?

R: [Bosworth], that's the – if you came past the cemetery, that's the big...

LL: Okay. I know it's a cemetery.

R: That family was very affluent.

KG: That's [Unintelligible].

LL: The big one? Loren?

KG: On the fifth, [Unintelligible] that's married to my mother's mother. It's very [Unintelligible]. Anyhow, they had three kids. The man and the three kids all died.

LL: Of consumption?

KG: I don't know what happened then. She was living over here in the woods. There's an old farm over there.

LL: Her name is Nancy?

KG: Yes, Nancy Hall, her name was.

LL: Nancy Hall.

KG: Been living all around the [Unintelligible]. Sheldon came along, [Unintelligible], and somebody down the village told him, "You have to see there's a young widow over there." He did, [Laughter] and they got married. Before my mother was born, he left us. She got to divorce him.

LL: So, who did – where did Sheldon come from?

KG: Wisconsin.

R: Who's the [Unintelligible]? He came from Wisconsin and visited the old widow woman.

LL: Younger lady.

R: Yes, widow. [Laughter]

KG: My grandmother brought my mother up.

R: What happened to her?

KG: Her mother died when she's almost three, four months old.

R: Of tuberculosis?

KG: Mom's family were all...

R: So, her first husband's family brought the baby up?

KG: Her husband's brother's family brought her up. [Laughter]

R: Brother's family brought up. So, that was Aunt Carrie?

KG: Yes.

R: That was his daughter, right?

KG: Yes. Three girls and two boys, I guess, in the family.

LL: Carrie was the dressmaker, right?

KG: Yes.

R: Carrie was one of the daughters.

LL: Yes, one of the daughters. So, the daughter raised.

KG: [Unintelligible] My mother left the [Unintelligible]. All the girls carried [Unintelligible].

LL: What was she doing in Western? Did she work?

KG: She worked as a housekeeper, I guess, a maid or something, yes. I have a picture of her. [Unintelligible] she works at an inn.

LL: Did she work at a boarding house?

KG: She worked for a couple.

LL: As their housekeeper?

KG: Yes.

R: Didn't she used to drive? You used to tell me about her driving your wagon back and forth with the furniture from when she moved here or something? Didn't she live down at the general lying-in for a while when she was a teenager?

KG: Yes, when she was a teenager.

R: How did she come to live at the general lying-in?

KG: I don't know how she lived down there with people that – who was running the inn. Their daughter, and she was a very good friend, [Laughter] corresponded to each other for – she went to the [Unintelligible] was her name. They went to California and used to write back and forth [Unintelligible] in the hospital [Unintelligible].

LL: So, they're friends from way back? When you were living on the farm, did the powerline – and you chose to stay with kerosene and wood, the powerlines didn't come out this far?

KG: Yes, they went by here.

LL: All right. Who took care of having the powerlines come by here? The part of what I'm learning about is that Connecticut was one of the only – one of the three states who didn't use federal money to bring in electricity. There were a lot of local power companies.

KG: I don't know.

LL: Okay. Do you remember when they put the powerlines in?

KG: I guess, but I don't remember [Unintelligible].

LL: Where did you get your supplies for farming?

KG: The lines over here and down [Unintelligible] and when I'm trying for whole grains, [Unintelligible], go down there for groceries.

LL: Was it a mail or did they bring it in by train from some place, or did someone else bring it in by land?

KG: They had trucks.

LL: Trucks?

KG: They had trucks around here. That's [Unintelligible] and the railroad.

LL: Before the trucks, how did they get there?

KG: What?

LL: Before they had trucks, back when you're still with horses?

KG: The reason I'm going [Unintelligible], but not a lot.

LL: You didn't buy as much? You raised your own food and things. Where did your wife get – now, when did you get married?

KG: What?

LL: When did you get married? Did you get married?

KG: I was married about 20 months when I was 55 years old. [Laughter]

LL: All right.

R: So, Uncle Ken doesn't have any kids.

LL: All right. So, you've been a bachelor primarily. The food you didn't grow, where did you go grocery shopping?

KG: Down in the village. I go to Putnam or Walmart [Unintelligible], do more shopping. [Unintelligible] Putnam for aspirin, antacid.

LL: Did you rely on mail-order at all like Sears or like [Unintelligible]?

KG: Yes, we used to go to them. I have not [Unintelligible].

LL: Lucky you are. No, I haven't been in a long time.

KG: [Laughter]

LL: Your mother brought a lot of things that way, didn't she?

KG: Yes.

R: We have a lot of the old orders. How big are the orders?

LL: Yes. What is in the picture of it? It looks like a duck on a chair, and it says, "From Walter, 1892." Do you know who that is?

R: Who's that?

LL: The round picture. It looks like a duck sitting on a chair or something. [Laughter]

KG: That's a baby.

LL: A baby? I don't know. It looks like a duck. I don't think it's a baby. It says it's from Walter.

KG: One of the dogs, there's one with the small [Unintelligible].

LL: It's a cat.

R: A cat?

LL: Or a dog. It's a head on the front and the tail going up in that way.

R: Is that what it is?

LL: Yes, you try to tug with the tail on.

R: Look at this picture. It could be a puppy. This is Uncle Ken and his mother. This is a puppy.

LL: It's a kitten. You're right. It's a kitten. It's a calico kitten. It's a cat, because of the – yes. Do you remember how much things cost back when you were growing up and as you became an adult, what's some of the prices with the things you had to buy? How much is like that? You had your own milk and your own food, but what would a stove cost? Did you order a stove from [Montgomery Wood]?

R: They had a wood stove. So, they didn't buy farm equipment.

LL: You would have had to get it from some place. Where did you buy things like stove and appliances? Did you have these?

KG: The stoves, oven, stoves, I [Unintelligible] so much from my mother.

LL: You did a lot of trading then and stuff or just getting it from somebody?

R: Some of the diaries, they said all the prices there.

LL: Would it be possible to read the diaries?

R: I think maybe it could be that. Who has the diaries now? Does Raymond have the diaries?

KG: Yes, I've got the diaries.

LL: You do have the diaries? I've always wanted to transcribe those diaries. Would it be all right for me to read them?

KG: No.

LL: No.

R: They're kind of interesting to read, yes. It's like it has to know what he's saying. Do you know what I mean? For the people to know what he's saying. I wonder if I could read them [Unintelligible].

LL: Yes, I like [Unintelligible]. Yes.

R: There's a lot of this inuendo or some things in there that don't make sense unless you know. One of the most interesting things to me are [Unintelligible] archives in the house, too, when Uncle Ken's mother and father were courting, they would write, and that's what we don't have, of course, in our lives, just because it's written, and all the difference. We found the things out of order. We didn't find actually the letters in order they're written, and one letter said, "I wouldn't mind having a flirt in my house, as long as it gave me no harm." I could never figure out what in the world that meant. Do you know what she's talking about?

LL: No.

R: It's a wood stove that is called a "flirt" and you had to read the previous letters [Laughter] to know that he was asking her about this particular stove. [Laughter] It's the courting letters were very reserved.

R: Proper?

LL: Proper, yes, and they're just amazing.

R: The letters were incredible, and the letters from to the people when the baby died. It's such a common thing to have a baby die. It's funny, because I got to know Uncle Ken's brother Clarence gave the letters, and when he passed to me – [Unintelligible]. Your brother, doesn't he? [Unintelligible], your brother. [Unintelligible]?

KG: Yes.

R: I knew him for [Unintelligible], in that area. That's the person I knew. So strange, because it was 1990-something, and to know him from – he lived in Petersham?

KG: Greenfield.

R: Greenfield.

LL: Greenfield. This is the Greenfield in Connecticut?

R: No, Massachusetts.

LL: Massachusetts.

R: This is his family. Greens are very prolific.

LL: This is Clarence's family?

KG: The oldest still and the youngest still alive on [Unintelligible]. The oldest still in [Unintelligible], all of them. They got married, had a boy, and then he [Unintelligible] out. The

youngest fellow went to college, he stuck with it as long as they could support him. She hadn't any other female. She died in the fall. She was married, too. I never came to her [Unintelligible], one out of the country, the other one lived in Washington State, one in Kansas, and one in Colorado and one in Connecticut and one in Massachusetts.

R: It's very different than when your parents came and then they stayed in one place, and most of you and your brothers and sisters stayed in the general area, didn't travel too far away.

KG: Yes. It was long ago. That's a long ago. I'm feeling down here [Unintelligible]. Clarence's place is Greenfield. Mine was in Eastford.

LL: How old was your mother when she passed?

KG: She died 31st of December of 1954. The 5th of February 1955, she would've been 86.

LL: The 5th of February?

KG: Yes.

LL: That's my birthday.

KG: Yes?

LL: Yes. [Laughter]

R: That's Diamond's birthday. [Laughter] February 5th is the day that my granddaughter was born.

LL: Perhaps a good day. [Laughter] Did your family do anything with the time of Easter? Did you ever look – like your mother, was she on the school board or did she go to anything like that?

KG: No. They just go to the mass in church. Actually, they're not to the [Unintelligible] in 1926. My folks and two others don't go to it.

R: Was the Methodist Church – it's the Ivy Glen now. When it was the church.

LL: What is it now?

R: Ivy Glen. Now, the historic building right in the center of the town. They just redid it and turned one of the arms into the library.

KG: The church, but maybe it's in the townhall, the townhalls [Unintelligible].

LL: Why did the church break up?

KG: Nothing that – nobody would go to it. The church on the hill is everybody went up there.

R: It's a congregational church.

KG: Congregational, probably with domestic church. It could be all of the [Unintelligible] longer that nothing fits.

LL: What happened during the Depression? Do you remember that? You had all your own food. They didn't bother you too much then. The Depression didn't bother you too much? When the Depression came, did it make anything different here?

KG: [Unintelligible]

LL: What about the town? Did it change anything in the town?

KG: I guess not.

LL: What kind of businesses were there in town? I know there's a car dealership there and a couple of things now.

KG: Dealers, woodwork and shop down, and items, candles and flicker sticks.

LL: Candles and pickup sticks?

KG: Flicker.

LL: Flicker sticks, okay.

KG: The old mill by [Unintelligible]. They go nothing but they'll mill [Unintelligible], then that burned.

LL: You could take your grain there and have it - what kind of mill was it?

KG: Woodwork.

LL: That was a woodwork? Okay, I see, all right.

KG: Then there was a Russian mill down in that I'm [Unintelligible]. I would just take them in the grandstand.

LL: The [Unintelligible] mill with [Unintelligible], and that's where you take your – then you bring it back. You wouldn't sell it, which is bring it back for your own use?

KG: Yes.

R: This is the family that lives here. This is the way to Jerry Bosworth.

LL: Do you remember much about the farm bureau or The Grange? The farm bureau or The Grange?

KG: I had long The Grange [Unintelligible]. I just put [Unintelligible].

R: That's the lady that raised his mother.

LL: So, this is with his mother's first husband?

R: That's his brother's daughter. [Laughter]

LL: Brother's daughter? That's not his wife.

R: No, the first husband's brother's daughter.

LL: All right, and they had considerable wealth?

R: Yes. They have the house cleaner from the house. It must be incredible. Now, that, there's a picture of the forest there when Carrie married – there's a long, a feeding couch there.

LL: Yes, this one.

R: That was in the old house, wasn't it, that painting couch? Considerably [Unintelligible].

LL: Yes.

R: I remember there was a couch like that. We had to close that beyond.

LL: Beyond.

R: They had considerable wealth, yes.

LL: As you grew up and took care of the farm, how did you keep up-to-date on what things were happening? Did you ever have – did you always milk by hand?

KG: Yes. Back in 1953, I've worked in - Darwin Clark, he had 15 cows to milk. He had one [Unintelligible] milk bottle and not by hand? [Laughter]

LL: Who was this?

KG: Darwin Clark.

LL: Darwin Clark.

R: Darwin Clark.

LL: He had a farm in Eastford, right?

KG: Yes. I know [Unintelligible], then he sold his house, had [Unintelligible], build a new stable and get a bulk tank.

R: Is that when the bulk tank came in?

KG: Yes. We had a milk in can, and I worked for him the next six years off and on, spent a lot of time. Then he bought another herd of cows from Woodstock, his farm. I went over there. Over there, we had a bulk tank and milking machines. I worked there for four years and four months. I fell in the bottom one night and broke my stupid knee. I remember that.

LL: So, he had had a dairy farm, then he sold the cows, sold off the herd, and then later, he bought, released another farm and stuck with more modern facilities. They already had the bulk tanks, and then he started the dairy herd again. Where did he sell his milk? Where did he sell his milk?

KG: I don't know. Went to the hospital [Unintelligible]. I think the hospital. Yes, I heard it went to the hospital.

LL: How did they cross it?

KG: The big trucks come along.

LL: The big trucks?

KG: Yes.

LL: Yes. So, what did you do then when you hurt your knee? How did you support yourself?

KG: I used to work on the road. It worked out. It worked out fine.

R: Uncle Ken's needs were pretty simple, since he didn't have electricity. He lived with Herbert, right?

LL: Yes.

R: Did Herbert work then?

KG: Yes, he did work. He worked on the stables. He worked on the roads. Now, I'm told he had other business here, for tractor.

LL: The tractors?

KG: He did [Unintelligible]

LL: For tractors?

KG: Yes. Another lime, fertilizer, and – it's very different formula, profitable business, I know. [Laughter]

LL: So, did he have like a feed store? Did he have like a feed store? No?

KG: No.

LL: Just the fertilizers and things?

KG: Sold it, fertilizers, he had it. Me, I had a place, started dumping, lying in the hospital, and the [Unintelligible], fertilizer.

LL: Was there Agway or the co-operative, were any of those in this area?

KG: Yes, Agway.

LL: It was something else before it was Agway, but it was a co-operative, Eastern Connecticut Cooperative or something like that? Some kind of cooperative, didn't know? Yes. Before Agway, it was – Agway was one of the co-operatives or still, but it was a different name. So, you didn't buy up. You didn't really buy a lot of farm supplies, did you? You bought seed from somewhere, but...

KG: I bought seeds from [Orange Mill].

LL: Seed? Food, seed the plant?

KG: Seed?

LL: Yes.

KG: I don't think so. They sell corn [Unintelligible].

LL: You just plant the corn that they had? You used to milk. You see, his mother was very meticulous. I don't think she's going to [Unintelligible]. It was taken Mother's Day, by you in 1934. You took this picture in 1934 on Mother's Day.

R: It's in front of the old house. That was before the hurricane, right? The hurricane was in...

KG: '37.

R: Flew windows out of the house.

KG: Flew the windows out of the house. Flew the [Unintelligible] roof off the barn.

LL: Where were all of you? Where were you during the hurricane?

KG: My mother and I were up in the house.

LL: In the basement, where?

KG: No, in the kitchen. All the windows flew out of the kitchen.

LL: What did you do?

KG: Just took it. [Laughter]

LL: You didn't go hide in the pantry or something?

KG: No.

LL: Were there any animals in the barn?

KG: Not really. I didn't – any animals get hurt, you know?

LL: Why did you stay on the farm?

KG: That's a good question. [Laughter]

LL: What is it about this area that you wanted to stay?

KG: I never had any – to leave it.

LL: Didn't have any what?

KG: Any desire to leave.

LL: Did you stay to take care of your mother?

KG: Yes.

LL: Is that the main reason you stayed?

KG: As long as she lived actually. I don't know [Unintelligible].

LL: Didn't your father leave for a while?

KG: 1925, he's working down the [potato] mill, head outside, and told my mother he was going to get his glasses fixed. He's mailman, didn't come back. We never heard anything from him. Clarence and my sister and her husband, they did some detective work, and they found out where he was. He's out there in Springfield working on a lumberyard, delivering lumber with one horse and a wagon. Last May, 31st of January, last of May, a truck stopped the old house down there, down the little house. He came home. Some of his valuables that he brought, he came back, everything went on, like he never left, went back to work down the pavement, back to church.

LL: So, how long was he gone?

KG: 31st of January to the last of May.

LL: Just went off to working. How old was he then? You, how old were you?

KG: He was born in '66 and was [Unintelligible] 25. [Laughter]

LL: He was 60. How old were you then? When he left and you had to take over more work, how old were you then?

KG: I was born not long ago.

LL: So, you were just a kid. That was funny because you were 15 when he left. You could see in the picture with Uncle Ken and his mother that she was quite elderly and he was young really for that time.

KG: Then in 1933, my father married. God knows [Unintelligible] his birthday. He's the one that [Unintelligible]. My father, he was the one [Unintelligible] built some stone walls for him. He went home with him and got the stone wall built. I don't know how they did it but they talked him to staying over there. They never did come back to live in the old house again. He came back and lived in the little house for a little while.

LL: So, he was in his early 70s then? Here's a picture. This is dated '46, '47 and it's Uncle Ken's mother. They were still driving a horse and buggy then.

LL: What year? '47?

LL: It says '46, '47. So, you drove a horse and buggy up and through the '50s, right?

KG: Yes.

LL: When did you stop driving horse and buggy?

KG: Yes, in the '50s. [Unintelligible] died in '58. They had a horse carriage, sold it and [Unintelligible].

LL: So, you were still driving carriage in the early '50s. Here are some pictures of some of your cows. Uncle Ken raised Ayrshires. There's a cow and calves.

KG: Twin calves. They were those twins. They're the only twins that were ever born on this place and [Unintelligible]. [Laughter]

LL: Yes?

LL: Spell Ayrshires.

LL: A-Y-R-E – A-Y-R-S-H-I-R-E.

KG: A-Y-R-S-H-I-R-E.

LL: No other E in – okay because people are transcribing this and I wasn't sure.

LL: If your father in and out of the house in later years, you were the primary support for your mother?

KG: Herbert, my other...

LL: Your brother Herbert who did the boxes. What else did Herbert do for a living?

KG: Looked out, looking for jobs. [Unintelligible]

LL: You didn't necessarily take up one job. You did a lot of different jobs to support the farm. Here's a picture of your mother and father as they were older. There's no date on here. You're sitting under the pine trees, some pine trees. Your mother has a dotted dress on. It's quite old-fashioned for us, so I guess they [Unintelligible].

LL: There were six boys and a girl, and two of you stayed home, and the others lived in the area. Did they help with the support of your mother at all?

KG: Five boys there.

LL: I'm sorry, yes?

KG: [Unintelligible].

LL: Yes. The boys here, I'm sorry. Yes, there are five boys here and a daughter.

R: Here's that picture taken the same time as the one with your mother in '46, '47, but it's of you.

LL: And a dog.

LL: A little white dog. It looks like a puppy.

KG: I think I was sitting in the buggy.

LL: Sitting in the buggy, it has got a hat on.

LL: That's one of your English...

KG: That puppy was [Aina's], that puppy. [Unintelligible]

LL: Aina [Unintelligible].

KG: Aina [Unintelligible].

LL: Okay, yes. She had a puppy like that?

KG: Yes.

LL: With all those kids, she had time for a puppy?

R: Maybe it kept her sane. [Laughter]

LL: How many kids did Aina have, 10 or 11, or something like that?

KG: They had 10.

LL: Ten, yes. Most of them lived, didn't they?

KG: Kind of, the first [Unintelligible].

LL: Tell me about when you remember the grange. What kinds of things did you do when you were a member of the grange?

KG: Not much. Just [Unintelligible]. I was working for the [Unintelligible] farm business.

LL: So, you didn't really belong to many farm groups then? You didn't really belong to a lot of farm group, did you?

KG: There weren't a lot of them then. Woodstock Agricultural Society and...

LL: That's right.

KG: Windham [Unintelligible], Brooklyn Fair.

LL: Brooklyn Fair is one of the oldest fairs in the state?

KG: Yes.

LL: In the country?

KG: Yes.

LL: When did you use to do with them?

KG: I just took cattle [Unintelligible]. I just took care of the wood saw.
[Unintelligible].

LL: So, up until just last year, I think, when you couldn't see anymore and you ended up in the magazine [Unintelligible]. Is this a regional group or is it a Connecticut group?

R: The Ayrshire Association is national.

LL: A national one. Was it you that told me about going to eastern states with the cattle or was it somebody else?

KG: [Unintelligible]

LL: How did you get the cows to the fair?

LL: I was going to ask that.

KG: First, [Unintelligible] one cattle behind the wagon and a couple of [Unintelligible] in the wagon, it was a [large] wagon, Woodstock, Windham County.

LL: How far is that from here?

KG: [Unintelligible]

LL: About 12 miles. So, probably more than 12 miles. Right around 12 miles.

KG: Must be 12, 14 miles.

LL: How long did it take you to do that?

KG: I don't know. Quite a while.

LL: How long did it take you to get to Putnam on a horse? If you started in the morning, did you get there by lunchtime?

KG: It doesn't take too long.

LL: Did you stay overnight?

KG: No. Just [Unintelligible] take them over. Then we have to go over the [Unintelligible] farm week over at the inn.

LL: Yes.

KG: We used to [Unintelligible] when the church was built.

LL: The congregational church?

KG: [Unintelligible] church [Unintelligible]. My mother and I would drive a horse and buggy. I had to take her to the church at night, so we kept the horse in there, put the horse in the horse barn over there during the day, wait until we close up the barn. We had to tie the horse outside the road. [Laughter] We had a dedication to the church. When we came out, there was a thundershower going on. I guess we had a [Unintelligible] going up to the old horse barn. We went out there on the left. [Unintelligible].

LL: They wouldn't let you stay in the church? They just didn't leave you in the church? [Laughter] Was that the first church or after it burned, the new church?

KG: That's the new church fresh by the road there.

LL: [Breck] Church? It's [Breck], right?

KG: Yes.

LL: Right by the Hicks Arena and stuff.

LL: Yes.

KG: Anyhow, it was in the shed there. Young couple coming in and see what was going on until we saw the lawyer [Unintelligible] the guy he worked at the horse farm and he took the horse in the horse barn, and he [Unintelligible] with the barn where all of them persisted. Herbert was working on the road, I guess. [Unintelligible] gallops and [Unintelligible].

LL: Did he bring you in a car?

KG: He took me over to the barn the next morning to get the horse.

LL: The man from the barn stores, did he take you over to Warrenville in a car?

KG: He took me over to [Unintelligible].

LL: You'd use a car or a truck, right?

KG: I've got a car.

LL: When was the first time you got a car? When was your first car?

KG: I was born in 1927, the Chevrolet Sedan in 1946, I guess.

LL: So, you didn't get your first car until 1946?

KG: No.

LL: But Herbert had a car?

KG: Yes, he had cars.

LL: Clarence had f cars?

KG: Clarence had motorcycle when he had the time anyway.

LL: You got out the Navy?

KG: Yes.

LL: If you put your hands in front of your mouth, Uncle Ken, it's hard for the tape recorder to pick it up. It makes it just hard for it to hear you. You never saw the need to have a car or a truck until the late '40s?

KG: '46 I guess.

LL: Is that when the last horse died?

R: No, he had horses through the '50s.

LL: Right.

LL: You must have been pretty dashing there going around in your car there in the '40s. I see the picture of you here. You're quite a handsome young man with your mother there and the carriage. Did you drive up to Petersham in the carriage, Massachusetts?

KG: [Unintelligible]

LL: How did you get to Petersham, by train or...? The picture of you, you said it was at Aina's. That wasn't in Petersham?

KG: No, that was out in Woodstock.

LL: Farm Week, what did you do at Farm Week? What kinds of things did you do at Farm Week? Was it a place to show your cattle or did you go and take a short course of some kind?

KG: No. I don't know. I had things going on around - [Unintelligible].

KG: I have pictures of this from the '20s.

LL: That was at UConn?

KG: Yes.

LL: Did they have demonstrations and new equipment or...?

KG: Yes. They had everything. [Unintelligible].

LL: Can you think of any favorite stories that you remember?

R: They're not favorite, but there are some interesting stories. Could you tell he about the horses that got into the poison, how that happened? You've got to take your hand away from your face, your mouth, though.

KG: I was living in a little house here.

LL: There was another house that was built right out here.

KG: I needed a job. I was working. I got the job to take care of the cemetery. This modern piece of land fix the land across the road from the cemetery and he wanted me to go down and spend an hour and plow the garden part. I talked to my [Unintelligible]. He cut some wood down the woods. [Unintelligible] I was going out. One day he came home with a bag of granite and [Unintelligible].

LL: Where was this?

KG: In the old house.

LL: At the old house?

KG: Yes, the little house.

LL: The little house, yes.

KG: [Unintelligible] It was little and was on the end of the other house [Unintelligible]. He thought it must be [Unintelligible] working down the wooden house [Unintelligible]. I don't know why you should, but they did. He told me we'd need to take on the [Unintelligible] so he took that [Unintelligible] and we went down [when we were struggling a little bit.] [Unintelligible] spread the manure that morning, the whole noon, and we ended up cutting grain into a couple pails, tie the horses on each side, the manure [Unintelligible], the manure [was a problem]. That would be around lunch. All of a sudden, [Unintelligible] horse. They would jump, start shaking and shivering. They would jump in the manure [Unintelligible]. The other was carried out. We needed to see some doctors. [Unintelligible]. We got the vet in a hurry [Unintelligible]. We said they were poisoned. I really looked around with him [Unintelligible]. I was afraid that a lot them were poisoned. [Unintelligible] There was more rain around the trees to kill mice and two horses. They brought it up to [Unintelligible] and treated them. [Unintelligible] They didn't check anybody from the [Unintelligible] lab.

LL: That was your team? That was your [graft] team?

KG: I was sick and tired. It was 1937. Queenie was born in '28, Barry in '29. [Unintelligible] all this business [Unintelligible].

LL: You still had a cold, though, from one of them because there was a picture of...

KG: Yes. [Unintelligible] children. Others died.

LL: You never had a team after that? Did you ever have a team?

KG: Yes. I had him when he grew up. I got another [Unintelligible]. He didn't have any horse on him around here.

KG: An eight-month-old colt [Unintelligible] too much of him.

KG: I bought another one, a horse. [Unintelligible] horse [Unintelligible]. Three, four years. I had him in 1940, I guess. [Unintelligible] This cost a lot.

LL: That's how you pay for it, with a hundredth quart of wood?

KG: Wood for the company, the box company [up in Oxford]. We almost lost land [Unintelligible] got it all at a hundred for all the wood [Unintelligible] right now.

LL: So, you took your team and threw it out for them, yes, okay.

KG: There are now a hundred [Unintelligible] towards one [Unintelligible] and the next [Unintelligible]. I got another horse, a very [Unintelligible] mixed with what we had and I have a straight team.

LL: This was one of them, these pictures. Is that how you worked off-farm by using your teams?

KG: Only over the years it came a lot.

LL: Here are the gray horses. There's on with you on the top looking at this big, tall horse, and then the other one is you and horse in the harness with the hat on, I see.

KG: That's Prince [Unintelligible] and this is a [Unintelligible].

LL: Now, those weren't Percherons. What kind were they?

KG: Percherons, Three quarters Percherons.

LL: But not the traditional color. Aren't Percherons...

R: Percherons are white.

KG: [Crosstalk] white. They're striped Percherons.

LL: The ones I always see, they're dark.

R: No, there are some brindled ones. They're not brindled, but roan.

LL: Yes, okay, all right.

LL: This is a picture, it says, "Balloon Day." You're only two years old in this picture. September, 1913.

KG: What?

LL: Were you in that picture, the Balloon Day one? 13 at that.

KG: That was down the Woodstock path.

LL: There are more pictures of that, the twin calves, the Ayrshires.

KG: Down here, this is the hot air balloon going up down there.

LL: A hot air balloon?

KG: Yes. The kids hung onto a rope pulling it down. Some of the Green kids did a couple knots [Unintelligible]. When it went up, one kid got tangled up in the rope. He fell off and got killed. That was when that picture was taken and I was there, 1913.

LL: It could've been one of your brothers. It could've been Melvin's grandfather.

LL: [Laughter] [Unintelligible] this would've happened.

R: We've had this balloon company that flies around here. A couple years ago it landed here right on Uncle Ken's orchard and one other year it landed on the crust of our hill. When they land, they give you a bottle of champagne.

KG: Yes. I've been up in them.

LL: Have you?

KG: Yes. [Crosstalk].

LL: They offered the kids that want to go up in the balloon. They're all like, "Yes." They hop in the basket and then they went up to the end of the road [Laughter] and then it came back down again.

R: It was one of my to-dos that I wanted to do.

LL: I had heard that story, but I think...

KG: They're dying.

LL: There are fairs and so on. When you took your animals to the fairs, did they have other kinds of things at the fairs that you did?

KG: I just [Unintelligible].

LL: You just stayed with the cows?

KG: Yes. I just approached them if I had to.

LL: Did you just show them or did they pull things, or did...?

KG: I just showed them.

LL: You showed them in confirmation classes? Confirmation classes, like classes how they were built or did you do things while you were in the class?

KG: No, I just showed them, that's all.

LL: You showed them [Unintelligible].

LL: This is [Easter].

LL: I realize where these pictures come from now. They're from the display we have at Heritage Day. At least some of it. What do you think were some of them? As you lived in this community and there were other farmers, what's the difference between your farm and the other farms around you?

KG: We always had horses around here [Unintelligible]. Some of the farmers had a pair of horses, some of them only had one horse, had more cattle waiting, some of them had only one horse. [Unintelligible] they always had their horses. I know everything about horses. They came from Russia. [Laughter]

LL: What did he think about his daughter? He didn't think too much of her, did he?

KG: When Sheldon was born, I told him that they got another boy. He said, "That's good, a boy. That's good." He said girls are no good. He said, "A boy is good." [Laughter]

LL: His daughter worked on the farm every bit as hard as a man probably.

R: Yes, by just [Unintelligible].

KG: They had two girls also and a son. The son, the guy had a lame [Unintelligible].

LL: He had polio?

KG: Yes. He had polio when he was a boy and he was lame. The oldest girl, the mammy was the oldest girl. The night he was stuck with polio - once she got out of high school, she got out of here and wants to come back out here, and that's a little much.

R: They mammy stayed on the farm until they had to put her in a home.

KG: I mean [Shareska] stayed [Unintelligible].

LL: What was his name?

KG: Shareska.

LL: Shareska.

LL: Mammy and Shareska. Did she... That was her father, right? Was that her father or her...

KG: That was her brother.

LL: Her brother. They both stay in the...

KG: Anthony was the old man.

LL: What did they raise?

LL: They were the closest neighbor.

KG: Homemade milk, whole milk.

R: That's right. The barn was there on the side of the road.

LL: So, most of the other farms in the area did sell milk, you said, until the bulk tanks came in then some of them didn't stay in it. Thank you, very, very much. You have a different kind of story to tell. When I first came you said something about not being a big farm, but a lot of farms in Connecticut were not big farms. Some farms have closed down and then the other farms have gotten bigger, and that kind of thing is happening all over the state.

KG: There are only three farms in town now, I guess, that's sold out.

LL: The mules.

KG: The mules and [Unintelligible] with people.

R: McNeely.

KG: Yes.

LL: Who's living in all of the property then? Who's living here?

KG: A lot of them bought houses built that used to be farms.

LL: Sumner Warren's farm, did he farm that in the middle there, Sumner Warren or Warren Sumner?

KG: Warren [Unintelligible].

LL: I'm sorry, his name was Warren Sumner, not Sumner Warren, right? Or was that Warren there?

KG: Sumner Warren.

LL: It was, okay.

KG: [Woody] Warren was the old man that started the business. He had a finger [Unintelligible].

LL: [Unintelligible]?

KG: Yes. [Unintelligible] tractor [Unintelligible] sold grain. Some he took over, some grain business when he got old enough. He was always too straight for this. [Laughter] Too honest. His father was really an honest man. He suffered over grain.

LL: Do developers come in to buy the land or do some of the people who own the land just set up and give some of their anchorage to their family and then sell lots at different times?

KG: I guess it's what place it is.

R: There aren't many developers coming in just for most of the things to be a slow development. The biggest subdivision that there was recently was the Warren subdivision here, but that took place over a period of about 10 years and then there's one by the lake. What's that lake in town there down South Eastford? What's the name of that lake?

KG: If you ask me, I don't know. [Laughter]

R: There were 20 houses down there, but there haven't been any major subdivisions in Eastford due to slow erosion of the farmland.

LL: When people come in, there weren't subdivisions, are there people who buy acreage and want to have some animals?

R: What happens is that what I've seen in town is you have to subdivide your – you can take off the first chunk without going to the planning commission and going to Willington. That process is such a horrendous process that anyone that has piece of land is going to divide it up, usually subdivide it at that point and then the land gets taken piecemeal.

LL: Piece by piece, actually.

R: A lot of the people haven't sold great quantities of it at once for either tax reasons or just because the development in this part of the state is so slow, it's not a quick a development as it is today in Rockville or Holland where huge chunks are developed right at once. I can't think of a subdivision that the builder came in and did a whole subdivision.

LL: Where does the children go to school then?

R: There's an elementary school K through eight in the center of town and the town has an arrangement with Woodstock Academy with their children are bused there regionally and they also have a choice of the VoAg center at Killingly or Ellis Tech. I'm not sure. I think they can go to EO Smith as a specialist. Primarily, they go to Woodstock. That's the biggest part of the town budget is the education budget. It's far and away the biggest part. The school that Uncle Ken went to was across the street from the present school, right? Or did they move it over there? Was it the same place and then they moved it across the street?

KG: They moved it over there.

LL: It was a wooden schoolhouse and now they moved it across the street and it's a two-family house. Did you go to any other schools or was that the only school you went to?

KG: That's the only one.

LL: Did they have a lot of regional schools?

KG: Yes. They're just the biggest. The one that's nearby here [Unintelligible].

LL: To where?

KG: Do you know the road out to Franklin's?

LL: Franklin?

KG: Franklin is the owner.

LL: Yes.

KG: The white house right there in the corner that's [Crosstalk].

LL: The little house.

KG: Yes.

LL: The tiny house. That was the school?

KG: That was the schoolhouse. That was the school.

R: [Unintelligible].

KG: The schoolhouse down the [Unintelligible]...

LL: Yes.

KG: ...Ashford. I used to get [Unintelligible] or whatever, the metalworks.

LL: How did you get to school?

KG: Walked.

LL: You walked. You didn't take a horse or anything? No. I guess that would be kind of...How old were you when you stopped going to school?

KG: I got to grade that as 15, I guess, [Unintelligible].

R: That was the eighth grade, ninth grade? Eighth grade.

LL: That was right when your father left when you were 15 that year, when he left the first time?

KG: He left in '25.

LL: You were young, you were 14 then?

KG: He left the last day of January in '25.

LL: I did my math wrong. I had you a year older when he left. You were telling me Herbert, there used to be some things around. There used to be dancehalls around here, right? Dancehalls?

KG: Yes.

LL: Places, yes. There was one in Abington above the general store and there was one in Putnam.

KG: There used to be one down Eastford Road at the end.

LL: There was a dancehall at the end?

KG: Yes.

LL: Is that in the barn that's next door now?

KG: Yes.

LL: You said Herbert went to the dances.

KG: He used to go, but I just...

LL: Did you ever go?

KG: No.

LL: If you wanted to court a girl back then, what would you do? Just find her somewhere in a corridor or would you go to the dancehall? If you were looking for a girlfriend back then, how would you find one?

KG: I wasn't interested in girls.

LL: You weren't interested in girls. [Laughter] If you were, this is how anybody from school, they would go to the dances?

KG: I never went to dances.

LL: You never went. You were so busy working, you weren't interested in girls? Pretty much?

KG: I wasn't interested in girls.

R: You might have made him nervous.

KG: I used to go to the – down to the Christian Endeavor [Unintelligible].

LL: What was it called, Christian...?

KG: Christian Endeavor in the congregational church. [Unintelligible]

LL: You said Herbert hunted. Did you hunt or fish also?

KG: No. Herbert was not only a fisherman. He traveled.

LL: That seems to pass down to the family. There's a strong great white hunter streak in your family. [Laughter]

LL: I noticed there's traffic going by, but where is the traffic going to from across this region? Where are they coming from and going?

R: There isn't really a place to come from. There's really no town.

LL: They're [Unintelligible] agriculture.

LL: They're only little. It's the Buell's farm up there and that's really it. We dealt about that, right, but now the dumpsite opened. If you go this way, you go to Yale Forest. You end up in Yale Forest. So, maybe four, five miles down the road you're in Yale Forest and that's a very frequently used – it's not a very popular road, but there's a dairy farm in 44. If you come off there and then come this way, it's like a shortcut in this part of town, but there really isn't much traffic on this road this time of day. Is there any new construction up there right now? I'm trying to think if there are any houses being built up there right now, but I don't think so.

KG: I don't know.

LL: So, I guess the one house that's being built is right next door there and that land was part of Uncle Ken's where the three houses are.

R: When we bought the land from Uncle Ken, they had to sell some land in order to be able to afford to build the house. Fortunately, we ended up having to sell this house and built another house around the corner.

LL: So, you split the homestead?

R: [Unintelligible].

LL: You sold that one. So, you're not...

R: Some kind of traders, almost a hundred years later we sold off the site of the homestead, but we still have near 21 acres and then some of the rest of the family has the rest of that.

KG: They only got [half of...]

R: Your daddy bought some off of it and then Gary's wife ended up with a piece of it. So, kind of got whittled away a little quite a bit. So, it's down I'd say. How much land does Martin have?

KG: About 20 acres, I guess.

R: There's probably 50 acres still in the family of 150 that was.

LL: A few acres in the homestead house.

R: The homestead house is gone. It was too far gone to... When we first bought it, the idea was to redo it, but the timbers, the floor timbers had deteriorated too much to do that. It was going to cost more to rebuild this foundation and the floor than it was to build a new house. So, it was a difficult decision to decide that. We tried to salvage pieces of it to put back into a new house, but there was too much rot in the timbers and floors. But Uncle Ken's mom was a great collector and she kept everything, all the magazines. You asked where he got information. There are just up in the shed, grab one and show you [Unintelligible]. There were whole rooms that had been filled, just filled to the ceiling and closed off. The other interesting thing we found and thank goodness she did this was they sold rags. The ragman would come and you could sell him a bag of rags. So, she put the old clothes in these bags and then we found some of them. So, we have corsets and we have some...

LL: [So I needed a painting catch]. [Laughter]

R: It was like an archeological dig. The letters, particularly saved all the letters that we could. It has just been such incredible history. Some of the letters, they tell so much of the life and I think that's important to your story to come with those letters if I can unearth them. They just tell what they did and the diaries, too. She would report the weather and what they ate at a celebration or what gifts were given, or what gifts she got and what gifts – and it's just uncle.

The great detail that Uncle Ken's mother took before her life at that time period. When did you give her first diary?

KG: '24.

R: '24 and she kept them through the '50s. Is that right?

KG: Yes. [Unintelligible] She had to [Unintelligible] over [Unintelligible]. She had the thyroid in '34, she kept it for...

LL: So, she kept that...

KG: Thirty years.

R: Amazing. The interesting thing, the eggs. Eggs were fairly high-priced. They were \$0.30 a dozen.

LL: Compared to?

R: To the difference of everything else. The eggs were fairly high-priced, which is kind of funny because eggs are pretty easy to come by. If you have a chicken, they're not a difficult product to produce. I suppose you are your chicken, but [Laughter] they were quite expensive compared to other things. \$0.05 for a loaf of bread whereas a dozen eggs would be \$0.30 an egg, but what I can gather from the feeling I have is that they lived pretty much off the land and bought things like shoes and stockings, and staples like flour and sugar...

LL: She made those?

R: She had more boys, so she [Unintelligible].

LL: How did you get your clothes? Did your mother send for them through the mail or did she make a lot of them?

KG: No, she made some herself. [Unintelligible]

R: Like jeans and stuff, like the overalls and stuff, she would order them in the post. We have a dress from probably the '20s. When we first bought the farm, first year '98 we had a picnic down in the pond and we went back to 1905. That's the idea and as many of us that could wore some of the clothes we found in the old house, and we had the one, the dresses. Those, actually, the dress was getting old and crispy [Unintelligible] but one of the bonnets was from the old house. The next year she was two we put her in the dress that we found. We went back into pieces. We either had a whole outfit that we had resurrected from there, which is just amazing that we actually got in some of them. [Laughter]

LL: Because the carriages and the sizes, we aren't supposed to. We have bigger bone structures too.

R: Yes and nutrition levels give such a...

LL: Yes.

R: You look at a museum and you'll see these people, the dresses they had, that woman never had a baby. Really it's just amazing that anybody had a baby considering the shape of their bodies wearing that. The thing is that the waists are narrow and the height, let's say just [Unintelligible] and she couldn't possibly get into the clothes that Uncle Ken's mother wore and his sister because the shape is just totally different. We put the dresses that his sister wore in high school and college on 10-year-olds and have turned them up essentially, and we're talking 10-year-olds that would maybe satisfy them to grow up. So, that's how different. The bathing suit, we found a bathing suit and we have pictures of Mel in the bathing suit. The man's [Unintelligible].

LL: The bathing suit, yes.

R: Was that your bathing suit, do you think? That bathing suit we found over there that was a blue and white striped bathing suit, was that yours?

KG: I never had one.

LL: You never had a bathing suit?

KG: I never went swimming.

LL: You never went swimming?

KG: No.

R: You were [Unintelligible] and I don't remember him...

LL: This one was cotton, I think. You never went swimming? I would just think anyone that lives in the country would go swimming. You just didn't have time to go swimming? I guess you were older by the time the ponds were made. When were the ponds made?

KG: What ponds?

LL: What ponds? The little [Laughter] – when were they made?

KG: The first one was a swamp. [Unintelligible]

LL: Out of the swamp?

KG: Around about '26, I guess, 1926.

LL: Was that the upper one or the lower one?

KG: The lower one.

LL: The lower one.

KG: [Unintelligible] dug out when I was bigger and dug out the other one quite later, a while later.

LL: When did they bring the rock in from the road to make the dam?

KG: Right about that time, I guess, when they dug out all of them.

LL: Was that in the '50s or the '40s? What decade was that, do you think?

KG: When we dug the small pond out, I think it's '26. It's probably in the '30s when [Unintelligible] maybe the early '40s [Unintelligible].

LL: Why did you drink the milk? Would you want them to pour water for the animals or for...?

KG: Ice pond.

LL: Did you have an icehouse here?

KG: Yes. The building that's flat, that was an icehouse.

LL: The one that's falling down, that was the icehouse? Did you sell ice to other people?

KG: No.

LL: [Unintelligible]. How would you harvest the ice?

KG: Probably strong - pick it up and take it, [Unintelligible]. [Laughter]

LL: How did you pick it up?

KG: Ice cones.

LL: How big of a piece did you cut?

KG: I don't know.

R: About three feet, two and a half feet?

KG: Probably.

LL: It must've been awful heavy.

KG: We never cut ice more than a couple years, I guess. If you would put ice in it, the longer it lasted and the ice here is [Unintelligible] and then after I stopped [Unintelligible] the icehouse helped [Unintelligible] I guess.

LL: So, you used it mainly to keep the milk cool?

KG: Yes.

LL: What happened by the middle of summer? What happened to your ice?

KG: It melts.

(End of Interview)