

Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project
 Interview Transcription
 May 22, 2012
 White River Junction, VT

Interviewer: Kaitlin O'Shea
 Interviewees: Nellie Bagley & Pat Bagley

Location: Quechee, VT
 Time: 2:00 pm

KO: Kaitlin O'Shea
 NB: Nellie Bagley
 PB: Pat Bagley

The Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project, the 2012 segment, is funded by the US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for the Certified Local Government Program of Vermont's annual program under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act. Previously, Hartford's agricultural oral history has been documented primarily through volunteers, often with interview recordings and transcriptions occurring at separate phases with different people. In 2009, additional historical research was provided through the 2009 Vermont Barn Census. The purpose of this agricultural oral history project is to document the history of local residents who grew up or worked on a farm in the Town of Hartford. The Town is comprised of five villages: White River Junction, Hartford, Wilder, Quechee and West Hartford, in addition to several smaller hamlets.

Time & Topics	Transcription
00:00:01 Introductions	KO: Today is Tuesday May 22, 2012. I am Kaitlin O'Shea and I am interviewing Nellie Bagley for the Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project. And we are in her home. NB: Why did you pick me to talk about Quechee Fells?
Eastman family	KO: Well the Eastmans suggested you. I met with the Eastmans in the beginning of May and they spoke fondly of you. NB: Oh okay, because John, the son from the second marriage is the one who cut these trees. Did you notice that one up there? Well they way he cut them – I said those will make good chairs. Well that's why they're cut. And I have a niece who will paint pictures on them. KO: Oh that's so nice. So you grew up around here.

Family history; parents	<p>NB: I was born down in the house and have always been here. My father was born in that house, too in 1885. My father was born in 1885 and mother was born in 1889. They are right up there. {Points to picture on wall.} This one here, that's mother as a baby. You see, somebody had to paint that color on there. Somebody told me. Well, I'm getting off track again. But there's a little girl sitting in the white chair. You look at her and you look at mother and see if there's not a resemblance. That's the 5th generation of the Bagleys, those little ones.</p> <p>KO: They're so cute. You're family is still around?</p> <p>NB: No, just the ones that we've helped raise. Let's see there are quite a few of them in Hartford area and there's one in D.C. My oldest sister, some of her family is there.</p>
Siblings	<p>KO: How many siblings do you have?</p> <p>NB: There were six of us. There were five girls, Pattie? {NB asks sister.}</p> <p>PB: Yup.</p> <p>NB: Five and one boy. And heart problems ran on my mother's side. So both of her parents died at a young age. So my brother inherited her heart problems. And his three sons all have – well one of them died of a heart attack. The other one had a stroke. And then youngest of the three boys had a heart attack. All in their late 40s. But they are still alive, the last two boys. My older sister would never live on a hill and marry a dam farmer. But that's what she did. And he found her in Boston. She had heart trouble, too, so she died in her 60s.</p>
00:03:43	00:03:43
Family farm; cutting wood; sugaring; driving horses; schoolhouse	<p>KO: Can you tell me about your family farm growing up?</p> <p>NB: All I can tell you is when the animals got bigger. When my folks first – back then, each farmer had a cow or two, enough for milk or cream. So they were helping each other. Some would cut wood. And then there's thrashing. And then when it comes to sugaring, neighbors would help. But I started driving horses when I was 12 years old. We used to cut our ice to cool our milk at the end of this hill. We had to put a skid chain on the sled, so the weight of the ice would push the horses ahead. I was that young when I started driving a team of horses. You probably went up because that's the ponds were up there. Did you notice the white building there? That was a school that my father went to and I went to.</p>

Sugarbush Farm	<p>KO: Oh I didn't know.</p> <p>NB: Have you ever heard of the Sugarbush Farm? It's up that way, too. When you get up to this farm you can see the tops of the buildings. You go down like that and up like that. I was on the road so much traveling from one farm to another when I worked for Quechee Fells, people would stop because they were lost. But if it was a man, he wouldn't stop lots of times like the women would.</p> <p>KO: When did you start working for the Quechee Fells Farm?</p> <p>NB: Probably –</p> <p>PB: '59 maybe?</p>
Working at Quechee Fells: apple picking, farmstand	<p>NB: No it was after I graduated. I used to help pick apples. Well my first year out of school we mowed cemeteries down there. You probably went by them. There were three of them. I worked there sometimes. Then I guess it was probably in the late 40s I probably started working. First it was picking apples. They had a shed where they sold apples and vegetables and chickens and cider. That's where I worked for a few years. And then after the apple season was over – what comes after apple – sugaring I guess.</p>
Maple sugaring; plowing	<p>I used to help get the sap tap out. But then I ended up boiling. I guess we'd make maybe 500 gallons for the winter at that time. When Pattie came from work in the hospital, she'd come out and help boil. And I had two nephews that would help boil. And when sugaring was over, then it was plowing for corn. I did a lot of the planting of the corn. We used to spray for weeds. I got that job of going around and spraying weeds on the corn. You probably didn't notice the golf course.</p> <p>KO: I noticed the golf course.</p>
Former farm fields	<p>NB: Did you notice the farm when you came by? There was a clubhouse and then the farm. Then down next to the river, that used to be corn. And across the river we had corn. And you come down a steep hill and got to where you saw another farm. Any of those fields I hayed. We used to travel all over, going towards Woodstock and going towards West Hartford. Let's see, just before you turn before you come down to Clubhouse Hill. Probably you saw the road off the right. There was fields down in there that I mowed. You didn't come by Quechee Gorge.</p> <p>KO: I did.</p>
Hayfields	<p>PB: The village used to be all fields, too. Hayfields.</p>

Chickens	<p>NB: It's all grown up. They have all kinds of things now. I used to hay that in different directions. I used to mow most of the time. I baled sometimes, but usually somebody else had done the raking. There was one time I think, one across from the Clubhouse – where the parking lot is now – they used to raise chickens out there.</p> <p>PB: Free range chickens.</p> <p>KO: Ahead of it's time, huh?</p>
Brickmaking in Quechee; sawmills; cellar; house	<p>NB: That used to be where they made bricks. Back years ago, they made bricks everywhere. Quechee when that first developed, they had three sawmills down there. They cut so many trees to open up to whatever they were going to. There was enough sawmills to go around. A lot of the buildings were built with plank. That school up there, that was probably built out of plank. It doesn't have a cellar hole under it. And you see how good that was. They made things back then. We had a partition in between what we called our living room and our kitchen. We had a big wood stove in the living room. So whoever got there first could straddle around the stove to keep warm. So we took the partition out between the kitchen and living room and there was a plank in there with chicken manure. So oh my god, how many years ago was that? They had chickens back then and they tore down a chicken house to put an addition on. Oh god.</p>
00:11:06 childhood home	<p>00:11:06</p> <p>KO: Is the house you grew up still standing?</p> <p>NB: Oh it's right here. But the house was hitched to the barn.</p> <p>PB: The barn in the same place. But the house they moved it back because they widened the road. This used to be just a narrow dirt road.</p>
Some photographs	<p>NB: I have some pictures.</p> <p>KO: I'd like to see them.</p> <p>NB: This is an old picture, but this is a barn. The horse barn was upstairs and the cow barn was downstairs. And you see that? The house was hitched right onto it. So you didn't have to go out to go to the barn?</p> <p>KO: Is this picture taken in the 20s or 30s?</p> <p>NB: No, that's me and another one.</p>

Friend Ruthie; neighbors	<p>KO: Oh it's such a little picture, it reminded me of the older ones.</p> <p>NB: That's Ruthie. There was a girl that came up from Massachusetts. She had relatives up there. Of course there's nobody to play with, so she more or less grew up with us. And she's still alive to. That's me on the one horse. I'm on this horse and she's on that one. But how did we get up there? That's what I said today.</p>
Hayfork Shoeing horses	<p>KO: You jumped?</p> <p>NB: But this horse here. No, I think it was this one. We had a horse fork that we pulled the hay up. There was a rope and a fork on it, and there was one on a trolley and it dropped down. Somebody was up there and they'd tell her. And when you'd say whoa, she'd turn around and come back herself. The other horse, you'd have to lead him. Those horses, I can't say how many years we had them. But they would lose their shoes. You probably had to have them shod twice a year. But they'd lose their shoe off and I could put their shoe back on. And I used to – I could put soles on shoes. And soles and heels and leather. My father had all that stuff, and what my father did, I did. But the rest of the family didn't.</p>
Roofing	<p>Wow, you see that barn there. That was down the road where the golf carts crossed. I used to paper all the roofs. My brother, he was older than I was, but he was scared. I used to do all of – when I was older enough to get up there and do it, I did all the roofs. You see that barn right there? That's down to the foot of the hill, just as you came up the hill down there. That's that building. The corn barn isn't with that picture now.</p>
Theron Boyd	<p>PB: It's the Theron Boyd Estate.</p> <p>NB: He'd go inside and had a nail at the end of the stick, and wherever it leaked, I'd put a shingle on it. But that was a long roof, and I had a ladder that he made out of a small fir tree. It must have been 30-40' feet long. Boy was I laying by the time I got from one side of the barn to the other. My father, he'd bring the shingles up to the edge of the roof and was shaking. Of course he was old too. And a neighbor that moved in here, one of the Quechee Lakers, some friend of hers painted that picture. I said I'd kind of like that painting.</p> <p>{Explains how neighbor gave her a painting}</p>
00:16:40	00:16:40
Working on the barn roof	<p>That barn there, that's up really high. If it was any danger, I'd put a rope around me and she stayed up on the ridge pole and hang on to me. It was</p>

<p>Chimney fire; danger on the tractor</p>	<p>hard enough that you'd take a shovel. Next thing I know, she fell. And she's sliding down the roof, and there's a tree limb and she caught it. So I had to get up there and get the rope and slide it around her, and pull the rope back up. She was laughing because I was nervous. That's when she got nerve enough to help me shovel the roof off.</p> <p>And then the other house there had a big porch on the whole front of it. I was shoveling off the house and my nephew was shoveling off the porch. It came out of from under me, or the snow, and I straddled him. I stopped. His legs were hanging off the roof, but he would have fallen on the steps. And I probably on top of him.</p> <p>We had a chimney fire. I used to go up – we had some kind of powder that we'd put out to kill the flames. I had plenty of excitement. I don't know why I'm alive today – all the close calls. Out on the tractor you had to be awful careful. Sometimes – well, a baler was the worst one to slide. You'd take off and you didn't know how it was going to end. I didn't bale so much.</p> <p>PB: There are still four of us girls left. The youngest is 70.</p> <p>NB: If you want, you can look at those pictures {referring to recent family pictures on the wall.}</p> <p>{Explaining recent family photos on wall, extended family, etc.}</p>
<p>00:21:49</p> <p>Working on the farm</p> <p>Father worked on the roads; milking machine</p>	<p>00:21:49</p> <p>KO: You said you had a small farm growing up, but you still lived on a farm.</p> <p>NB: We worked on a farm. Well Pattie didn't work so much on it because she worked the 3-11 shift. She worked all her years.</p> <p>KO: What did you your parents do when you were little girls?</p> <p>PB: They'd run the farm.</p> <p>NB: My father and his father took care of the roads, this roads that leads up and around. The road, the one you got off and come around from Route 4, that was originally Route 4 before they built the other one. They built the one where the railroad track was. And the Quechee Gorge there, the train used to go across and it was open. If you had the nerve you could walk across. You had to straddle from one piece that goes across. The girls there, Pat and Barb, they used to help milk cows before going to school. And in the wintertime I was out sanding the hill before I took them to school. So they'd be milking the cows. We didn't have many</p>

	<p>then, but they had to be milked. We had a milking machine.</p> <p>PB: And it go to the point where you had to have running water, a lot of other utilities in order to keep farming. So you had to give it up.</p> <p>KO: And that was about –</p> <p>PB: '57, '58. Wait, no.</p> <p>NB: It had to be – it was when you went to high school. I used to take you to school.</p> <p>PB: I graduated in '58, so you can figure back. I'm not very good with arithmetic. The memory is going. Had to give it up because it didn't have the modern running water. You didn't have a well. You had little springs that fed the water. They would dry up or freeze up in the winter. We'd have to take the horses and milk cans and go down over the brook and bring water up to the animals and for the house, too.</p>
Grandmother; school	<p>NB: My grandmother, she lived up there by the school. My folks bought that place for them. She lived there. She had three children of her own and she brought up two grandsons, but in between bringing the grandsons up, there was an elderly couple that had a child and they didn't want it. That was a girl. They brought her, and my grandmother brought her up from babies. And she had her grandsons. The fathers wanted to go into the service. She had to sign for him to go in. And he wanted her to sign. She wouldn't sign. So he took off and they never heard from him again. So she brought those three up. How many others? I don't know. She had three of her own and brought up about 10.</p>
Water from the well; linen washing & delivery	<p>They had to go lug the water from down in the well. Down on the hill away from the house, there was water running down to a tub and they would get water there. But that was with a horse and buggy. That's all they had. I had a picture there somewhere, but I don't know where it is. My grandmother would take linens from somebody that served meals and she's wash them. And they had to lug the water to wash them and iron them. They had to go back and forth. That was horse and buggy, or horse and sleigh.</p> <p>KO: This is up at your grandparents' house?</p> <p>PB: Yup. Near the school.</p> <p>NB: But that place didn't look like that then. When they moved in, they fixed it up.</p>

Quechee School	<p>PB: When I got ready to go to school, the one up here on the hill that my sisters and brother went to closed. And I went to Quechee. And then when it comes to the 7th and 8th grade, they had built a new school in Hartford, so I had to travel down there for 7th and 8th grade and high school. So you can see that from the time she went to the time I went, they closed the schools and the grades.</p>
Dresses to school, 1940s; walking to school	<p>NB: I think it was '48. No. I graduated in '46. I guess it was '42 they closed this one up here. I had to go down there. I went to 8th grade up here, but I went to Quechee for high school and had to walk all the way back and forth. That's three miles. In the cold. And you couldn't wear pants to go to school so I had those knee length and a coat that just reached that. And boy you walk in the cold, three miles and three miles back. The snow was deep. My older sister had a pair of skis and her ski jacket and ski pants was here, so I put those on one day and I went cross country. I crossed this side the barn, across the fields, across the river, across another field to get up to the high school. And that changed it because I didn't change those pants when I got there. I kept them on, because I had to ski back home.</p> <p>KO: Well that's faster than walking I guess.</p> <p>NB: I don't know whether it was or not. Trouble was the snow over the river. I had to cross it twice. I could have drowned. Nobody would know the difference. See how dangerous it was.</p>
Chopping firewood; logging	<p>To cut logs, they'd usually cut a tree and save the butts for logs and the other for firewood. I can remember skidding those up. It was a steep hill and the steeper it was, the horse would dig in more to go. And here I am off to one side of the snow, trying to walk in the steep snow. The girls used to help me cut firewood, too. And then we had a gasoline engine that we sawed it up with. You had a handle you slid on the old part of the axle stuck out. You stick a handle on it. You held the valve in so it would turn over easy. Once it took off you had to get handle off. I wasn't the biggest person to do that.</p>
Growing corn; blower; storage of corn; father; resourceful	<p>When we raised corn, we'd have to cut it and put it in the blower. And we had to use that same engine. I guess you'd call it an ax, but it was from a circular saw that we used to cut wood with. We'd put wheels on it. We had down in the store – the lower barn, we could hitch up to the horses. My father was more inventive and fixing things. You'd have to hire somebody else to do it. We used to have a forge, where they heat up and bend the stuff. You used to make the pieces of metal out of that. Model A we had. The brake rods would wear out. They wouldn't drop down, they'd keep them straight. So they'd wear in that hole where slid through that hole when you were pushing the brakes.</p>

Father's car; Model T; car repair	They'd work for a \$1 a day, and my father – he was born in 1895. He bought his first in 1915 or 1916. He bought a Maxell. He chauffeured people. He would take people different places, and he had to wear a chauffeur's license and cap. And his next car was a Model T. There wasn't much to keeping that up. My god, the front wheels there was two pieces of metal. There was a ball on there that was hammered down. That fit into a socket underneath on the frame. As that wore out, above that would fall out. You'd have to get out and put the cap on and lift it back up. That Model T was pretty simple compared to the first car he had. I don't know how many years we kept that thing. Taking the transmission out of it. On a hill, the thing would slip out if you didn't hang on to the shifting level. And it would fall out of gear. You had to put new gears in. I don't know how many times I had to do that to the Model A. It's just another thing my father tracked. I was the only one of the kids who was interested in that. I don't know how I was, but I went with him and he got a skunk. I threw up about five or six times on the way home. It was a sweet nauseating smell. And when he stopped, I took up trapping. I had a trapping lines. Of course, they had little kids that would tag behind me. They were excited to go.
Trapping	
00:34:15	00:34:15
Horseshoe repair	<p>KO: Sounds like you did lots of things.</p> <p>NB: I did. I could repair shoes. Or put a shoe back on a horse. I just tackled anything, I guess</p> <p>KO: Things you learned from your father?</p>
Mechanics	NB: Well you see him do something, and you had to pick it up or you'd find out by trial and error. I think you find a lot by trial and error. He's putting something together. He'd get mad. They hammered the hell of it. They called them sledgehammer mechanics. I guess with the computers you don't have to today.
Butchering	Butchering. I was the only one as a kid who would butcher. When I trapped, I had to skin my own animals. And when it comes to dressing up pigs – my father did it most of the time. When we didn't have him around and when I worked for the other farm, and we had a dress a cow, the other guys didn't want to shoot the cow. I shot it. Then I'd stick it, and even when Dan – my nephew – he had one at his place. I was up there, and the pig was inside the building. So I stood outside and shot it. There I am sliding down the driveway. We got it turned over so we could stick it. I dressed off different things. Oh no, I never dressed off a sheep. It was between pigs and chickens. None of the rest of the kids was

	<p>interested. My youngest sister Barb, when it came to running machinery, she was right there. She would get on the tractor. What she learned how to drive it, and what to do when it comes to haying. So she's been the one who climbs on the roof when I got older and didn't want to and shoveled it off or cleaned the chimney or something like that. I don't know if my brother ever learned anything that was work. He was older than I was. Then the nieces and nephews come along. They were all tagging around behind.</p>
00:37:12	00:37:12
Maple sugaring	<p>KO: Did you sugar on your property?</p> <p>NB: Oh yes. We used to have – a lot of people had single pans – with sections in them and it boils down. Ours was just sitting on rocks next to the woods. We used to lug it. You heard of the yokes they put on. We'd have to put it a long ways, the sap a long ways, but probably made enough syrup to get us by.</p> <p>KO: Did you sell it or just make it for yourself?</p> <p>NB: Oh just for ourselves. We didn't have that much. When you had to lug it along way. You didn't have the trees besides the road then. They kept the sides of the road clean. I can remember when over this way it was all clear. You could look over and see the deer and anything else. You look and you can't see it anymore. The reason there was so much open space was the woolen mills. Some people had 100-300 sheep and they covered an area, keeping it chewed down. But that's one thing I never did. I never got interested in working in the mill. A lot of kids did when they got out of school. Not me, I had to be outdoors.</p>
Siblings	<p>KO: Did any of your siblings work in the mills?</p> <p>NB: No. We aren't married. We're old maids.</p> <p>PB: No, but the other kids. They didn't.</p> <p>NB: They went into nursing.</p> <p>PB: Well our oldest sister – she got into secretarial work.</p> <p>NB: Our oldest sister went to college for one year. Our granddaddy put her through school. Kay went into nursing.</p> <p>PB: She graduated from nursing school in Concord. And Nellie stuck with farming. And then I got a job working as a nurse's aid in Hitchcock</p>

	<p>in 1959. Our youngest sister worked as a nurse's aid, and she's done other things and now she has a business of her own. Taking seniors on trips. She worked for the Y in Concord. Then they got rid of her because she didn't have a degree.</p> <p>NB: And the people she'd take on trips, they offered to buy her a car so she could stay in the business. She's traveled to different countries, and places. I think when she first started, she had people die on her. I think they had to take their health records with them. I think one of them died on a bus. I can't remember where the other one died. But those people, they were in their 80s back then. And they had different places they could go and slide in inner tubes. She took them cross-country, downhill, snowshoeing, biking, kayaking. In her home now, they do exercises.</p> <p>KO: Sounds like a busy lady.</p> <p>NB: She has been. She was the only one who went out for sports. I never did. I had to walk so far. Who the hell wanted to go out for sports.</p> <p>PB: I didn't go out because I'm an asthmatic and back then they didn't have the medicine they have today.</p> <p>NB: Pattie fought asthma all her life. I can remember one summer I had to run her to the doctor three times a day to get [??] shots.</p> <p>PB: That's because now you have other medications that take care of.</p> <p>NB: I guess penicillin was working against her. They found out after one summer.</p> <p>PB: When I was five/six years old, that's when penicillin came out.</p>
00:42:00	00:42:00
	<p>NB: Oh let me see, how many times have I been over the hospital?</p> <p>{Hospital stays. Operations.}</p>
00:44:05	00:44:05
	<p>KO: How long ago did you girls move up from?</p>
1969; sold to Quechee Lakes; Eastmans	<p>NB: December of '69.</p> <p>KO: And that's when Quechee Lakes took over?</p>

	<p>NB: Well they sold some property before then, but they bought out Harold Eastman in '70. Entirely.</p> <p>KO: So even though they kept the house, they bought it and had you move?</p> <p>NB: They went around buying houses where they could.</p> <p>PB: Well where it was, property taxes were going up in the town. You had no income, and the taxes were going up. You couldn't keep the property and not have the income. I started out at 90 cents an hour with evening pay. I worked 34.5 years for Hitchcock and I just started making \$10/hour. I was a nurse's aide and they had to pay the people above. If you go into a company where they don't have the levels of people, you get paid more. Somebody can't believe that, but I just started getting \$10/hour after 34.5 years. I took the early retirement plan and got out of there. They pushed me into another position. I floated all over the place and did another job – I lost my train of thought.</p> <p>NB: She has a hard time finding it.</p>
<p>00:45:50</p>	<p>00:45:50</p>
<p>Mother</p>	<p>KO: Can you tell me a little bit about your mother?</p> <p>NB: Oh mother. Her name was Flora. She'd take a day of baking with a woodstove and doughnuts and pies and breads and cake. She used to take the bunch of kids down to the river to go fishing.</p>
<p>Blackberries</p>	<p>PB: Blackberrying.</p> <p>NB: Oh yes, we used to go blackberrying. It was all open. You could get around better then than you could today. The bigger you are, the bigger pail you have to fill.</p> <p>PB: Don't have the energy to do that anymore. Of course it's built up.</p> <p>KO: Did you cross anybody's property back then?</p>
<p>Quechee Fells</p>	<p>NB: Oh yea, you walked over people's property because they owned so much. Quechee Fells probably owned 300 or 400 acres.</p> <p>KO: I heard that was one of the biggest farms in Hartford or the biggest?</p>
<p>Lincoln Clark</p>	<p>NB: I don't know about Hartford, but it was up this way. We had a cripple guy up here. Lincoln Clark was his name. He had polio when he</p>

<p>Dirt roads; paved roads; 1960s</p>	<p>was nine years old. The doctor said you got to get him out in the country. He had no use from his waist down. And he had a little wagon. It had the bigger wheels in the back and little wheels in the front with a handle that steered it. He lived on that last farm as you went up through. That's how he went to school, in his wagon. In the wintertime, he had two skis. He had 2x4s from the skis to the platform. And he had a handle – a stick with a nail in it on one and a block of wood with several nails for the other hand to push him around. And he used to drive horses. He used to drive equipment. And he even drove a car. There was a guy who figured out there was a hand lever for the clutch. For the brake, he'd pick his foot up from the throttle and push on his leg. He drove people around me. Not me, but my oldest sister. I guess because she helped up there some. They'd get some people together and go different places. They'd been up to Stowe and went to different lakes. He drove all around. He had guts.</p> <p>PB: The roads aren't like they are today. You aren't going 60-70 miles.</p> <p>KO: Most of these roads were not paved, right?</p> <p>NB: Oh no, when Quechee Lakes got in here – that's when they finally paved them. I was pulling them out of the mud all of the time. They were in the ditches. I said you had to have four wheel drive if you come up here. Or all wheel drive, that's what they are today.</p> <p>PB: It was up until they bought our place in '69 or so, the roads were one car. If you met somebody, you'd have to back a long ways to find a driveway to back into. The roads haven't been that long.</p> <p>KO: When did they widen the roads here?</p> <p>PB: When Quechee Lakes came in.</p> <p>KO: So they just picked up your house and moved it back?</p> <p>PB: The people that bought it did.</p>
<p>Moved house</p>	<p>NB: No. I told them when they bought it – it was just a stone foundation. I said you'd better move it because the road will be right in your door. I've got pictures somewhere. That's what our road looked like. Can you imagine walking on it? Nothing about driving it. {Showing road photographs.} This is the girl that came up here. See there is no trees besides the roads. They used to mow them with a scythe and keep it to the cattle.</p> <p>KO: These are great.</p>

<p>00:50:45</p> <p>Garden; canning, weeding</p> <p>No waste</p> <p>Apple trees</p> <p>Meals</p>	<p>PB: The towns are better about widening the roads so people can pass, but there are still roads that you can't pass on with two cars.</p> <p>00:50:45</p> <p>KO: Did you have a garden when you were growing up that you took care of?</p> <p>PB: Yup.</p> <p>NB: Oh good god, we canned enough stuff so you'd give it away. Working, weeding, everything else.</p> <p>PB: Till next year. Back in those days, we didn't have the apple trees sprayed. You'd peel out what you could get out of the apple, and feed it to the chickens or pigs. It was recycled that way. Now everything goes into a wastebasket or thrown out beside the road or into the landfill.</p> <p>NB: The apple trees have died. But all these other trees, something when I was hunting or fishing, I'd pull it up and bring it home. Now I've had to cut it because they are so tall.</p> <p>PB: Back in those days, you at the same thing, over and over. Milk gravy, potatoes.</p> <p>NB: Salt pork. People turn their nose up to it, but I liked it, when it nice and fried nice. Just today I heard there's not a fat in pork that there is in the others. The fat on the beef today is not on the fat in the pork, so you didn't put weight on.</p> <p>PB: It bothers me when people waste leftovers or throw them out. We didn't do that when we were growing up because have the stuff to do it.</p> <p>00:52:44</p> <p>NB: {Talks about nephews, particularly nephew Josh. Family members}</p>
<p>00:59:24</p> <p>Train depot; Quechee</p>	<p>00:59:24</p> <p>KO: Was there a train depot in Quechee?</p> <p>NB: Used to be.</p> <p>PB: Years ago.</p> <p>KO: How long was it here? When did it stop?</p>

<p>Train to Woodstock</p>	<p>NB: I'd have to look at history to find out. As you turn down here, there's a grade on Route 4. The last run it went to Woodstock and somebody greased the tracks so they couldn't make it. I guess they found out who did it. I never rode on a train. Pattie did. She used to go down to Concord and our oldest sister was down in Boston. Mother would take the kids down on the train so they could see each other. She didn't come home that often. When she went to school, my oldest sister, my grandfather bought her a Royal typewriter. We still have it. I'd heard recently that it's worth \$500. The old Royals are. It's in the case. So I want to give it to one of her granddaughters. They haven't been after it yet. {Discusses typewriter & relatives.}</p> <p>PB: That would be our great-niece anyway.</p> <p>{Discusses nieces and nephews.}</p>
<p>01:02:34</p>	<p>01:02:34</p>
<p>Differences between then & now</p>	<p>KO: So you have lived here in Quechee for your entire lives. So you've seen it go from small dirt roads to now. Have you thought of how to describe the biggest differences between then and now?</p>
<p>Close calls from working</p>	<p>NB: All I can say, I'm lucky to be alive with all the close calls I have. The three girls were hunting and we were way up in the pasture and all of a sudden, lighting was dancing up and down in front of me. The girls said there was a ball of fire over my head. She got a small shock of it. We put those down in a hurry. And then since then, I was walking in the house and there was a streak of lighting. It was a box I keep my gas and stuff in. I was walking through the cars and a streak of lightning went right in front of me. And then we were haying. It was on a steep hill. You can look up and see it from Route 4. I was one place and my sister Barb was another place. She was raking and I was mowing. The boss came to pick us up because there was a thundershower. Just as she got off, lightning hit the ledge right behind her. She just dove right into the car, but you could smell it. The lightning hit that rock. It might have been some metal. There is a vein of copper up there down through the woods up there to the foot of the hill. The barn down there is sitting on a 500' tall piece of granite. I don't know how they can tell what's under the ground.</p> <p>KO: The geologists have ways to figure out.</p>
<p>Chickens at the Fells Farm</p>	<p>NB: I put a lot of hours in. We had chickens down there across from the where the clubhouse is, where the parking lot it. We used to have 1,000 chickens out there.</p>

De-beaker for chickens	<p>KO: At the Fells Farm?</p> <p>NB: Yup. And when they got ready to bring them in to lay, we had the de-beaker come. They had three or four people out, catching them to put them in crates. Then we had to lift them up to get them to the three stories up. I usually ran the de-beaker. No, I guess we had to count them too. The animals got into them, too. They finally found out they were good eating. I don't know how they got under the fence.</p> <p>KO: Now when you say the de-beaker, what does that mean?</p> <p>NB: It cuts the end of the beaks off so it's not peaked. They break the eggs. It's the top part that you cut off. You stick your finger in their mouth and put it on there, clamp down and burns it off. It doesn't burn off much. And then if you had a rooster, you clipped the tips of their toe so they wouldn't be scratching the hens when they were jumping on them.</p>
Care for chickens, 1940s-1960s	<p>KO: How long did you take care of the chickens?</p> <p>NB: I worked down there from the 40s – when did you start work Pat?</p> <p>PB: '59.</p>
Milking cows	<p>NB: Oh well, I was working down there then. Even milked the cows at one time. When I got done, they had over 200 head of cattle. But you know, when the farm – when they had horses, I think it 8 team of horses that they had to do all the work, all the haying and planting of the corn and they had to have a lot of people working, hoeing the corn. I heard them tell about an uncle of ours who worked there. He got in a fight and went home and got his rifle down in Quechee. And they he cam back and they had to take it away from him. My uncle, that uncle, he wore the high leather lace boots up to here. And he would always walk in a water to get them wet to fit around his feet. This same uncle, when my grandfather died, he died down in the horse barn when he died and my father and brother put him in a wheelbarrow and wheeled him up to the house. Back then they had the funerals in the house. When this David Hathaway was going to shoot somebody, he was drinking and mimicking the minister in the house. He was talking about the father giving him a devil when he got outside. He was a cousin of my father's. His sister delivered father when he was born down there. There was another brother, but he was born 10 years earlier. They didn't have kids too fast back then. He married my uncle on father's side – he married the woman that lived in that old house down there.</p> <p>KO: Theron Boyd?</p>

Theron Boyd	<p>NB: Yea. And you'll notice – what was I going to say? They had a robbery down to Quechee – Tinkham's Store they called it. He was related to the woman who lived in the house down there. That was funny. They came over from Rutland and there was a sugarhouse up in the valley. Back then it was all open. So they went across someone's property and they hid the wagon down there. They had supper with the people last night, and then they went down and robbed the Tinkham's Store. He was in counting his money. There was a post office and store. They took the money. I think they tied him up. But as soon as they got out of there, he went to call somebody that lived up through the village further. He said, I just heard two horses running up through the village. He had some idea. They were probably headed for Woodstock so they called ahead to the sheriff. The sheriff met them, I guess face-to-face. They finally got him. It's funny how robbers did things back then. In the night with a horse, you could ride right by somebody and not know it until you met them. So the Quechee Times has carried that.</p>
01:11:54	01:11:54
Quechee Village	<p>KO: What was the village like when you were growing up? Quechee Village.</p> <p>NB: I never went down there. When I got my driver's license, I hadn't driven down through there when I went to get my license. So that tells you how far I traveled.</p> <p>KO: So you didn't have to go into the village to buy anything? Did you have everything you needed?</p> <p>NB: No, my mother used to take the horse and buggy and do the work for her mother. And take the food back. We used to go to Woodstock by sleigh in the wintertime. Horse and buggy in the good weather. Mother did that because Gram wasn't able to. Had a bad heart.</p>
Grandparents	<p>PB: That was before me. All my grandparents were deceased before I came along.</p> <p>NB: My parents on mother's side – one died '35, the other '36. Grammy died from sadness because her husband. Well I don't know if you understand the chemistry. They were so lost without them. It's funny, my grandfather Reed used to build stonewalls. Took a lot of cider to do that. My father never drank, but my grandfather did. All had to get their hard cider at night.</p> <p>PB: That's one thing. None of us drank until our older sister got married.</p>

<p>Early tractors; danger</p>	<p>Didn't drink or smoke. My older sister that is still alive doesn't smoke or drink.</p> <p>KO: Is that from your upbringing?</p> <p>PB: It wasn't around. {Opinions on drinking and smoking today.}</p> <p>NB: It's probably why I live so long. It's my 85th birthday. My nephew says, can you believe you lived so long. I said, no. The early tractors there was no support, but the seats were bouncy. I was mowing in a place that never mowed before and it was on a slant. Had I fell off, I would have gone near down the board. I was pretty conscious. If I didn't want to a mow a place, nobody mowed it. I went pretty much where I thought I was safe.</p>
<p>Other jobs: apples, selling produce</p>	<p>KO: What else did you do on all your jobs? You've been mowing, picked apples, took care of chickens, took care of the cows?</p> <p>NB: When we had the apples, I sold any produce to go with it.</p> <p>KO: Did you have to go to market?</p> <p>NB: No, they just came. Then they'd let people go in the orchard and pick their own. Oh maybe I did. I did have to deliver eggs for a while. I'd take a surplus and sell to them for wholesale. I don't know if they unloaded chips or sawdust. Sawdust I guess. It was four stories and went right to the top. One day it gave way and fell right through the floors of chickens. But ordinarily I would have been out there feeding, but I was making out the bills for eggs and I had to deliver. There was a carpenter building an addition on the barn and he came running in to see if I was alright.</p> <p>KO: Another close call.</p> <p>NB: It was.</p> <p>KO: You are charmed, I think. You said when you were little, you had to get ice from up the hill. Did your house have an icebox or did you have?</p>
<p>Ice house</p>	<p>NB: Ice house. The ice house is still standing outside there. I'll have to show it to you when you go out.</p>
<p>Corn barn</p>	<p>PB: And the corn barn.</p> <p>NB: The corn barn is down where the golf carts cross.</p>

<p>Harvesting corn; corn stook</p> <p>First car; 1910s</p>	<p>PB: Everybody had corn barns. Where the golf carts cross, the next house down, you'll see –</p> <p>NB: There's a driveway and a white house that's falling down pretty much. Before they made the inch ledge, before the cut it up, they used to stook the corn outside. And then in the wintertime, they'd go in and husk the corn. And they'd have to take it somewhere to grind it into grain. I have a ledger. The folks kept track of everything they did. They started it in 1912 or 1913, I guess. They kept track of everything. Then when it came to the cars, my father had some idea of what he was talking about. I wrote it all out so they could read it better than what some of the writing was in the ledger. He bought his first car in 1916 I think for \$600. Now if you got a dollar a day, how long do you have to work to earn \$600?</p>
<p>Car repair</p>	<p>PB: We deal with thousands today, so you can get mixed up.</p> <p>NB: Father told about buying a Ford or fixing something, I knew what he was talking about. It was trial and error I guess. On this Model T, there was this wooden box. What the heck is this? I took it out. There was two things sticking up on it. I guess I took a screwdriver and put it from one end to the other. I got a hell of a shock. I found out what that was. That was a coil. Then our Model A. We kept that thing. My brother went to sleep and the very front of the hood, went off the road, hit a telephone pole and took the whole side off. My father cut it off into the pickup so all we had was a wood with a canvas over it for a roof. We had that thing for so many years. Then we put a truck body on the back of it. That's what the kids rode to go to school in for a while. I didn't have a part on that. I didn't know what I was going to get into, but I had to remember how I took it apart. Then when Dan got to when he wanted to do something mechanical, he'd come and say, you want to tell me where this goes? Then I would get out there where did this go. Where did that go? He said you ask too many questions. I said I've got to have some idea. And then I got it back together. I had it geared wrong. When it was supposed to be in forward, it was in reverse. But they were so simple then. There wasn't much to remove to get things apart.</p> <p>KO: And now everything is the computer.</p> <p>NB: You can't even get under them anymore.</p>
<p>01:21:46</p> <p>Electricity, 1930s</p>	<p>01:21:46</p> <p>KO: Now, did your house have electricity when you were growing up?</p> <p>PB: They got it in 1938, the year I was born.</p>

<p>1938 Hurricane</p>	<p>KO: Oh wow.</p> <p>NB: And we had the hurricane. My father was sitting by the window. We had a big porch out there. The wind came across and hit that window and blew it right on him. Didn't break it I guess.</p> <p>PB: Didn't get electricity till 1938. That was the year I was born.</p> <p>KO: I've heard that year for a few farms around here for the families I've spoken to.</p> <p>NB: Oh you've talked to other people?</p> <p>{Discussion of who has been involved in the project so far.}</p>
<p>01:23:00</p> <p>Eastman family</p>	<p>01:23:00</p> <p>PB: You see, we were in our own little cubby hole in the area and never got out to find out who else was around.</p> <p>NB: John [Eastman] was the one who cut my trees.</p> <p>PB: Now, Harold [Eastman], we called him Buster.</p> <p>NB: That was Buster. He was your age, Pat. He tipped over on a tractor.</p> <p>KO: I heard that story. So you knew the families right in this very area. You didn't travel necessarily to Wilder.</p> <p>NB: Nope.</p> <p>KO: That was your own choice or you didn't have to?</p> <p>PB: Didn't have to. Farmers, you had work to do so you didn't travel.</p> <p>NB: No, berry time – according to your age, you had a different size pail to fill and you had to walk quite a ways. It's another thing we picked up.</p>
<p>Living off the land</p>	<p>PB: You lived off the land. Simple lives.</p> <p>NB: Let me see. My older sister Kay didn't learn to drive until – I had my license in time she wanted to drive. Outside of Woodstock there, there was a cornfield and she drove right out in it. It was cut but she just took right off on the road. Where the hell you going? Then my nephew – I'd let him drive. I don't know about Tubby – didn't have the best head on him.</p>

01:25:12	<p>PB: I took driver's ed. By the time I got to school, I think it was a requirement. I think I was a senior when I learned to drive.</p> <p>01:25:12</p> <p>{Discussion of relatives and how they learn to drive. Cars that park themselves. Cars. Goes into depth about recent family history, extended family members history, health problems, children.}</p>
01:32:00	<p>01:32:00</p> <p>Parents</p> <p>KO: How long did your parents live? How old were they?</p> <p>NB: Father was in his 80s. He was born 1895. He died in his early 80s. He had arthritis. The ones that didn't have heart problems, had arthritis.</p> <p>{Further discussion of medical ailments and home cures}</p>
01:34:00	<p>01:34:00</p> <p>Parents</p> <p>KO: You said your parents were both from around here?</p> <p>NB: Yea. Mother's folks came from New York State. Father's lived around Taftsville. They were Hathaways. Somebody said he's got a lot of Indian in him. Look at his face.</p> <p>{All looking at old picture on the wall of parents.}</p>
01:36:04	<p>01:36:04</p> <p>NB: there were 6 kids. 14 nieces and nephews. {Discussion of more family members.}</p>
01:39:00	<p>01:39:00</p> <p>{PB shows pictures on wall to KO of recent family photos}</p>
01:42:22	<p>01:42:22</p> <p>KO: Do you have any particular childhood memories or good families?</p>

Lots of work	<p>PB: All we ever did was work.</p> <p>KO: Did you ever meet up with the neighbors? I guess neighbors is all relative.</p>
Card parties	<p>NB: When I was really young, my brother took a box and put it on the skis. You got a box of wood between the skis and the box. They'd push us up to the schoolhouse. They had card parties. They'd put us all in the box at night so we'd keep warm. I can remember him telling about that.</p> <p>PB: That was our parents that would go to meetings because they didn't have stuff at home – TVs. Maybe you're lucky and a had a radio.</p>
Church	<p>KO: Did you go to any church?</p> <p>NB: No. I never went to church.</p> <p>PB: You had your chores to do. You had to get your chores done, so you wouldn't make it in time.</p>
Household chores	<p>NB: All I remember is work.</p> <p>KO: What sort of household chores did you have to do? Inside chores?</p> <p>NB: I used to mop the floors down on my hands and knees. I was an outdoor person but I did find time to mop the floors.</p> <p>PB: We had to get the wood in for the stoves.</p> <p>NB: Oh yea, the girls used to help me cut trees and saw the wood up.</p> <p>PB: We were in and out both.</p> <p>NB: Barb was the only one who went out for sports.</p> <p>PB: Went to school, home, worked.</p>
Heating the house	<p>NB: There was always the wood box to fill. Somebody had to bring the wood out. Somebody had to bring the chunks out. Somebody had to split the kindling wood.</p> <p>KO: Is that how you heated the house with wood?</p> <p>NB: Yup.</p>

<p>Siblings</p> <p>01:47:00</p>	<p>KO: Was it individual wood stoves or just one?</p> <p>NB: Just a kitchen stove and the one in the living room, a big round one. We didn't – well they must have at some time. I've seen the rafters in the cellar burnt. The water used to wash through the cellar. There was a stone foundation and water came right in, run out through the other.</p> <p>PB: There wasn't many social activities.</p> <p>NB: They used to be. My grandparents were in the grange. My grandmother had – stars or something.</p> <p>PB: When we came along, our parents were older so we had more work.</p> <p>KO: What's the age gap between the oldest and the youngest of the six of you.</p> <p>NB: Lesley, she was four years older than Kay. She is going to be 90. So 94. The oldest sister. And what's Barb.</p> <p>PB: She just turned 70.</p> <p>KO: Wow, so that's a big range.</p> <p>PB: 12 years between Nellie and I.</p> <p>NB: I was born in '26 and you were born in '38.</p> <p>PB: Mother had to take care of her parents, and my father's parents. Why have kids when you have to take care of them.</p> <p>01:47:00</p> <p>NB: {Describing relatives & the family photos on the wall. Talking about a nephew. Then talking about pet cats.}</p>
<p>01:51:05</p> <p>Fells Farm; plowing with horses; Lincoln Clark; road maintenance</p>	<p>01:51:05</p> <p>KO: Do you have any other particular memories of working on the Fells Farm?</p> <p>NB: Guess I never put on a roof down there. There was a lot of traveling on the road. People were lost and stopped to talk to them.</p> <p>KO: You said your father took care of the road?</p>

<p>Road culverts</p>	<p>NB: They plowed with the horses. This Lincoln Clark used to bring his horses down and hitch on. They had two team of horses to plow.</p> <p>KO: Did you take care of the roads after your father?</p> <p>NB: No.</p> <p>PB: The Town got better at it. They just graded it.</p> <p>NB: The road was Route 4, but after you get up to Taftsville, it still was Route 4. My father used to go around cleaning ditches out. Mother was driving the horses around while he was cleaning the ditches and culverts. The horse took off, and was down the road for this. So he stopped the horse. Usually when they run away with the buggy you're bounced out of it.</p> <p>And the culverts then were made out of 3 planks. One each side, one on the top. And you took them apart to clean them out. Some places that had to have a bigger culvert, got flat rocks out of the brook and put on across.</p> <p>KO: Stone pieces?</p> <p>NB: And they – whether it was one plank across or – and nailed together.</p> <p>KO: When you say planks, you mean planks of wood?</p> <p>PB: Wood planks.</p> <p>KO: Nowadays they are metal or concrete.</p> <p>PB: They put in those hard plastic.</p> <p>NB: {Gas tank out front. Gas transport. Waterman Hill and gas tank that almost washed out over the bridge. Great-niece comes in and talks about her cats}.</p>
<p>01:57:16</p> <p>Trimmed trees; roof repair</p>	<p>01:57:16</p> <p>NB: Of course I always trimmed trees and worked on the roofs. Haven't taken any real branches off those. I was always climbing trees.</p> <p>{Great niece introduces another cat.}</p> <p>NB: Did John tell about his experience? He was just growing up?</p>

<p>Grandfather</p> <p>Friend Ruthie who visited; childhood memory</p>	<p>KO: Yea, it was nice to have them all together to piece together.</p> <p>{Discussion of project}</p> <p>NB: My grandfather, there was a farm – go down the hill, go slow, after you go by the house, you can see there is a log cabin over there. But there used to be a white house over there that the owner lived in. Sydney was her name. She was a made for Howland, but he left it to her. They had maids. When we were kids they said we used to stand, holler, maids or something. I can remember I was up on the farm roof down there, the backside, and I could hear singing. I had no idea where they were coming from. I’m deaf in this left ear. I can’t locate sound. I hear a bird and want to know where it is and I can’t find it.</p> <p>Ruthie that came up from Massachusetts. We’d go out walking at nice and then all of a sudden we’d run different directions and holler and scream. You had to stop. That was excitement. We was going walking one night. I guess they wanted to go quite aways a way. I said it was going to take a while, so we got to the log cabin there. I said, “oh the kids have sicked the dam dogs onto us.” So we got back in and got out the other side, Ruthie and I and Tubby. We got to this side and the next thing we knew, there was a tractor coming down into the fields. We’ll watch it. Well the next thing we knew, that was coming down the whole stone wall from us. And the guy that was the owner, “let them have it!” I guess they had guns. We run off down the road and they still kept coming. So we went over and laid down in the ditch. My nephew lost his shoe. They were going right over, but we were down low enough so they couldn’t see us. I guess we’d better get out of here so they didn’t shoot us in the road. I didn’t know what they were hunting. I was down in the garage and a month later. He said, “got any more shotguns at you?” I said, “what was that all about?” He said somebody is stealing his gas, but he found out it was his own son stealing it. There was a Jeep down in the field one night and he shot right through the window shield between them. He was a stinker. He’d go down and look for something he’d need and come back at night and get it. Or he’d borrow stuff and never return in, then you’d have to go get it back.</p> <p>We knew if they were down around that barn, we’d better get out in the road.</p> <p>{Scolds cats. Asks about cat’s teeth.}</p>
<p>02:03:25</p>	<p>02:03:25</p> <p>KO: Well, thank you for talking with me today. It’s been very fun.</p> <p>NB: Anything that the Eastmans said that I can add to?</p>

	<p>KO: I haven't done their transcript yet, so when I get to that, I might have follow up questions. Thank you for all your time today.</p> <p>NB: Oh I've got so much around here. I'm trying to put it together.</p> <p>KO: If you find pictures, give me a call, and I'll come back and see them. I have my camera, if I can take a picture of your pictures – that would be helpful for the project.</p>
02:04:19	END OF INTERVIEW.