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Nariator's name; Nellie King
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Original*

A....Nellie...my maiden name?

Q. MAIDEN AND MARRIED NAME.

A. Ah, my name was Nellie Lash before I married.

Q. LASH?

A. L-a-s-h.

Q. L-A-S-H. AND YOU MARRIED A MR. KING, RIGHT?

A. And my name is Nellie King.

Q. WHEN WERE YOU BORN, NELLIE?

A. Huh?

Q. WHEN WERE YOU BORN?

A. I was born August 8, 1901.

Q. AUGUST 8, 1901. WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

A. Coins, Missouri.

Q. HOW DO YOU SPELL THAT, NELLIE?

A. G-o-i-n-s.

Q. G-O-I-N-S. WHERE IS THAT IN MISSOURI?

A. It's about, oh, let's see, I'm trying to say the name of the town that it's twenty five miles away from. There its down in _____, Missouri.

Q. UH-HUH. OKAY. WHEN DID YOU MOVE UP TO BUXTON?

A. Huh?

Q. WHEN DID YOU MOVE TO BUXTON?

A. When did we come to Buxton? When I was eleven months old.

Q. YOU WERE ELEVEN MONTHS OLD, SO YOU CAME WITH YOUR FAMILY.

A. That would have been in 1902.

Q. 1902. BUXTON NINETEEN...AH, WHAT WAS...?

A. Been July the eighth, 1902.

Q. OKAY. TELL ME A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY. AH, THE LASH FAMILY.

A. About what.

Q. THE LASH FAMILY, YOUR FAMILY, IS THAT, WAS YOUR DAD A MINER?

A. Ah, you know...since I've been married?

Q. NO, YOUR DAD, YOUR FATHER, WAS HE A MINER?

A. My father?

Q. UH-HUH.

A. My father worked putting up houses to eighth street in Buxton. Build-
ing houses.

Q. HE BUILT HOUSES, THEN,

*indep
audited*

A. Uh-huh.

Q. FOR WHOM?

A. Up to eighth street. Company houses.

Q. SO HE WORKED FOR A COMPANY PUTTING UP HOUSES.

A. Yeah.

Q. HOW LONG DID HE DO THAT IN BUXTON?

A. About...well, my mother and him separated when I was about five years old.

Q. OKAY, AND YOU...

A. And he left Buxton. I never seen him no more until I was thirteen years old.

Q. WHERE DID HE GO, NELLIE?

A. Huh?

Q. WHERE DID HE GO?

A. Well, once we heard he was up in New London, Ioway, but I wrote to the post office ^{there} and they didn't have no address.

Q. OKAY.

A. I think so. I don't know whether he's living or not.

Q. SO, AND THEN YOU SAW HIM WHEN YOU WERE THIRTEEN? WHERE DID YOU SEE HIM THEN?

A. He come to Buxton.

Q. OKAY. DID YOU MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH HIM AFTER THAT?

A. Well, my mother was going to town and she met him, and he wanted to see me, so she turned around and come back home. But I didn't know who he was, anyway.

Q. OKAY. ~~NO~~ DID YOU MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH HIM AFTER YOU SAW HIM THIS TIME AT...

A. Once after that he wrote me a letter and sent me fifty dollars. That was the last I heard of him.

Q. SO YOU DON'T...YOU LOST CONTACT WITH HIM, LOST TOUCH WITH HIM AFTER THAT. WELL, HOW MANY...HOW LARGE WAS THE ^{your} FAMILY, DID YOU HAVE ANY SIBLINGS? SISTERS AND BROTHERS?

A. Ah, no. No sisters and brothers, just myself.

Q. JUST YOU AND YOUR...MOM?

A. Mom.

Q. WHAT DID YOUR MOM DO?

A. She was a housekeeper. And she married again after they were separated. To John Garland. Of Buxton.

Q. GARLAND?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. G-A-R-L-A-N-D? WHAT DID JOHN GARLAND DO?

A. John Garland worked in the mines.

Q. HE WAS A MINER.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. HOW LONG DID...YOU MOVED TO BUXTON, WHAT YEAR WAS THAT AGAIN, NOW?

A. Huh?

Q. WHEN DID MOVE TO BUXTON, 1902? HOW LONG DID YOU LIVE THERE?

A. Oh, we lived there until 1922 when the mines went down.

Q. SO YOU SPENT MOST OF YOUR YOUNG LIFE?

A. I went to school there...

Q. OKAY.

A...And I went to church there and took part in all the different things.

Q. WELL TELL ME ABOUT SCHOOL AND CHURCH, NELLIE.

A. About the school.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. Well, we lived on eleventh street and my school was on eleventh street. West eleventh street. I didn't have too far to go. And white and colored all went together to school.

Q. WHICH SCHOOL WAS THIS? 11TH STREET SCHOOL?

A. Eleventh street school.

Q. OKAY. HOW FAR DID YOU GO IN SCHOOL THERE?

A. I could just walk to school, I was about the fourth house down from the schoolhouse.

Q. FOURTH HOUSE. HOW MANY YEARS DID YOU SPEND IN SCHOOL, NELLIE?

A. Eight.

Q. YOU WENT THROUGH THE EIGHTH GRADE, OKAY.

A. And, ah...

Q. DID YOU GO TO HIGH SCHOOL THERE IN BUXTON?

A. Not as I can remember...when we moved to Bucknell, they built a new high school, And that, they used to call it Heydock. But some called it Buxkneil, but we all called it Heydock.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. They built a high school there.

Q. OKAY. AND THAT WAS AFTER 1922, RIGHT?

A. 1922. And the mines wernt down in 1927,

Q. OKAY.

A. Course people had to move away and move to different places.

Q. NOW YOU SAID THAT YOU WENT OT SCHOOL THERE. YOU SAID THAT BOTH BLACK AND WHITE WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER?

A. Yeah, and all colored teachers. I never had a white teacher,

Q. YOU NEVER HAD A WHITE TEACHER?

A. Nope .

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THEIR NAMES?

A....And fifth street school never had a white teacher,

Q. WHAT WERE THEIR NAMES, WHAT WERE YOUR TEACHERS' NAMES?

A. My teachers?

Q. YEAH,

A. The first teacher I had's name was Harris,

Q. MRS. HARRIS,

A. And Mrs. Finley,

Q. FINLEY.

A. And Mrs. Lucas

Q. LUCAS,

A. And Minnie B. London,

Q. MINNIE B. LONDON,

A. And she was the onliest colored teacher that was ever superintendent of Monroe County.

Q. MINNIE B. LONDON, WHO WERE SOME OF THE OTHERS? CAN YOU REMEMBER SOME OF THEIR NAMES?

A. At the fifth street school? I don't know what their names was, we did have a (phone ringing)(tape off and back on)

Q. OKAY WELL START NOW AGAIN AFTER THE PHONE RANG, AND YOU ANSWERED,

A. Well, I want to show you something here first.

Q. OKAY.

A. ~~They~~^{They}'re putting up a Historical building down here in Albany^b trying to buy, ah...

Q. THEY ARE?

A. Yep. I _____ about everywhere down here, but there's a section in there on Buxton. I thought I'd let you read it,

Q. (reading) "TO THE SOUTHWEST, ESTABLISHED AROUND 1900 AND IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN THE LARGEST UNINCORPORATED TOWN IN THE COUNTY, POPULATION WAS 9,000. NEVER...THERE WAS NEVER A MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL, OR LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY. MONEY FLOWED FREELY, AS DID VICE, ONE OBSERVER WAS TO REMARK 'IT WAS THE TOUGHEST TOWN EAST OF DODGE CITY,'" NELLIE, DO YOU REMEMBER IT BEING A TOUGH TOWN?

A. Well, I don't know. People fought and things like that, I guess some of them got killed.

Q. IT SAYS..." IN 1903 THE COMPANY COMPLETED WORK ON THE 20,000\$ YMCA BUILDING."

A. That's right.

Q. REMEMBER THE YMCA BUILDING?

A. Yeah, they had a big Y and a little Y.

Q. OKAY TELL US, TELL ME ABOUT IT,

A. Yep.

Q. TELL ME ABOUT THE Y,

A. Well, most all the younger ones was a t the little Y, and well, more similar ones at the big Y.

Q. OKAY.

A. And they had a big theater there. Right close in there. All kinds of...

Q. WAS THE THEATER ON THE TOP FLOOR OF THE Y?

A. No, it was a separate building.

Q. IT WAS A SEPARATE BUILDING.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. IT WAS A SEPARATE BUILDING.

A. All of it was on one block right down in town.

Q. WELL, TELL ME ABOUT THE Y. WHAT WAS IN THE Y, NELLIE? CAN YOU DESCRIBE IT?

A. Well, I didn't cause I didn't go there, but all kinds of sports and things for kids to learn how to play, and things, you know, and things like that.

Q. BUT YOU NEVER WENT THERE, THOUGH.

A. A, no, mostly all boys and things, I think was there.

Q. OKAY. WELL IT SAYS HERE...(reading)"THIS WAS THE FIRST AND LARGEST COLORED MINERS' OR INDUSTRIAL YMCA TO EXIST IN THE UNITED STATES,"

A. Yeah.

Q."BY 1906 EIGHT LARGE MINES WERE OPERATING," WHAT WERE THE EIGHT MINES NELLIE, DO YOU REMEMBER THEIR NUMBERS?

A. Well, there was number ten for one.

Q. OKAY.

A. I remember that.

Q. CAN YOU REMEMBER ANY OTHERS?

A. And I remember 18, 19, and I guess there was a mine number 11. The train, miners train took 'em to work every mornning and brought 'em back every evening.

Q. OKAY.

A. 19 and 20 was out to Bucknell, where they moved the camp in '27,

Q. IT SAYS HERE "THREE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS WERE PUBLISHED," RIGHT?

A. Yeah.

Q. WELL, WHAT WERE THEIR NAMES? WHAT WERE THE NAMES OF THE THREE BUXTON NEWSPAPERS?

A. Buxton papers? I don't remember that.

Q. YOU DON'T REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE PAPERS?

A. I know at one time they brought the bread in on a passenger train

Q. UH-HUH.

A. And we ordered our water, About everybody had sisterns. Ordered our water by the , a tank of water just like we ordered our coal, And they'd come up and put it in your...

Q. WHERE DID THE WATER COME FROM?

A. Now. I don't know. It must have been downtown or somewhere.

Q. IT SAYS "THE PRIDE OF THE TOWN WAS THE BASEBALL TEAM KNOWN FAR AND WIDE. IT WAS APPROPRIATELY NAMED THE BUXTON WONDERS."

A. The Buxton Wonders.

Q. CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE BUXTON WONDERS?

A. Yeah. They went all around different places playing and they had a ball park out behind the store.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. And had a lot of games down there for people to go to. My husband played, he was the shortstop.

Q. HE WAS?

A. Charles King.

Q. HE WAS THE SHORT STOP?

A. Yep. Everybody kn...everybody knowed him.

Q. CAN YOU, CAN YOU NAME OTHER PEOPLE ON THE TEAM? WHO WAS THE CATCHER OF THE BUXTON WONDERS?

A. Mmmmm. I don't know. I'd have to go through it and write it all down. If you'd give me your address, maybe I could write it all down and send it in to you.

Q. OKAY. WHAT ABOUT THE THIRD BASEMAN, DO YOU REMEMBER THE THIRD...?

A. I don't remember.

Q. HOW ABOUT SECOND BASEMAN?

A. Oh, that's been a long time.

Q. YOU CAN'T REMEMBER...?

A. Their manager was Ed Peterson, he was a white man. But it was a colored team.

Q. IT WAS AN ALL COLORED TEAM?

A. Yep.

Q. WERE THERE ANY WHITES ON THE TEAM, NELLIE?

A. Ah, there might have been just one. Johnny Luskey, I think played with them. But Ed Peterson was their manager.

Q. JOHNNY LUSKEY. WHAT DID HE...WHAT POSITION DID HE PLAY?

A. Well, I don't know. There used to be some Luskeys over there in Albia somewhere. But I don't know just where they live.

Q. YOU SAID THEY TRAVELLED AROUND A LOT. WHERE DID THEY GO TO PLAY BALL?

A. Oh, Kansas City, Missouri. All different places.

Q. THEY WENT DOWN AS FAR AS KANSAS CITY, HUH?

A. Yep. (pause) Now I got this cut out, I...

Q. OKAY.

A. This will give you quite a detail about it. If it says Buxton, you know, I cut it out. (laughs)

Q. HUH?

A. Now you'll find a lot in that paper. I read it all through last night. After I got it out. And they had a big company store, you could buy everything from a loaf of bread to a casket.

Q. AT THE COMPANY STORE?

A. Yep. And they...

Q. LOAF OF BREAD TO A CASKET. HERE...

A. Yes. They even had burial. Undertaker business. Shoe department. Grocery department. Drug department, and bread department. You could order tailor made clothes there, men and women. Anything you wanted to buy was in that store, and if it wasn't right in there, they'd get it for you.

Q. DID YOU EVER TRAVEL WITH THE BUXTON WONDERS WITH YOUR HUSBAND?

A. One time on the fourth of July we went to Haysville. They played ball, oh, in some little town over in there somewhere.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. And they were going to give all the boys a chicken dinner. So some of the wives was along and they said, "I'm going to wait and eat with them," and I says "well, I'm going ahead and eat by myself." So they didn't give none of the women no dinner, and they just fed the ball boys. (laughs)

Q. REALLY?

A. Uh-huh. You never seen the like of farmers in your life was there. And I went to Tama to a ball game. On fourth of July. My husband thought somebody was going to come with me, and I just said to a boy on my porch, I said "Do you know how to fix a tire?" He said yes. I said you got a ride right into Tama. So I loaded two of my daughters and another girl in and when I pulled in the ground, my husband looked up and said to me, they were just getting ready to call the game. I says, "Get out there and play ball. I was already in Tama parking the car." We went to Centerville. We'd pay as high as ten

Q. UH-HUH.

A. And different teams come in there.

Q. WHAT TEAMS DO YOU REMEMBER COMING IN TO BUXTON?

A. Oh, no, I remember the one coming in to Kansas City, they had a...

Q. WHICH ONE IS THAT?

A....PITCHER they called Sugar Goodall. And he got in Albia and sold the game one day, and boy, they wanted to kill him.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HE SOLD THE GAME?

A. Well, he dropped the ball or done something that he wasn't supposed to...

Q. OHHH.

A....sold the game. Everybody was going to kill him there and he never got back in that no more.

Q. SUGAR GOODALL?

A. Sugar Goodall, they called him Sugar Goodall. I don't know what his name was.

Q. WAS HE FROM THE KANSAS CITY TEAM?

A. Yes, it was a Kansas City team.

Q. WAS IT THE KANSAS CITY MONARCHS?

A. It could have been. I bet it's in that paper.

Q. OKAY.

A. That I gave you to read there.

Q. OKAY. I'LL DO THAT AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH THE INTERVIEW. AHHH, NOW YOU STAYED IN BUXTON AGAIN...1922, RIGHT, NELLIE?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. OKAY. DID YOUR MOTHER STAY IN BUXTON THAT LONG?

A. My mother moved to Consoll awhile before we moved there.

Q. OKAY. WHAT DID...AND SHE MOVED WITH HER, WITH HER...

A. And we moved about next door to her. We got a house there...

Q. IN CONSOLL?

A. Uh-huh. And then they moved, they building in Heydock. We got us a house up there close to the mines.

Q. I SEE. OKAY. WHEN WERE YOU MARRIED, NELLIE?

A. Me?

Q. UH-HUH.

A. 1922.

Q. YOU WERE MARRIED IN 1922. TO CHARLES KING, RIGHT?

A. Right.

Q. WHAT DID HE DO FOR A LIVING?

A. What did he do?

Q. UH-HUH.

Q. HE WAS A MULE DRIVER IN THE MINES. HOW LONG HAD YOU KNOWN HIM BEFORE YOU MARRIED HIM?

A. Huh?

Q. HOW LONG HAD YOU KNOWN HIM BEFORE YOU MARRIED HIM?

A. Oh, my mother knowed him when he was small. But I just knowed him after I was larger.

Q. I SEE. DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL WITH HIM IN BUXTON?

A. No, I didn't go to the same school that he did.

Q. WELL, HOW LONG HAD HE LIVED IN BUXTON, DO YOU KNOW, NELLIE?

A. Well, his father got burnt up in the Evans, Ioway in the mines.

Q. IN EVANS, IOWA?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. DO YOU KNOW WHEN THAT WAS, NELLIE?

A. It was out by Oskaloosa...

Q. WHEN, WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?

A. I don't know what year it happened. Then his mother and two girls and him. Three, I think, come into Buxton, and Rubin Gaines's father let 'em live there. And his mother worked there.

Q. WHERE DID SHE WORK?

A. She worked for Rubin Gaines, and she was a hairdresser.

Q. SHE WAS A HAIRDRESSER?

A. Yes.

Q. CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE WOMAN?

A. Her name was Mary King.

Q. MARY KING.

A. She was a Torow hairdresser.

Q. OKAY.

A. They had Madame Daiber hairdressers and Torow hairdressers and and different ones around _____.

Q. WELL, TELL ME, WHAT WAS THE NAME TOROID..WHAT WAS THE NAME...?

A. Torow

Q. HOW DO YOU SPELL THAT?

A. I guess it's spelled T-o-r-o-w-. Torow hairdresser.

Q. TOROW THAT WAS A BRAND NAME OF HAIRDRESSER

A. That was the name of the...

Q...OF THE SHOP?

A. Uh-huh. No, I guess the company she worked for.

Q. IT WAS A COMPANY THAT WAS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF BUXTON, IT WAS LIKE A FRANCHISE.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. LIKE A DAIRY QUEEN OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

A. Yeah.

Q. TODAY. OKAY. SHE WAS ONE OF THE...HOW MANY HAIRDRESSERS WERE THERE IN BUXTON?

A. Oh, let's see. Miss Nancy and her and a woman up on seventh street and one out on the other end of town. Oh, there might have been seven or eight of them. Course you didn't get as much money doing it as you do now.

Q. OH, REALLY? DID THE...HOW MANY CHILDREN DID THE, DID MARY KING HAVE?

A. I've got two girls...

Q. HOW MANY...MARY KING, YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW. HOW MANY CHILDREN DID SHE HAVE, NELLIE?

A. She had Charlie and Ruby and then one passed away. She had three.

Q. SHE HAD THREE AND TWO LIVED.

A. One of them living. Yep, my sister-in-law.

Q. OKAY. DID SHE...YOU SAID SHE ALSO WORKED FOR RUBIN GAINES.

A. Yeah, his daddy. It was old man Rubin, but this is younger Rubin that lives over here on 137.

Q. OKAY. SO WHAT DID SHE DO FOR OLD RUBIN GAINES?

A. Kep' house for him. He didn't have any wife.

Q. OH, HE DIDN'T.

A. And he had children, so she kept house.

Q. WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS WIFE, NELLIE?

A. She died.

Q. SHE DIED. HOW MANY CHILDREN DID RUBIN GAINES HAVE?

A. Ohhhh, let's see. They might have had about five. There were some girls...one boy--Rubin.

Q. OKAY SHE KEPT HOUSE FOR RUBIN, DID MARY KING EVER REMARRY?

A. Not after her husband got burnt up in the mine. Uh-uh.

Q. SO SHE REMAINED A WIDOW ALL HER LIFE.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. OKAY. HOW DID YOU MEET CHARLIE, HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR HUSBAND? AHHP CHARLES KING?

A. Well, he boarded out past us at a Woodford's there, and he come right by our house going to town...

Q. WOODFORDS?

A. ..._____ Woodfords. She was his cousin. Hester Woodford. So he boarded there, and of course he come right by our house going to work and coming back and forth all the time.

Q. IS THAT SPELLED W-O-O-D-F-E-R-D-S?

A. F-o-r-d.

Q. F-O-R-D-S. WOODFORDS. OKAY.

A. And mama knew him and I got acquainted with him.

Q. AND HE WAS... AND THIS WAS WHEN... HOW OLD WAS HE WHEN HE BOARDED WITH THE WOODFORDS?

A. Huh?

Q. HOW OLD WAS CHARLES WHEN HE BOARDED WITH THE WOODFORDS? DO YOU RECAL

A. He got a job in the mines when he was 14 years old.

Q. 14.

A. Tom Liggins got him a job. He stayed there, too.

Q. WHO'S TOM LIGGINS? NELLIE?

A. Well, he's dead now, but he used to belong to all the lodges and things in Buxotn. And he knowed him and he got him a job trapping when he was 14. And he stayed with them for awhile.

Q. WAS HE...

A. And he put his sister in ahouse, she had some children. And paid her rent. At 14 years old.

Q. OH, REALLY? HIS SISTER WAS OLDER THAN HE?

A. Huh?

Q. HIS SIS--

A. His sister was older.

Q. YEAH.

A. And her and her husband had separated and she had some children, so he helped her.

Q. HE HELPED HER.

A. So he worked all his life. And we kept 14 children in our home during the time we were married. Three sets by death.

Q. WELL, TELL ME ABOUT THAT. NOW HOW MANY CHILDREN DID YOU AND CHAR...

A. I had two.

Q. YOU HAVE TWO CHILDREN. WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES, NELLIE?

A. One is named Carmilita Gold, she lives in Madison, Wisconsin.

Q. CARMILITA?

A. The other ones name, ah, Elsie Williams, she lives in Aguillar, Colo.

Q. WHAT DO THEY DO, WHAT DO THE...?

A. Huh?

Q. WHAT DO THOSE, WHAT DO THE TWO GIRLS DO?

A. They're married...got their homes.

qQ. OKAY. HOUSEWIVES?

A. Yeah.

Q. OKAY, NOW, BUT YOU SAID YOU TAKEN, KEPT 14 CHILDREN, NELLIE. WHO WERE THE OTHERS?

A. Then I adopted a granddaughter, I had. My granddaughter wasn't

A. (cont.)...to her, and we said no, we're going to keep her. She lives in Milwaukee, her name is Shirlassie, She just graduated out of college last week.

Q. A GRANDDAUGHTER. YOU RAISED A GRANDDAUGHTER.

A. Well...

Q. NOW THIS WAS AFTER YOU WERE OUT OF BUXTON, RIGHT?

A. I...

Q. DID YOU HAVE YOUR CHILDREN, ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN¹⁴⁵¹⁰ IN BUXTON?

A. Huh?

Q. YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY OF YOUR CHILDREN IN BUXTON, DID YOU, NELLIE?

A. No.

Q. JUST AFTER YOU LEFT, OKAY.

A. Uh, my aunt died and she had two boys.

Q. UH-HUH,

A. Then her husband died.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. And my mother couldn't hardly handle 'em.

Q. OKAY.

A. So the president of the local, he come up and ask my husband and I to go over to Albia and adopt them.

Q. AND YOU DID?

A. And we did.

Q. OKAY.

A. So later on...

Q. WHAT WERE THEIR NAMES, NELLIE?

A. Willie Baker and Joe Baker.

Q. OKAY.

A. Later on, my daughter was married and left with four children at an early age, her husband died. Well, she give me four in one day. She wanted to get a job and go to work in Ottumwa. So I took that four.

Q. OKAY.

A. Well, after my granddaughter's husband got killed on the way to Knoxville, and left three, I took them. Everybody come along and didn't have no place to stay, look like we kept him.

Q. UH-HUH. 14 ALL TOGETHER.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. QUITE A FEW OF THOSE WERE YOUR GRANDCHILDREN.

A. YEAH.

Q. RIGHT?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. AHHH...

A. I've got two grandsons living with me now, Bob Cooley, and Kenneth

Q. YOU HAVE TWO GRANDSONS LIVING WITH YOU NOW?

A. Ah, Kenneth is my great-great-grandson.

Q. OKKY.

A. And Robert is my great-grandson.

Q. WHAT , DO THEY WORK NOW?

A. Robertworks, he's a foreman over at Chamberlain, the one over by Albia, there.

Q. UH-UHH.

A. And the other one goes to Albia to school. He's in tenth grade.

Q. HE'S IN TENTH GRADE.

A. All of 'em from the fifth grade up here goes on tbb bus to Albia.

Q. I SEE.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. YOU HAVE HAD CHILBREN ALL YOUR LIFE?

A. Yeah.

Q. HAVEN'T YOU? WELL, WHEN, WHEN DID YOUR HUSBAND CHARLES KING DIE?

A. Huh?

Q. WHEN DID CHARLES KING DIE?

A. He died on New Year's Day in '69.

Q. NEW YEARS DAY IN '69.

A. He had -----, I guess, high blood pressure, his heart was bothering him. The doctor said it was a lung disease. From the mines. But he never did take to his bed, he just never complained too much, he'd sit around, maybe in the day and fall asleep in the chair but never did go to bed.

Q. HE, HE NEVER WENT TO BED?

A. No, not to, you know, get sick in the bed.

Q. HMMM.

A. He stayed on his feet.

Q. I SEE. WHAT DID HE DO MOST OF HIS LIFE? WAS HE A MINER MOST OF HIS LIFE?

A. Worked all of his life in the mines until he retired and then went on social security.

Q. WHEN WAS THAT? WHEN DID HE RETIRE, NELLIE?

A. Oh, let's see. I went on in '59, I think it was, we adopted one of our grandchildren Shirlesse. And I didn't know at that time that I would get anything, because you'd have to wait three years when you adopted a child for the old law. From that day they wanted to know if they had two secretaries, they wanted to know where I was born, where I was married, and oh, boy. And me and her both come in under have been under social security.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. We just got 90 dollars, but anyhow, we come in.

Q. OKAY. AH...

A. AND at 16, she got married, so that took me off. I come right in under him. On social security. I missed about a, they told me I would miss about a dollar and sixty five cents a month as long as I lived on account of coming in a little early, but I didn't want to mess up his pension, so I just come on in. Then after he passed, why, I got the black lung.

Q. UH-HUH. AND THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE ON RIGHT NOW, I SUPPOSE.

A. I get social security and black lung.

Q. OKAY. WELL, LET'S GET BACK TO BUXTON, NELLIE. YOU, WHEN DID YOU LEAVE SCHOOL IN BUXTON, WHAT YEAR WAS THAT? YOUR...

A. I can't remember that.

Q. OKAY. DID YOU, DID YOU WORK IN BUXTON?

A. Well, sometime when Johnny Baxter and them on the butcher shop out there, his wife worked at the bank, he'd have me to wash some shirts and things, that's about all I did. I lived with my mother 'till I got married.

Q. AH,...HOW OLD WERE YOU WHE YOU GOT MARRIED?

A. Huh?

Q. TWENTY YEARS OLD? WERE YOU TWENTY YEARS OLD WHEN YOU GOT MARRIED, NELLIE?

A. About twenty years old.

Q. ABOUT TWENTY YEARS OLD. AND YOU HAD BEEN OUT OF SCHOOL SINCE WHAT? ABOUT THE EIGHTH GRADE?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. AHHH,...AND YOU LIVED AT HOME...

A. Yeah.

Q....ALL THAT TIME? WHAT DID YOU DO THERE AT HOME, NELLIE? WHEN YOU WERE OUT OF SCHOOL?

A. Oh, I got up and done housework and things for my mother and things.

Q. HELPED YOUR MOTHER.

A. If somebody wanted me to do wash or something, I would. People worked by the day, you know.

Q. SURE.

A. You'd go to somebody's house, and work all day long. Do you know how much you'd get?

Q. HOW MUCH?

A. One dollar.

Q. ONE DOLAAR.

A. You could get somebody to come in and do all your housework.

A.(cont.)...thing else. Wash and wipe woodwork, anything you wanted them to do. A dollar a day is about what you got,

Q. WELL, HOW MUCH DID YOUR HUSBAND MAKE A DAY IN THE MINES?

A. My husband when he, they get \$7.50 a day they said they was in the money. The government pulled out a dollar and a half, and they was getting six dollars. And when he went to...huh?

Q.WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE GOVERNMENT...?

A....The highest he ever got in the mines was \$13.65, he was working at Pershing at nights. Driving.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE GOVERNMENT PULLED OUT A DOLLAR AND A HALF?

A. Well, now when the strike went on, and Heydock closed down. And never worked no more, they had all kinds of coal down there, the government took their dollar and a half and that left them then getting six dollars a day. Well, some of em told em they wouldn't take it. They had to move out of that town and some of em had to leave everything, their furniture right in the houses.

Q? WHEN WAS THIS, NELLIE? WHAT YEAR?

A. And they could have worked for six dollars, but when the government took the...that was in 1927 when they took it off and they shut the mines down.

Q. BUT YOUR HUSBAND MADE AS MUCH AS SEVEN AND A HALF DOLLARS A DAY WHILE IN BUXTON?

A. Yeah. That's what they got. And you thought you was in the money when you got seven and a half.

Q. UH-HUH. I BET YOU DID.

A. My grandson, he's about 16 in May, and he wants seven dollars to mow these lawns, are you kidding? (laughs) And the older one, if you'd say something, he'd say "Seven and a half?" Well, he wouldn't bother to move...

Q. RIGHT.

A....for seven and a half. (laughs)

Q, THINGS HAVE CHANGED, HAVEN'T THEY?

A. You better believe it, and schoolteachers years back, they got thirty dollars amonth and they ate out of it. So, the school over here he had to write a paper one time about Buxton. And I put in some for him. And I said teachers weren't always getting this rocking chair money that they're getting now. She told him...he got a good grade on that paper and she said well, you tell your grandmother _____ (laughs) They didn't always make that kind of money. You could go to shows, big shows there for a dime, and circuses and everything and they...course you didn't go to no circus for a dime,

A.(cont.)...but you could go to a movie just for a dime, And hamburgers and pop and all that stuff wouldn't be over a dime. Really, you wasn't spending an awful lot of big money.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER A MAN BY THE NAME OF REASBY THAT HAD A...?

A. Yes!

Q. ...LUNCHWAGON?

A.Charlie Reasby had a little lunch counter right there by the show and he sold pop, ice cream, hamburgers, popcorn, you, know, what have you. And then there was one named Pete Addington. Did you ever get ahold of his name?

Q. ADDINGTON?

A. He's dead now, but he rode a,...he had some mules.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. A little old wagon. And he sold ice cream and stuff for years and years.

Q. HOW DO YOU SPELL AVINGTON? A-V-I...?

A. Addington. A-d-d-i-g-g-t-o-n. Peter Addington.

Q. PETER ADDINGTON. AND HE SOLD ICE CREAM.

A. Yeah, he sold ice cream and stuff.

Q. DID ANY OTHERS SELL ICECREAM ON THE STREET BESIDES...?

A.Yes right on the street come around and he _____around the street with that wagon, he would. Reasby sold downtown by the show hall

Q. OKAY, ANY OTHERS BESIDES REASBY AND ADDINGTON?

A. Well, they had resturants and everything like that, but they just had their lunch counter rright there. Cause the company store was right across the street there and a lot of coming and going.

Q. SURE, SURE.

A. And they paid off in gold for a long time, And hhe men had twenty dollar gold pieces on their watch. And...

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE WOMEN? HOWWDID THE WOMEN DRESS?

A. Good. You could order anything you wanted in the company store there. They'd just take it out...you didn't send it in, they'd take it right out of your check before you got it. Everything went to the company store like credit.

Q. UH-HUH. DID PEOPLE LIKE THAT KIND OF ARRANGEMENT?

A. I guess they did. You get the money now and spend it all anyway, don't you?

Q. RINGT.

A. I don't see any difference...what you got then were yours, Cause you end up paying what you owed, but you get it now, you ain't got none when you get through.

Q. UH_huh

A. And every time you've got an awful lot of overhead expenses is all. And anything you eat, you can go in with forty dollars worth and put it in one sack and bring it home.

Q. I KNOW.

A. Did you believe I paid a dollar and three cents for a loaf of bread?

Q. THATS EXSPENSIVE, ISN'T IT?

A. You better believe, I never paid that for nothing in my life. And I'll be eighty years old next August

Q. RIGHT.

A. Nobody ever told me I'd pay a dollar for a loaf of bread, I'd never believe it.

Q. WELL, NELLIE, WHAT...HOW DID THE MINERS WORK...WE'VE HEARD FORM SOME PEOPLE THAT OFTEN IN THE SUMMERS THERE WASN'T A LOT OF WORK IN THE MINE

A. Well, A lot of times in the summer they'd be off work sometimes that's how they could go around and play ball; you know.

Q. BECAUSE THEY HAD THE...

A. One time was 6 months strike and they was down in Missouri, for the first day they worked they were down there playing ball. Oh! Boy.

Q. REALLY?

A. Yeah. (laughs)

Q. WELL HOW OFTEN WOULD THEY WORK IN THE SUMMRR? WERE THEY OFF MOST OF THE SUMMER, OR...?

A. Sometime they might be off for two or three months in the summer.

Q. AND NOT WORK AT ALL IN THE SUMMER?

A. No, they'd eat at the store down there, and sometime they'd get 'em local orders

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN LOCAL ORDERS?

A. Out to Heydock. They did when they was out of work. Well, the local would give you order for food every week, Cause you wasn't working.

Q. OKAY. SO YOU WOULD STILL EAT AND KEEP BODY AND SOUL TOGETHER,

A. Yep. Badder than you do now. Nobody's breaking their neck to give nobody nothing now...they don't got nothing.

Q. FMMM. OKAY, SO DID THE SLACK SEASONS COME MOSTLY IN THE SUMMER, NELLIE

A. Mostly in the summer.

Q. ANY OTHRR TIME OF YEAR?

A. They'd be working.

Q. THEY'D BE WORKING ANY OTHER TIME OF THE YEAR, AH, SO YOU SAY YOUR HUSBAND WAS A MULE DRIVER ALL HIS LIFE?

A. Well, one was named Dr. Carter. He was an old doctor there, well, I guess the doctor was raised there,

Q. UH-HUH.

A. Dr. Carter, and a Dr. Chester, he ^{LEFT} ~~was in~~ Buxton, and come on in to Albia here. Later. He died in Albia.

Q. OKAY.

A. A doctor London.

Q. OKAY.

A. Dr. London, and Dr. Chester and Dr. Carter, that's about the most doctors.

Q. THAT YOU REMEMBER. BUT THE AMBULANCE TOOK HIM HERE TO ALBIA TO THE MINER'S HOSPITAL

A. Well, you see the under takers had _____ and all you had to do was call one. And your funeral bill could go right to the company store

Q. WELL, HOW BIG WAS THE HOSPITAL IN ALBIA, THE MINER'S HOSPITAL?

A. In Albia?

Q. YEAH.

A. It was a big place, It's still there now the after _____ Smiths took it over. Dr. Smith, he goes to Iowa City every Wednesday.

Q. OKAY.

A. And he all the apartments that are still right there in Albia. Going down from _____ Hess's drugstore there. Down in there by Falby's lumber company. It's still there. It's a big hospital.

Q. NOW, IT'S BY HESS'S DRUGSTORE?

A. Yep. On down from the Falby Lumber Company. Falby Lumber Company sit on one corner and...

Q. F-A-L-B-Y?

A. F-a-l-b-e-y. Falbey.

Q. FALBEY.

A. Lumber Company.

Q. THE HOSPITAL IS RIGHT THERE.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. OKAY. HAS IT CHANGED SINCE...?

A. huh?

Q. HAS IT CHANGED SINCE THE OLD DAYS THAT HOSPITAL? IS IT BIGGER THAN IT WAS IN THE PAST, OR...?

A. No, just as big as it was.

Q. OKAY. NOT BUILT ON OR ANYTHING. AH, WAS YOUR HUSBAND EVER INJURED IN THE MINES?

A. Yes, he got a finger cut off, a couple of fingers cut off.

Q. IS THAT IT?

A. Yes. That's about all.

Q. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN THOSE CASES? WAS THERE ANY KIND OF COMPENSATION, WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION?

A. Huh?

Q. WAS THERE WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION FOR THAT?

A. Yes. I remember...well, with the front finger, I guess, they didn't take it off only at the first joint, left him some protection to his thumb.

Q. OKAY.

A. I think he got 485\$ for that finger. Then he got 60\$ a month the time he was out. Not working.

Q. I SEE. HOW...?

A. Compensation.

Q. DID HE LIKE MINING, DID HE...?

A. Yes, that's the only thing he ever knowed, he liked it.

Q. HE LIKED IT.

A. He wouldn't of moved out of Lovilla to go nowhere. His sister wanted him to move to Omaha. She thought I could buy a home, out where I could have chickens and things.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. He said he wouldn't go to no Omaha. Some of 'em lived in Milwaukee, and no, I'm going to stay right here in Lovilla. I said well, this is about as good a place as any. (laughs)

Q. AH...

A. Well, you know everybody and everybody knows you, and...I guess it ain't such a bad place after all.

Q. NO. I'M SURE NOT. WELL, HOW ABOUT THE HOUSES THERE IN BUXTON LIKE? WHAT WAS THE COMPANYYOU LIVED IN A COMPANY...?

A. Company houses. Yes.

Q. CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE HOUSE? YOU LIVED IN?

A. Well, we had five room house. Two of them were up tairs.

Q. TWO BEDROOMS UPSTAIRS?

A. Yep.

Q. OKAY, WHAT DID YOU HAVE DOWNSTAIRS?

A. Maybe we had a...now wait a minute, we had a front room, dining room and a little room off and a kitchen, we had a six room house, I think we paid ten dollars a month rent. Some of 'em rented for eight.

Q. OKAY.

A. That must have been the five room houses, but I

Q. YOU SAID YOU HAD A LITTLE ROOM...OFF OF WHERE?

A. No, there wasn't no _____ house.

Q. NO. YOU SAID YOU HAD, THERE WAS A LITTLE ROOM,..

A. WE HAD A BEDROOM OFF FROM OUR DINING ROOM WE USED,

Q. OH, YOU DID?

A. Then our kitchen and our porch room went clean across, a big _____ and two rooms upstairs.

Q. HOW WAS THE HOUSE HEATED, NELLIE?

A. By coal.

Q. BY COALSTOVE?

A. Yep.

Q. ONE COALSTOVE OR DID YOU HAVE TWO?

A. No, we had a cookstove in the kitchen and a heater in the dining room. Sometimes you'd have to put a heater in the front room. We burned coal.

Q. TELL ME, WAS THE HEATING STOVE IN THE DINING ROOM, DID YOU SAY?

A. Yes.

Q. WAHT WAS IT WAS IT A POT-BELLIED STOVE?

A. Well, some of em was, and some of em the door just opened in the front. These black ones, you know.

Q. YES. OKAY. WHAT WAS THE COOKSTOVE LIKE? CAN YOU DESCRIBE THAT?

A. Our cookstove had a reservior on it. On end of it for the water.

Q. FOR THE WATER.

A. Uh-HUH.

Q. WHAT ELSE ABOUT IT, DID, AH...DID YOU BUILD, WAS THERE A FIRE BOX AND THEN YOU WOULD LIFT...?

A. No there was just lids, and you had a little lifter, you'd lift your lid off.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. It was a good sized fire box down in the stove.

Q. RIGHT. WAS THERE AN OVEN TO THE STOVE?

A. Yeah. Great big oven to bake in.

Q. WAS THE OVEN HEATED FROM THE SAME FIREBOX?

A. Well, the heat...everything was from the wood _____.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. Uh-huh. And we used lamps until we got electric, and that was quite a while

Q. WHEN DID ELECTRIDITY COME TO BUXTON?

A. Weelll, electricity didn't come to Buxton until about, about in the early twenties. People used lamps.

Q BUT YOU REMEMBER IT COMING IN,

A. Just light your lamps with coal like everything else.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE PHONES, DID ANYBODY HAVE PHONES IN THEIR HOUSES?

A. Not too many people had no phones.

Q. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAVE TO MAKE A CALL?

A. Huh?

Q? WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAD TO MAKE A TELEPHONE CALL?

A. Well, we'd have to go to what you call the Sharp End, not very far from us. Or one of the stores or markets or something like that and they'd let you use the phone.

Q. OKAY. DID THE COMPANY HOMES HAVE FOUNDATIONS, NELLIE?

A. Well, all of Heydock was on foundations, I guess all of Buxton was.

Q. BUT YOU'RE NOT SURE ABOUT THAT.

A. One time after the mines was gone, I, that was when I took some of the grandkids and I wanted to go over and sit. He says, well, I'm not going through them barbed wires. You just go ahead and sit. I went through and went up the hill and all the foundations were still there. I couldn't tell what the houses was, but I could tell standing, I could know where all the people lived ^{IN} Midway where I lived.

Q. UH-HUH. OKAY. HOW DID YOU DISPOSE OF GARBAGE?

A. Huh?

Q. HOW DID YOU DISPOSE OF GARBAGE THERE IN BUXTON?

A. Well, a lot of people burned it.

Q. THEY BURNED THEIR GARBAGE.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. RIGHT THERE ON THE LAND?

A. Yeah.

Q. ON THEIR LOTS? DID YOU HAVE, DID YOU HAVE LIVESTOCK, DID YOU HAVE CHICKENS...?

A. Out to the back like by your alley, your coal shed and your toilet was out there. Where you burned your garbage.

Q. OKAY.

A. Not right up in the yard.

~~Q. WHAT ABOUT LEFTOVER FOOD, NELLIE. WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THAT?~~

A. Well, everybody had dogs and things. You didn't have much trouble with that.

Q. YEAH.

A. We had a dog.

Q. YOU DID? DID...WAS THERE ANY GARBAGE COLLECTION THAT YOU REMEMBER?

A. No.

Q. NO ONE CAME BY TO COLLECT GARBAGE. THAT YOU CAN REMEMBER. OKAY.

A. That's just been in the later years. That garbage collectin' business ain't it?

Q. YEAH. I THINK YOU MUST BE...

A. You know how much I pay for the garbage man to come and collect my garbage?

Q. NO.

A. 15,75¢. That's for every three months.

Q. THAT'S KIND OF EXPENSIVE, ISN'T IT?

A. Huh?

Q. IT'S EXPENSIVE.

A. Makes quite a bit of difference.

Q. RIGHT. WHAT...DID ANY OF THE HOMES IN BUXTON HAVE BASEMENTS?

A. Maybe some of them did downtown. But not around where I lived, anyway.

Q. NO BASEMENTS, OKAY. DID YOU GROW GARDENS?

A. Huh?

Q. DID PEOPLE GROW GARDENS?

A. Yeah they had gardens, they had yards, you know, big enough to have gardens.

Q. DID YOUR MOTHER...

A. Huh?

Q. DID YOUR MOTHER AND ANY OF YOU DO THAT?

A. Yeah. We had gradens.

Q. WHAT WERE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU'D GROWIN THE GARDEN, ENELLIE?

A. Huh?

Q. WHAT WERE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU'D GROW IN SEASON?

A. Oh, potatoes and beans and onions and cabbage.

Q. HH-HUH.

A. Just about everything you see fresh in the store.

Q. OKAY.

A. I still have a garden in the summer. I can't get around very good. But over in that back lot I had tomatoes last year. Every year around my house here, I set some tomatoes out, and way late in the fall I'd go out and get me a ncie big lap of tomatoes.

Q. RIGHT.

A. Them people that has a garden, they'll come over and bring me tomatoes. A family in Marysville, my husband and their mother and fahber was awful good friends. They'll call me and come down. Do you want some garden stuff/?

Q. NELLIE, ONE TIME WE HEARD THAT THERE WAS A SIGN OUTSIDE OF MARYSVILL A MAN REPORTED THIS TO US THAT SAID THAT BLACK PEOPLE SHOULD KEEP OUT OF THERE. DO YOU REMEMBER ANYSUCH SIGN?

A. That said what?

Q. THAT BLACK PEOPLE SHOULD KEEP OUT OF THERE.

A. I don't know of colored people that ever lived in Marysville that I know of.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER A SIGN IT HAD A BELLBORDER? THE...

A. I don't remember that but I don't remember no...

Q. YOU DON'T REMEMBER.

A...no colored people ever being there.

Q. OKAY.

A. And I don't think none had ever lived in Hamilton. I think there was a colored family that lived out in Bussey, out in there. Someplace.

Q. WHAT WERE RELATIONS LIKE WHEN YOU...AH,...?

A. Huh?

Q. WHAT WERE RELATIONS LIKE, WHAT WERE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE RACES LIKE THERE IN BUXTON?

A. Well, I don't know, I went to a colored church, that's where I went, it was right up the street from me, all my life.

Q. YOU DID? WHICH CHURCH IS THAT?

A. That was second Baptist church.

Q. OKAY.

A. And on first street down there was the first Baptist church.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. And...

Q. WHY DID YOU GO TO THE COLORED CHURCH, NELLIE?

A. Well, I went to school there and I went there and I knowed 'em all and they asked me to come to church so I did, I even sang in the choir there years later when I got older. But in school, everybody was treated alike.

Q. OKAY.

A. And they didn't care what color you was, if you needed directing, you better believe you got it. And everybody got their lessons exactly like they told em to. They didn't make no difference in 'em. At all.

Q. SO THERE WAS NO ...

End of side one tape of Nellie King.

SIDE TWO

Q. ...GERMANS THERE, YOU SAY? DO YOU REMEMBER ANY ITALIANS IN BUXTON?

A. I went to school with a German girl. She lived behind us, and she married and moved right down below us.

Q. WHAT WAS HER NAME, NELLIE?

A. Her name was Julia Respotnick.

Q. RESPOTNICK.

A. And I can;t think of the man's name she married, but ^{I used to see} her at the homecoming once in awhile in Des Moines when they had 'em.

Q. HOW DID YOU KNOW THEY WERE GERMAN?

A. She told us they were German.

Q. OKAY.

A. When they went to get, she went to get married, my mother bought the last five sacks of white flour from the company store. And a can of lard and a whole lot of bacon, and I guess that was when the war was coming on, and this black flour was coming in. And she come over to our house and she says I want your mama to give me something. Mama says what do you want. And she says I want you to give me some of that flour I'm having me a wedding cake made out of it and I know you've got it. Mama says I never made a decent cake in my life. But I will hire somebody to make you a wedding cake. So she did a fella and they lived over from us 'cross the place there, and she furnished the flour and everything, and the woman made a nice big four tiered cake.

Q. OH! (PAUSE) DID ANY OTHER WHITES GO TO THE COLORED CHURCH WITH YOU? WERE YOU THE ONLY WHITE THERE?

A. No. I think I was about the onliest one. Lest somebody ocme to visiting, like different choirs from the other churches. You know they would visit back and forth.

Q. WHAT WERE THE...YOU MENTIONED THERE WAS A FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AND A SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH, IT WAS THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH YOU WENT TO, RIGHT?

A. What they called Tabernackle then.

Q. TABERNACKLE. WHAT WERE THE OTHER CHURCHES THERE IN BUXTON?

A. They had a Mt.Olive church downtown, that was a colored church,

Q. UH-UHUH.

A. They had a church over on the SharpEnd, where the Seventh Day Adventists...

Q. WAS THAT COLORED OR WHITE?

A....That is what they used Saturday or Sunday or whenever that is.

Q. RIGHT.

A. Then they had a white church over in Swede town.

Q. WHAT WAS THAT...A

A. I suppose it was. And then they had a Methodist church, Colored Methodist church.

Q. WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT CHURCH?

A....downtown. That was colored.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE METHODIST CHURCH?

A. No, I guess they called it the AME.

Q. OKAY. WHAT ABOUT MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH? WAS THERE A MT..ZION BAPTIST CHURCH?

A. Mt. Zion. No, they had a Mt. Zion in Pershing but I never remember no Mt. Zion. Less they had one out to Heydock when they was putting up the different churches.

Q. WERE THERE, WAS THERE MORE THAN ONE...?

A. Church?

Q. LUTHERAN CHURCH.

A. I don't know. They had one over in Swede town. They had their school over there and hthe church, and...

Q. UH-HUH. DO YOU REMEMBER, REMEMBER ANY OTHER GROUPS BESIDES GERMANS THERE IN BUXTON?

A. I guess there was Italians and different people.

Q. BUT YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANY...

A. No.

Q. ...THAT DISTICTLY, HUH, NELLIE? OKAY.

A. One night my mother heard such a singing and a going on way fn the night and the...she turned around and said what's going on over in ther what's all that racket? Well, somebody had died and he was having a wake, and he said that's the way they have it.

Q. WHO'S THEY?

A. My, her husband tld her...that's...

Q. WHO WAS HAVING THIS WAKE?

A. I don't know. Somebody had died over in there. And they were just singing and going on. a lot of them foreigners they just drink and sing and go on you know, When somebody's dead they don't settle down like hhe other people does sometimes.

Q. UH-HUH. THESE WERE, THESE WERE FOREIGNERS THAT WERE DOING THAT. NOT GERMANS.

A. Oh, I don't know, Wasn't no Germans, I don't know who they was.

Q. HUH. MAKING QUITE A RUCKUS.

A. And they had two bands there, Maybe one band with some young players in it.

Q. WHO WERE, WHAT WERE THE NAMES OF THE BANDS?

A. They jaat called it the Buxton band.

Q. THERE WERE TWO OF THEM?

A. No, there was one.

Q. THE BUXTON BAND, WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DID IT PLAY?

A. Oh, they had like all kinds of instruments and drums just like everybody else out there. They had a lot of lodges there.

Q. WHAT WERE THE, WHAT WERE THE LODGES?

A. Well, the Masons, and the K.P.'s (?) and Eastern Star.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. When somebody died the band would turn out to the church. Or they went to the park for celebrations and things. And the band would come down.

Q. DID YOU BELONG TO ANY OF THOSE LODGES, NELLIE?

A. Huh? No.

Q. NO? OKAY.

A. My daughter joined a _____ one time. I think that was off of the Tabernacles. ^{she} I don't know.

Q. HOW ABOUT YOUR HUSBAND? DID HE ...?

A. No, he never belonged, either.

Q. ^{OKAY} BUT THEY HAD A BAND, A BUXTON BAND.

A. But we went At Centerville one time and the Ku Klux Klan, you know they had them K's all over the street. This Thomas Liggan, he was a Mason, he was a K.P. He was a little bit of everything. And they wasn't going to serve us there. And he says why aren't you going to serve us? ^{we} ~~we're~~ out of town, we're here to a ball game. Well, he says there's some people here don't like colored people coming in--steal the salt and pepper shakers and what have you. He just threw his coat back and showed him all his... He says we ain't just anybody. We're civilized people. They fixed us up a table and served us.

Q. NOW THIS TOM LIGGANS, WAS HE WHITE OR BLACK?

A. ^{He was} Colored.

Q. HE WAS COLORED.

A. But he belonged to every lodge in the book around, and he used to be the justice of the peace.

Q. WHAT DID HE SHOW THEM, AH...?

A. He showed 'em his Mason pin, and his K.P. pin and they fixed us a table and served us something to eat. He said we ain't just anybody.

Q. WHAT YEAR WAS THIS, NELLIE?

A. Oh, we lived in Heydock, when that was going on.

Q. BUT...

A. That was along maybe '22, '23.

Q. WERE THERE OTHER INCIDENCES LIKE THAT WHERE...

A. Huh?

Q. WHERE COLORED PEOPLE WERE TREATED RATHER POORLY IN SOME OF THESE TOWNS? DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OTHER INCIDENCES OF THAT SORT OF THING HAPPENING?

A. Now, that was in Centerville, that was out from where we lived.

Q. OKAY. DID YOU HAVE ANY DIRECT EXPERIENCE OR HEAR ABOUT ANY EXPERIENCES LIKE THIS ONE IN CENTERVILLE YOU HAD?

A. I went about any place I wanted to.

Q. OKAY. HMMM...

A. We went to all the dances. We never missed a one. We'd give dances in Heydock. We'd have the Marigold Springs--that was the Baker boys, we knowed 'em from Buxton. And they'd play for us for 45\$ a night. We'd have to guarentee 'em that. If they played till 1:00 we'd have to pay them 60. One time we _____ to Des Moines from Christmas Eve, Shristmas, cost us two hundred and a quarter. But everybody had a good time, we didn't care if we made a lot of money or not. We had a lunch place. Maybe we'd have a bushel of fried chicken, and have somebody in there to sell it for us, cause I like to dance, and I wasn't thinking about stopping and doing. And we have ham, and sometimes we'd sell eleven cases of pop. And we had another room for to rest your clothes. And everybody had a good time.

Q. YOU LIKE TO DANCE.

A. People come from everywhere around there to that dance.

Q. WOULD BOTH COLORED AND WHITE DANCE, AH...?

A. Yes, if they wanted to. Uh-huh.

Q. COME TO THESE DANCES?

A. The harvester was white that played for us. Everybody'd get up there and dance if they wanted to.

Q. OKAY. WHAT WAS THE MIX OF PEOPLE AT THESE DANCES...?

A. Huh?

Q. THE MIX OF PEOPLE, WERE THERE AS MANY COLORED AS WHITE, OR MOSTLY WHITE OR MOSTLY COLORED?

A. Mostly colored.

Q. MOSTLY COLORED.

A. Uh-huh/

Q. OKAY.

A. Well, I guess they was all used to it and they all lived there.

Q. OKAY. HOW MANY INTERRACIAL FAMILIES WERE THERE IN BUXTON, AH...?

A. How many what?

Q. INTERRACIAL, BLACK, BLACK AND WHITE FAMILIES, HOW MANY... WAS THAT

Q. (cont.)...TO MARRY?

A. Well, yeah.

Q. CAN YOU REMEMBER?

A. I'm trying to think of how many. Not too many, I guess, right in Buxton. There was more when they come into moving the camps. Different places. But you know when you go in to a big town like Chicago, Milwaukee and around, you don't know who's who. You see as many white men married to colored women as you see colored women married to white men. It ain't nothing new in Chicago and around. It's full of 'em/.

Q. RIGHT.

A. But its' just the littler places that they think it's so much excitement.

Q. (LAUGHS)

A. And I know a lot of people here, and I don't...a lot of Catholics here. When I moved up...

Q. I NOTICED THAT THERE'S A CATHOLIC CHURCH UP HERE.

A....they said somebody dies and are you going to give on the flowers?" "They're Catholics," I says. Well, so what, they're all just one person for all of 'em. And I said if I'm going to live in Rome, I guess I'm going to do as Rome. I always give. That store up there. They're Catholics that run the store. If anybody pass away around here, don't make a difference, whether he's a Catholic or not. They'll always take money up in the store. She gives a big ham and cooks it for the family, and gives 'em the money left over to them. They got an awful lot of trade. Always have had,

Q. I SEE.

A. But I don't think it's so much what color you are, as your personality, I think. That counts.

Q. RIGHT.

A. A lot of people used to live here--foreigners. They don't live here no more. There was a colored woman across the street. She had a white husband. I lived over there. I don't know the nights that we didn't go help sit up with someone whenthey was sick at night. Nobody never give us nothing, we just did it cause we was neighbors. Thought that's waht we ought to do.

Q. DID YOU EVER RUN INTO TROUBLE, NELLIE, BECAUSE YOU WERE MARRIED TO A COLORED MAN?

A. Huh?

Q. DID YOU EVER RUN INTO TROUBLE?

A. Run into trouble?

Q. UH-HUH, DID ANYBODY EVER SAY ANYTHING TO YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND WHILE

Q. (CONT.)...WHILE YOU WERE THERE IN BUXTON?

A. Well, you know, my husband could take care of himself anywhere you put him. (laughs) Didn't nobody mess with him.

Q. WELL, WHAT KIND OF MAN WAS HE?

A. He was just a little bitty guy, wasn't big as nothing, hardly. But he was quick on his feet. And he treated everybody alright and that's the way he intended everybody to treat him. Everybody liked him, he knowed people from everywhere. I tell my grandson now _____ "Oh, boy, you're grandpa is still here." Cause everybody knows you. I don't see no difference. Well, he was...

Q. MUST HAVE BEEN A POPULAR MAN.

A....he was born here. And there's nothing going on in that Catholic church up there, a wedding or nothing, that he don't have an invitation. Albia and everywhere. Everybody likes him.

Q. JUST LIKE HIS GRANDFATHER, HUH?

A. Yep. I told him, he's just like him. You're grandpa ain't gone nowhere, he's still here, cause you're just like him. Everybody knows him. Boys drive up here for to see what he, you know, to get him a job up there where he works Oh, not only here, but way down on the other side of Albia., from all around they come here. A hunting him, wanting to go different places, and they all go to the weddings and all have big times.

Q. YOUR HUSBAND WAS LIKE THAT, TOO.

A. Yeah, he was like that, too. He knowed everybody. If he'd get him on a homecoming ground, I tell you, he was trying to make me know people i don't think I'd ever seen. Cause he knowed 'em and he wanted everybody to know em.

Q. (LAUGHS) SO WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME, YOU REALLY DIDN'T HAVE MUCH PROBLEM. WITH THAT.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. BECAUSE MAYBE BECAUSE YOUR HUSBAND WAS SUCH A POPULAR AND LIKEABLE MAN.

A. I think so, we everybody liked him. Well, I don't guess they hated me, I've tried to help everybody...

Q. YEAH.

A...around here.

Q. YOU'RE LIKEABLE, TOO.

A. Nothing else I can do, I'm getting ready to go to the nursing home this evening. I go about every month, and take fruit, all kinds of stuff. One lady there, I give her money every month to buy stamps and cards.

Q. WHERE'S THE NURSING HOME? HERE IN...

A. In Knoxville,

Q. IN KNOXVILLE...IN KNOXVILLE. OKAY, AHHH...

A. Always...been always...I been in the church for ten years in a mission and I got used to helping people, and it looks like I just can't break myself of it.

Q. NELLIE, WERE YOUR FRIENDS...DID YOU SEE COUPLES, YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND WHO WERE ALL WHITE, COUPLES WHO WERE ALL BLACK...WAS THERE OR DID YOU JUST SEE COUPLES WHO WERE INTERRACIAL, OR JUST WHAT?

A. I've got an awful lot of colored friends.

Q. A LOT OF COLORED FRIENDS. OKAY.

A. People that call here, wanting to know how I am. Come by to see about me. Bring me stuff. I got a lot of colored friends and when we used to go to Buxton to dance, I think there was three who had colored husbands.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. And they'd all say I can't get used to them other girls to save my soul. They're not like you. Well, I'd growed up there, that's the reason. Everybody knowed me.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHO SAID THEY CAN'T GET USED TO...

A. Different ones, you know, after the dance was over, they couldn't get acquainted with the other two. Course they didn't live there all the time.

Q. RIGHT.

A. Makes a little difference.

Q. OH, YES, VERY MUCH SO. WELL, WHAT...?

A. I think they're kind of going away with some of that, ain't they?

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NELLIE?

A. Ah, trying to make a difference in Who's who.

Q. YEAH, I SUPPOSE SO. AH, SEEMS LIKE IT.

A. Well, you see an awful lot of colored boys with white girls.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. Here about a year ago one drove up here in the...my grandson comes and says somebody's here from Detroit. Do you know anybody from Detroit and I said well, I don't think so, right off. So when I come to the door, he smiled and spoke, and he says "Are you Nellie King?" and I says yes, what's left of me. And he says you used to be my babysitter. You used to keep me when I was little. I looked at him and I said Did you live in Comsole? He says Yes. I said well, you must be a Baskerville. His mother come from West Virginia and looked like they got a new baby every year. And when she wanted to go to the store or somewhere,

A.(cont.)...till she come back, And then he said "do you care if I bring my girl to the door and make her acquainted with you?"

And I said no. She was white. She was sitting out in the car.

Q. AND HE DROVE IN FROM DETROIT?

A. Yep. Had a nice car. And he brought her to the door and made her acquainted. Told her who I was. They was on their way back home. He'd been to Waterloo.

Q. THAT'S A NICE STORY.

A. Yes, out of Detroit.

Q. AND HIS NAME IS BASKERVILLE.

A. Baskerville. They had about, oh, I guess about ten or eleven children.

Q. NELLIE WHAT WAS THE DAILY ROUTINE FOR YOU THERE IN BUXTON?

A. Huh?

Q. DAILY ROUTINE. WHAT DID YOU DO ON A DAILY BASIS WHEN YOU WERE OUT OF SCHOOL. YOU WOULD GET UP IN THE MORNING AND YOU SAY YOU'D CLEAN HOUSE. WHAT ELSE DID YOU DO DURING THE DAY?

A. Oh, I knowed a lot of people. Sometimes I'd get up and go visit.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. I knowed about half of Buxton. And you'd have to go to the store and get your groceries. And that was about a mile downtown and a mile back from where we lived.

Q. WHEN WOULD YOU GO SHOP? WHEN WOULD YOU GO DOWNTOWN AND SHOP?

A. Down at the company store.

Q. WHEN, WHAT TIME OF DAY. (MICROPHONE DROPPED)

part of tape not heard due to microphone dropping.

A....and the post office was down there, you'd have to go get your mail.

Q. OKAY.

A. The meat, the big meat chopper was down there. -----

Q. HOW LONG WOULD THAT TAKE TO GO DOWNTOWN AND SHOP AND GO TO THE POST OFFICE?

A. Well, you walked, there wasn't no car or nothing, you didn't see nobody driving no cars. Schoolteachers walked to school. There wasn't no cars, you walked. It'd take you awhile to walk down there and walk back.

Q. AND YOU'D GET BACK HOME AND DO WHAT?

A. Rest. And then get up and cook supper. By that time, you'd be going near bedtime maybe. You go over here to Albia high school I'll bet you more students got automobile on them grounds than the teachers.

_____ You can't park there, you have to get over in another lot, They tore a house down to make them a bigger park.

Q. YEAH.

A. If he ain't but 14 or 15, he's got to have an automobile to ride in. I walked all my life to school. Never killed me. We took our dinners. Didn't nobody feed us. There wasn't nothing modern. In school at them times, like refrigerators, stoves, and sewing, and...My grandson sews in school. And I got a machine and he sews everything up in here when he gets home. Oh, boy!

Q. MELLIE, WHAT DID YOU DO ON WEEKENDS?

A. Well, most of the time there was dances, ball games, go to church... well, I belonged to church. I'd be going out the front door to church and my husband'd be going out the kitchen door to play ball. Wouldn't see each other no more until, oh, he'd come and help me at night when he'd come to church to come and get me. Maybe they wouldn't get in 'fore 6 or 7 o'clock. According to how far they went. He was going out the kitchen door and I was going out the front.

Q. YOU WENT TO CHURCH EVERY SUNDAY, RIGHT?

A. Yep. Every...twice.

Q. TWICE. ONCE IN THE EVENING, TOO?

A. Yep. Every morning at eleven o'clock and every evening at 7.

Q. HMMMM.

A. And he played ball about every Sunday.

Q. WHAT DID HE DO WHEN IT WAS TOO COLD TO PLAY BALL?

A. Huh?

Q. WHAT DID HE DO IN THE WINTERTIMES WHEN IT WAS TOO COLD TO PLAY BALL?

A. Oh, we stayed home. I sewed and he'd read. Maybe go visit the neighbors. My mother lived over across the pond on Well's Hill. We'd go over across the reservoir across the pond. And go there and visit. And we had some hogs over there, that...

Q. YEAH.

A....Go back and forth _____.

Q. DID YOU PUT UP THINGS? PRESERVE FRUITS AND MEAT AND VEGETABLES?

A. No t till I moved to Lovilla.

Q. NOT TILL YOU MOVED TO LOVILLA.

A. He took sick and he had to have an operation.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. And he was in the hospital three weeks. And a man coma along, I was sitting on the porch with a neighbor across the street. And he said let me plow your garden. I said no, I said my husband's sick and I don't think I...and he said I didn't ask you about your husband, I said let me plow your garden. She said let him go ahead and plow it, I'll help you. I canned about four hundred jars of stuff out of that

Q. SO...

A. I didn't know about buying nothing for a garden. I bought 11 quarts of onion sets. And five dozen tomatoes. And a girl lived out, two girls lived down the street. One over there. Every one of 'em had a job setting out them onion sets. And so the neighbors were coming along, wanting to hoe my garden for to help me. They knowed I was there by myself and I didn't no about no garden. The lady come over and help me. And one of our neighbors from Comsole come over one day and he spent the day and laid my potatoes and things. And when I telled my husband I had a garden, he kind of laughed, you know, like what did I know about a garden. I said you'll be glad to eat out of it, that summer I had all kinds of stuff.

Q. DID YOU MAKE, DID YOU EVER MAKE MOST OF THE FAMILY'S CLOTHES?

A. Huh?

Q. DID YOU EVER MAKE THE FAMILY'S CLOTHES? OR DID YOU BUY STORE BOUGHT CLOTHES?

A. Oh, we buy most all we wear now.

Q. OKAY. WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU WERE LIVING IN BUX...?

A. But I still can.

Q. YOU STILL CAN.

A. Yep. Mostly tomatoes, apples, green beans, pickles.

Q. OKAY, DID YOU...YOU CANNED IN GLASS JARS, DID YOU EVER CAN MEAT?

A. Beets?

Q. JSUT BEANS, JUST VEGETABLES AND FRUITS, HUH?

A. I canned some beans hthis last year. A new method of canning, And my daughter called me in Milwaukee and she canned em that way, and she said I'll never can in another pressure cooker. I says neither will I.

Q. NOW YOUR DAUGHTER FROM MILWAUKEE, DOES SHE KNOW DF PEOPLE FROM BUXTON UP THERE?

A. Yes, she knows everybody.

Q. WHATS, AGAIN, WHATS HER NAME AND ADRESS?

A. Her name is _____ (tape turned off)

Q. WAS THERE, DID YOU CELEBRATE HOLIDAYS, ANY DIFFERENT HOLIDAYS IN BUXTON THAN YOU NOW CELEBRATE? DID YOU CELEBRATE THEM IN DIFFERENT WAYS THAN YOU NOW DO?

A. No.

Q. PRETTY MUCH THE SAME AS NOW?

A. I think on Thanksgiving and Christmas we always had our family and had big dinners.

Q. WHAT WERE THOSE, WHAT WOULD NORMALLY BE SERVED...?

A. Huh?

Q. WHAT WOULD BE SERVED ON THANKSGIVING? WAS IT TURKEY?

A. Turkey.

Q. TURKEY.

A. And all the trimmings.

Q. AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS.

A. My mother and, ... was all living here, and the grandkids, I had a big Queen Anne table in my dining room, it went about clean across the dining room. And I'd have 'em all and at that time about twenty five dollars would buy my whole dinner. Couse I couldn't do it now, but... Fourth of July, I guess we went, well they'd have a celebration downtown. Mostly they'd have one, they'd go to Bussey, they'd have a carnival over there. We don't celebrate so much, only on Thanksgiving and christmas, you know.

Q. WHAT ABOUT ON CHRISTMAS, WHAT WOULD BE... WOULD YOU HAVE, GOOSE, HAM WHAT?

A. Well, thanksgiving I had a nice big trukey. They ruled me down this year. I've got ham for Christmas.

Q. HAM FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR.

A. They'll eat the turkey breast and they don't want to eat no more. WEverybody wants the breast. That leaves me with a lot of turkey to cut up to put in dressing of grind up for spread, or...

Q. RIGHT.

A... something. So I just kind of got ruled on that. Oh, have ham and bake it in the oven. They don't want it boiled. And i baked my turkey in the roaster for thanksgiving. And my oldest boy says "When you cook one for Christmas, will you cook it in a paper sack?" My granddaughter _____ she got an idea somewhere, somebody told her that we cook 'em in a paper sack. Nice brown, heavy paper sack. And I butter it and season it, and put carrots and celery and everything in it. Just slide it right in that sack, put a plate in my roaster. About that much water, and I don't put no lid on it. And it's just beautiful when I take it out. I cook my ham the same way. I can bake my apple pie the same way.

Q. IN A PAPER SACK.

A. Slide it right in that sack and put it right in the oven. So the man who saw me up at the store, I got the ham, he says "Are you cooking this in a paper sack?" I says well, I'm just liable to. Oh, I just never heard of such a thing when My granddaughter started it... what kind of mess is that, but it's really nice. Just a nice golden brown.

Q. WAS BUXTON A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE?

A. Yes, I was sorry we ever had to move away.

Q. WELL, WHY IS THAT, NELLIE. WHY WAS IT SUCH A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE?
WHAT MADE IT A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE?

A. Well, I guess everybody knowed everybody, and everybody lived there a long time. And just didn't want to think about moving away from Buxton.

Q. WHY DID BLACK AND WHITE PEOPLE GET ALONG IN BUXTON?

A. I don't know, but I guess they get along, got along better than they did in the later years. In the towns and things around. Looked like they had more disturbance than anything else.

Q. WHY IS THAT, NELLIE?

A. I don't know. A lot of people come in there from West Virginia, Alabama, different places. They went down there and got 'em on the train and brought 'em in. To work there.

Q. WHO DID THAT?

A. Oh, it was the transportation, the company did.

Q. THE COMPANY DID.

A. Uh-huh. I think its in that book from Iowa City. That I got from the historical building.

Q. YOU GOT THIS BOOK FROM IOWA CITY, YOU HAD A COPY OF IT?

A. I forgot the address, I got it. I bought a dozen about the first time I bought. And we come for the homecoming and some were from Chicago..."give so and so one, give so and so one." So I give 'em all away.

Q. HOW BIG A BOOK IS IT, NELLIE?

A. It's a little book about...oh,...

Q. HOW THICK?

A. Maybe about as big as that paper, and it's yellow.

Q. IT'S YELLOW.

A. Uh-huh. And when I wanted another one, I got them for a dime apiece.

Q. HOW LONG AGO?

A. Long time ago. And let ne tell you, I got information one day and I called the place. And I got a girl and I told her what I wanted, and she said do you know who wrote it? and I says no I don't. But I bought 'em there. And I would like to have acouple more. The two cost me a dollar forty sents the last time. She said I'll go through and see who wrote that and I'll mail you one. She mailed it and I mailed her the check, cause she didnt know how much they was going to cost at that time. And I took one over to Rubin Gaines's and I don't know what I've done with the other one, I put it last night, but I couldn't find it.

Q. WHERE DOES RUBIN GAINES LIVE?

A. Well, you go out the highway there, like you're going to Albia. And you'll get up there on the left hand side, there's a place called farm service. All built up there. You turn left right there. And when you get there go straight, and you get to an intersection you turn left and its a big white house right on the right hand side.

END OF SIDE TWO.

NELLIE KING

23 DECEMBER, 1981