

Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project
 Interview Transcription
 July 20, 2012

Interviewer: Kaitlin O’Shea
 Interviewees: Roberta (Pat) Goodrich & Wanda Welch

Location: Christian Street, Hartford, VT
 Time: 1:30pm

KO: Kaitlin O’Shea
 PG: Pat Goodrich
 WW: Wanda Welch

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	00:00:01
Introductions	KO: Today is Friday July 20, 2012. I am Kaitlin O’Shea and I am interviewing Pat Goodrich and Wanda Welch for the Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project. I’ll put this over here so it catches your voice. It doesn’t need mine. Good afternoon, thank you for having me here. PG: You’re welcome. KO: If we could start, just tell me your parents’ names and any siblings, where you were born. Just get me oriented with your family.
Family history:	PG: Well my grandparents I guess they’d be the best ones to start. They came from Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire, about 1896

<p>grandparents; Gillette family</p>	<p>shortly after they were married. And they bought this farm next door. I believe originally it belonged to the Gillette family that had come up through here. It was written up in the Historical Notes this past year. And then when my grandfather was not feeling too well, my parents came back here to take over the farm. And then I have two brothers and two sisters. My mother was only child. My father from 13 I believe. I was just brought up on the farm.</p> <p>KO: What were your parents' names?</p>
<p>Parents: Archie & Bertha Perkins</p> <p>Sheep farming; tractor, 1940s</p>	<p>PG: Archie and Bertha Perkins. It was Bertha Davis Perkins. My grandparents' name was Davis. And then early in the days, we had horses. We had cows. And previous to my knowledge, they used to raise sheep. In my time it was a dairy farm and they had horses for everyday work. And then approximately early 40s, they probably bought a tractor and things changed from there. By then my brother was old enough to help the family work the farm. The girls were never allowed in the barn when anything was going on.</p> <p>KO: Did you have to work in the house instead?</p>
<p>Grandmother worked in the house; canning; mother worked as seamstress; for-profit farm; shipping milk; milk cans</p>	<p>PG: No, we didn't work in the house because they house was my grandmother's. My mother had the remodeling of clothes and sewing and the gardens. So that we canned all the fruits and vegetables. Then we had the dairy products from the farm. I think the only thing I recall buying from the store was yeast, flour, sugar and I can't think of anything else. Other than that, it was all homegrown.</p> <p>KO: So was the farm self-sufficient or was it a for profit farm?</p> <p>PG: It was for profit that we could live on, but it was not very much.</p> <p>KO: Did you ship milk? Or sell milk?</p> <p>PG: We'd ship milk.</p> <p>KO: Is that days of the cans or bulk tanks?</p> <p>PG: Cans. I don't recall in later years whether he went to the bulk tank or not. I didn't think so. It was all the cans with the ice coolers.</p> <p>KO: So, when did your parents buy the farm? Do you know which year? Or your grandparents.</p>
<p>1896, grandparents bought the</p>	<p>PG: 1896, my grandparents did.</p>

farm; barn burned 1942	<p>KO: And did they build the house?</p> <p>PG: That was in existence and I believe the barn was in existence. In 1940, my grandfather died. Pearl Harbor was in 1941. And 1942 the barn burned and got to the house, the woodshed, the ice shed and to the house, but never demolished the house. It charred the outside and the inside attic. Then my father had to go out to work until we could build the farm up again. By then we were in high school and there was no such thing as a paved road out here. There was no cars and no school buses, so you walked.</p> <p>KO: What was the cause of the barn fire?</p> <p>PG: Combustion as far as we know.</p> <p>KO: From the hay?</p> <p>PG: From the hay and the silage.</p>
00:05:41	00:05:41
Farm acreage	<p>KO: Do you know how large in terms of acreage, the farm was?</p> <p>PG: At one point it went to the village in Wilder and it was about 100 acres. Then in '65, the interstate came through and would not give the family the underpass to get to the lower half of the farm. That was sold. There's now a community down there.</p>
Interstate effects	<p>KO: I've heard that a little bit – the interstate wouldn't build the underpass.</p> <p>PG: In some places they did. In other places, they did not.</p> <p>KO: Were you still living on the farm when the interstate came through?</p> <p>PG: I was not. She [Wanda] probably was.</p> <p>WW: I was here when the interstate came through.</p> <p>PG: I left to go in training in '47. And I didn't really return until '83.</p> <p>KO: Training for what?</p> <p>PG: Nursing. I was gone that long.</p>
00:07:06	00:07:06

<p>Daily life: school; no barn chores for the girls</p>	<p>KO: So when you were a kid, growing up, what was a normal day like for you?</p> <p>PG: School.</p> <p>KO: Did you have to do any barn chores or house chores?</p>
<p>Play outside; embroidery; sewing</p>	<p>PG: The girls never did. Once in a while grandma made us dust, but she preferred us to get out from under her feet.</p> <p>KO: So you had time to go outside and play?</p> <p>PG: We went outside and played. Mother tried to teach us embroidery, sewing. At that time it didn't take, but many years later it did. Her [Wanda] mother was my youngest sister.</p> <p>KO: So, Wanda did you grow up on the farm as well?</p> <p>WW: Yes. We lived in the next house down, but spent the time on the farm when our parents were working.</p>
<p>Interstate shut down farm</p>	<p>KO: So it was still a farm in operation?</p> <p>WW: Till the interstate went through.</p> <p>PG: About '65.</p> <p>WW: That's when Gramp started to get out of it, right?</p> <p>PG: Well he was '65, and did get out of it.</p> <p>WW: But he still had some.</p>
<p>Milk cans; cooling bath</p>	<p>PG: I wasn't here.</p> <p>WW: I can remember him milking and using the cans and putting them in the water bath. In '65, I was only 6, but I can remember that. So he still had to be doing some milking then.</p> <p>KO: How large was the herd?</p> <p>PG: I know he bought two calves, male and a female in '67, '68 or '69 to star the herd back up again.</p> <p>KO: So after?</p>

<p>Barn fire</p>	<p>PG: After the fire.</p> <p>WW: Not in '67.</p> <p>PG: No, it was '47. But he lost the horses and all the cattle in the fire. They were down milking and it just went through. They did get up to the house to tell us to evacuate.</p>
<p>40 cows</p>	<p>WW: I don't know how many cows he had. I can remember the cows in the barn, and milking and stuff. I can remember both sides being full. There must have been about 40.</p>
<p>Cows in the barn</p>	<p>KO: that's a pretty good number.</p> <p>WW: I can remember they always had the names and the date of birth over each cow and I wasn't very old, but I do remember the barn was full so that must have been 40-50.</p>
<p>Calf pens</p>	<p>PG: On one side, on the left as you went down, they had calf pens. And then they had some kind of elevator – not elevator, but the side ones. I don't know if it was to put corn up or what, but we used to play on that.</p> <p>WW: I'm trying to count. The stanchions are still down there.</p> <p>PG: You're talking about this barn. We're talking about the old barn.</p>
<p>Horses</p>	<p>WW: Well, I wouldn't remember the old barn. I'm talking about this one.</p> <p>PG: This barn has two sides. And a two-horse stall. And before we had three horses. We had old Topsy who was older than the hills. And two working horses.</p>
<p>Workhorses</p>	<p>KO: Did you ride horses or were they only for working?</p> <p>PG: Working. Good gosh no, you never touched Daddy's horses. But we used to play with Topsy.</p> <p>KO: She was too old to work?</p> <p>PG: Too old to work. Too precious to let go.</p> <p>KO: Were the cows Jerseys or Holsteins?</p> <p>PG: I don't know in the old barn. I was not aware. The new barn that they built after the fire, maybe 2-3 years. They were Jerseys. They always had</p>

Barns	<p>Jerseys.</p> <p>KO: When you say old barn and new barn, where is that in relation to this house?</p> <p>PG: Well the new barn you can see right out here. And the old barn was attached to the house next door. And now it's not much there anymore. Further down there is a blackberry patch but there is not much there.</p>
Family still farming	<p>KO: Does your family still own that house?</p> <p>PG: Yes, and her brother is living there now?</p> <p>WW: Still farming.</p> <p>KO: Oh really. What does he farm now?</p> <p>WW: He has pigs and cows. Now he has chickens and a garden.</p>
Garden; raised everything on the farm	<p>PG: You can see the garden down there. It's mammoth.</p> <p>KO: Is it as big as when you were a kid?</p> <p>PG: Probably four times the size. This year it is. Other years it has not been that big. But everything was raised on the farm. And the butter and the cream, if my grandmother could sneak it away, she did.</p> <p>KO: Did you have any vegetables to sell at a market, or was it just for home use?</p> <p>PG: All for home use.</p>
Grandmother did cooking	<p>KO: So who did the majority of the cooking?</p> <p>PG: Grammy.</p>
Meals	<p>KO: What did she like to make?</p> <p>PG: We always had beans on Saturday night. On Sunday you always got your own. She made bread once or twice a week. We had a lot of cream soups like corn chowder, codfish chowder, cream chowder, dried beef gravy, vegetables. And if they had –</p> <p>[PG's daughter in the background mentions milk toast]</p> <p>PG: We had milk toast with jelly.</p>

<p>Milk toast; canning; preserves</p> <p>00:14:49</p>	<p>KO: Milk toast, what is that?</p> <p>PG: Just creamed milk on toast, butter and jelly. Everything was either canned or preserved. I vaguely remember, salt pork or something else put down the cellar.</p> <p>00:14:49</p> <p>KO: Did your grandmother teach you how to make anything?</p> <p>PG: No, you stayed out of grandma's way. She ruled the roost. Just remember, she only had the one child. And then got children.</p> <p>KO: Suddenly there were all these kids under afoot?</p> <p>PG: Plus the neighbors' kids.</p> <p>KO: Who were the neighbors?</p>
<p>Neighbors: Densmores; Reids; Labells; Baumhowers</p> <p>00:16:24</p> <p>Neighbors</p>	<p>PG: Well the Densmores lived across the street and I believe they are all gone now. Then next door was the Reids. The next one was the Labells. The next one was Baumhower. The one across was the Smiths. The Baumhowers are still – four living. Two of them in nursing homes. One still lives next door. There's only one Reid left, and he's 96/97. I think the Labells are pretty much gone. It's the next generation. And the Smiths are gone.</p> <p>00:16:24</p> <p>KO: So you knew everybody around?</p> <p>PG: You knew everybody on the street.</p> <p>KO: Was it all family farms on this street?</p> <p>PG: The Smith place, the Densmore across the street, this place, one over the hill. Two of them were very small. Those are the four big ones.</p> <p>KO: Are they all dairy farms, mostly?</p> <p>PG: Mostly, yes.</p> <p>KO: Did all the neighbors get together to help each other for events or anything?</p>

<p>Visiting; Home Dem group; increase in population</p> <p>Moving away</p> <p>00:20:04</p> <p>Home Dem, Home</p>	<p>PG: Not anymore.</p> <p>KO: Not now, but what about when you were growing up?</p> <p>PG: When were growing up, yes, it was all close neighborhoods because it had been generations. But now the house that she [Wanda] grew up in and now there's a young couple there. I know of and who their parents might be, but I've never met them. Next door is a gal we've known since she was a baby, but we never visit. No particular reason. There's no hard feelings or anything like that. But it's not the same now as it used to be.</p> <p>KO: You used to visit?</p> <p>PG: You used to visit back and forth all the time. Way back when I was a kid my mother belonged to the Home Dem, which is now extinct. It was a neighborhood project to do different things together. And she belonged to the grange. So they had things that were more active then. And there wasn't the population. When I graduated from high school there were 50. Now there's 250 in the class, give or take. How many in your class?</p> <p>WW: Just over 200.</p> <p>PG: You just can't keep up. As I said, you knew of or about a good percentage of people in town of Hartford, Quechee and the surrounding area. You don't know a soul anymore.</p> <p>WW: Actually I only had 140 in my class. But Shane's class, my younger brother, he graduated 4 years after I did and he had 200.</p> <p>KO: Wow, that's a big increase in a short period of time.</p> <p>PG: It has. And with the increase, you don't get around. Of course I moved around, which didn't help either.</p> <p>KO: Where did you move to?</p> <p>PG: All over the place. I was in Massachusetts for training. Here. California. Massachusetts again.</p> <p>KO: Across the country and back.</p> <p>PG: Cross country and back.</p> <p>00:20:04</p> <p>00:20:04</p> <p>KO: You mentioned the Home Dem. What did your mother do with that?</p>
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Extension	<p>What sorts of activities?</p> <p>PG: They did everything. It was Home Extension from the University of Vermont. They made pocketbooks. They had classes on canning, this, that, and the other thing. During the war, I think they made mattresses. It encompassed anything to do with the home environment.</p> <p>KO: I haven't heard too much about it. Was it for community service? Or a good excuse to get the neighbors together, that kind of thing?</p> <p>PG: Well it wasn't just here. Every area had their own unit. It's not like the grange. How would you describe it?</p> <p>WW: It was a social thing, but it was help teach people how to do things.</p> <p>PG: The only thing I can think – the only reason I can think of what they did is that I had some brochures left over from 50-60 years ago, that I have in there. That's why I said pocketbooks. That's one of the things I had. And I remember mattresses and I was only 10 to a dozen at that time.</p> <p>WW: The Home Dem, what I can remember, was that if somebody has a knowledge of something, they'd get a group together and teach that. One time we did pinecone wreaths. And another time somebody might have had a knowledge of candle making. They got a group together and brought their supplies and everybody would teach something. So it was basically sharing knowledge to make life easier, or decorative.</p> <p>PG: They did cooking, too. During the war they had to conserve. They couldn't afford it in the first place. How to make do on the farm – all these little short cuts or what have you.</p>
Miller Family	<p>KO: The Millers mentioned it up in Jericho.</p> <p>PG: The Miller lives next door. The daughter.</p> <p>WW: Granddaughter.</p> <p>PG: That's Chet.</p> <p>WW: Chet is the son of Raymond. You talk to Raymond?</p> <p>KO: I talked to George and Linda.</p> <p>WW: George and Linda's niece lives two houses over. George and Linda were in my class in high school.</p>

<p>00:24:19</p> <p>Holiday traditions; family recipes</p>	<p>PG: What year was Chet in?</p> <p>WW: A year ahead of me.</p> <p>PG: Oh right, because Pat it s the one that needed him.</p> <p>WW: Chet was in Monty’s class.</p> <p>PG: That would be –</p> <p>WW: Chet was in Monty’s.</p> <p>KO: Well they mentioned Home Dem. Would that have been the same or different?</p> <p>PG: It could have been the same because the leader or the State rep lived up in Dothan. Dothan is halfway between here and Jericho. We have the young couple that lives next door, the Miller. I knew who she was. As I understand, one winter, my grandson had a party here and she was one of them. And her father was running in the same crowd as my daughter Pat.</p> <p>00:24:19</p> <p>KO: So there is still an element of people knowing everybody?</p> <p>PG: Yes. You can’t go anyplace without getting caught and that is so true.</p> <p>KO: So you didn’t have to help too much on the farm. What about holidays. Did you have special holiday traditions with the family?</p> <p>PG: I only remember really one. We had a desert. It was Fairy Banquet pudding. And to this day we have the Fairy Banquet pudding.</p> <p>WW: Only at Thanksgiving.</p> <p>KO: What’s in it?</p> <p>PG: It’s a custard form the gelatin. Whipped cream and nuts and marshmallow.</p> <p>KO: Where did that recipe come from?</p> <p>WW: You do know, because you recently told me.</p>
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<p>Family traditions</p>	<p>PG: I know, but I can't remember. It came from a newspaper.</p> <p>WW: It came out of Boston newspaper in 1915 or 1918.</p> <p>KO: So who made it first?</p> <p>PG: My mother.</p> <p>WW: The reason we know that is because last summer I asked her how long she could remember having that and if she had it as a kid. She knew that her mother had gotten it out of a Boston newspaper in 1915 or 1918.</p> <p>KO: Took the recipe out? My mom does that, too. She'll keep recipe.</p> <p>WW: I just did a recipe book for my daughter-in-law and I put that in and how long it's been in the family and when we use it for.</p> <p>PG: Did you give her the Fairy Banquet budding. I have a recipe that I have to give her.</p> <p>WW: Not now.</p> <p>PG: No, I know. But I have a recipe that I like that I'm going to pass on.</p> <p>WW: Isn't it from a Home Dem book?</p> <p>PG: When I went to find and I can't find it, and of course it's where it always is: in plain sight.</p> <p>KO: Yes. Or the last place you look. That's what I find.</p> <p>PG: Yes. So we, I think this group of the family carries on a lot of what the parents and grandparents did, but we have a modern life to go with it, too.</p> <p>WW: One of the traditions I remember for Christmas was that we always an orange in the tip of our stocking. There were 21 grandchildren. We all usually got together on Christmas. There was always an orange in the toe of our stocking. Gram always knit mittens for everyone, for all the grandchildren. She was knitting and sewing mittens right up until she died at 100. She was still making mittens.</p> <p>PG: She started out making reindeer sweaters for her kids. And I think she tried for the grandchildren. I think she may have made it then, but then when the others came along it got to be too many. So she went with mittens. She lined them right up and it covered the whole table. And the</p>
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<p>00:28:34</p>	<p>oranges did come back. My grandmother sent to Florida every year for oranges, and that was the treat.</p>
<p>Mother's diary</p>	<p>00:28:34 KO: So you have your mother's diary. What you can tell me about your mother?</p>
<p>Mother sewing; mother's personality</p>	<p>PG: I was trying to quickly go through that to see what I could find. I didn't find anything particularly interesting today, but other times I had gone through it and somebody had given her some clothes that needed to be remodeled. She did that and did a lot of that for sewing on her treadle. When she got an electric she didn't like it, so she did everything on her treadle. And then she was always knitting. Was she a reader too? I think she was. She neither smoke, drank (other than water) and swear.</p> <p>She used to tell the stories that when she was traveling between here and Woodstock, she made the comment, "Oh, look at that gorgeous dam." And they rode the hell out of her because she swore.</p> <p>We tried to corrupt her, tried to get her to drink tea and coffee and something like that, but it didn't work.</p> <p>KO: Oh, wow, not even tea and coffee?</p> <p>PG: Not even tea and coffee. Not a drop.</p> <p>KO: Why not?</p> <p>PG: She didn't like it and just wouldn't drink it.</p>
<p>Mother as schoolteacher</p>	<p>KO: How did she and your father meet?</p> <p>PG: My mother was a schoolteacher. And she taught here in Pomfret. I'm kind of mixed. She went to – I'm not sure – she went to school in Woodstock and she commuted by train which is no longer there. And then she went to Keene Normal School. I'm not sure when she taught in Pomfret. And then she taught in Lyme at the Chesley School, which was next door to my grandparents and she boarded with them. Dad was working out, but being family, you go back and forth. So that's how she met him – through family.</p>
<p>Parents</p>	<p>KO: When did the get married?</p> <p>PG: 1928.</p>

Nearby family	<p>KO: And have five children, five of you.</p> <p>PG: Yup. And then the grandchildren came. And then the great-grandchildren came.</p> <p>KO: How much of your family is still around Hartford? Are there a lot of you?</p> <p>PG: My brother lives in Haverhill, but basically he doesn't have anybody here. My other brother –</p> <p>WW: Not in Hartford.</p> <p>PG: Kathy's sister –</p> <p>WW: Nina lives in Keene.</p> <p>PG: Kathy lives in town. Gordy's in Burlington. Danny is up in Thetford. All of his kids and grandkids are in Pennsylvania. My sisters kids and grandkids are fairly local. My kids are local.</p> <p>WW: My family is close.</p> <p>PG: Mine isn't. My other sister is scattered.</p> <p>KO: So some close, so some not.</p> <p>WW: Her family is closest.</p> <p>PG: I have adopted children, grandchildren, great grandchildren.</p>
00:33:52	00:33:52
Garden, pigs, chickens	<p>KO: Now when you had the farm. You had cattle, a garden.</p> <p>PG: We had pigs, too. Then we also had chickens. That's where the barn sits now. And the hurricane took the roof. I don't remember if they took they put the roof back on. I don't recall that. But it's funny – I was talking to a lady. I don't know how we got on the subject, but she informed me that she got eggs from my father. And the only time she could have bought eggs from my father was before the '38 hurricane.</p> <p>KO: How many chickens did you have?</p> <p>PG: I have no remember. All I remember it is a two-story chicken house. Don't forget, I was only 10, 12, 9. Something like that.</p>

<p>Wanda allowed to help with farm chores</p> <p>Playing in the hayloft</p> <p>Loose hay; hayfork</p> <p>Bales of hay</p>	<p>KO: Somewhere around there.</p> <p>PG: I was too young.</p> <p>KO: So you didn't have to go collect the eggs or anything?</p> <p>PG: No. Dad didn't let the girls in the barn.</p> <p>KO: Why?</p> <p>PG: You don't need to see anything down there.</p> <p>KO: Your dad seems more traditional.</p> <p>PG: He was a very quiet man really. Although her mother was allowed down there more than I was.</p> <p>WW: And I was always allowed in the barn. I got to go in and milk the cows. I was little. In '65, I was only 6. I was allowed in the barn to do whatever.</p> <p>KO: I wonder what changed.</p> <p>PG: We weren't.</p> <p>WW: Just like you guys weren't allowed to play in the hayloft, and Gramp let us. Gram didn't like us to be up there.</p> <p>PG: We used to crawl under the beams in the old one to go to the window in the back. But don't get caught. That's one the things we did do.</p> <p>KO: Was the hay in bales or was it loose?</p> <p>PG: Loose.</p> <p>KO: Was it pitch forked in or hay forked?</p> <p>PG: They did have a clamp that lifted it off the hay trucks.</p> <p>WW: And my generation was bales. It was baled and we used to move around make forts and tunnels and castles till Gramp caught us.</p> <p>PG: He was always very mild. You ask mother if we could do something and she'd say go ask your father. And father would say go ask your mother. Go ask your father. Go ask your mother. You gave up.</p>
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	<p>KO: Maybe that was their plan.</p> <p>PG: I think it was.</p> <p>KO: Send you back and forth until you got too tired of asking.</p>
<p>00:37:19</p> <p>Brothers working on the farm</p>	<p>00:37:19</p> <p>KO: Your brothers were expected to work in the barns and the fields?</p> <p>PG: My older brother was. I won't say anything about my younger brother. He was cute. Cutie. And a charmer. And he got away with doing nothing. At home, in school. And my mother did say that, "you will graduate from high school even if you're 40."</p> <p>KO: Well I hope did then.</p> <p>PG: He finally did. I think he was in your mother's class. Yes. But she was very adamant about that.</p> <p>KO: That's good. So did you have cornfields, or all hay?</p>
<p>Corn for ensilage</p>	<p>PG: Cornfields. Had to have ensilage. But we had the regular ensilage corn plus the eating corn. I don't know what he rotated his crops with, but I know he rotated his fields. But I don't know what with what. I don't know.</p> <p>KO: You said he used horses for plowing?</p> <p>PG: Until the fire, everything was done by horses.</p> <p>KO: Who helped your father?</p> <p>PG: My father.</p> <p>KO: Busy man.</p> <p>PG: Well each man had his own farm. And then when my brother got a little older, they could do some. Each year they'd do more.</p> <p>KO: Did he ever have any hired help?</p>
<p>Hired help on the farm</p>	<p>PG: I don't recall any. The only hired help I recall was the man he hired to help build the new barn. And when the barn was done, so was he. That was the only help that I know of.</p>

	<p>KO: What about during harvesting seasons?</p> <p>PG: As far as I know he did it all himself. I can remember when my brother was out there doing stuff, but other than that, it was all him. He was out haying or doing the chores. And my mother was usually in the gardens. Grandma was in the kitchen.</p>
00:40:33	00:40:33
<p>Garden produce; berry picking; crabapples</p>	<p>KO: What sort of produce was in the garden?</p> <p>PG: All kinds of vegetables. We used to go pick wild strawberries, raspberries. I think there were probably black raspberries. There was melons and watermelons and stuff like that.</p> <p>KO: Any apples?</p> <p>PG: We had a crab apple tree.</p> <p>WW: It was delicious.</p> <p>PG: The crab apple</p> <p>WW: It was delicious.</p> <p>KO: I don't think I've ever eaten a crab apple.</p> <p>PG: There was a tree at the corner just beyond the barn, but I don't know what it was. It got cut down or it got destroyed, but I thought it was an apple tree.</p>
<p>Plum trees, cherry trees</p>	<p>WW: We had plum trees down by the milk house.</p> <p>PG: I think Mum planted those after the fire. That was where the corner of the barnyard was. I can remember planting those cherry trees.</p> <p>WW: Plum.</p> <p>PG: Wasn't there a cherry tree? I thought there was.</p> <p>WW: Down further.</p> <p>PG: On the other side by the garden.</p> <p>WW: I don't remember it really ever doing anything. On this side next to</p>

<p>Berry picking on Cardigan Mtn in NH</p>	<p>the milk house there was two plum trees.</p> <p>PG: And we used to go up on the hills here for berries. And we always went up to Lyme for blueberries. What's the mountain over here?</p> <p>WW: Cardigan.</p> <p>PG: Cardigan Mountain we used to go up, make a day trip.</p> <p>KO: To pick berries?</p> <p>PG: Blueberries up on the mountain. He was an excellent picker.</p>
<p>Grandfather</p>	<p>WW: I can remember doing that with Gramp. He had to be 65. I can remember strapping on the backpack with the big containers inside, and going up with my brothers and Gramp and spending all day. And filling two or three of those big containers of blueberries. He was old, 65, to be climbing up there with a backpack and picking berries.</p> <p>PG: I picked berries when he was younger.</p> <p>WW: That's a pretty good hike.</p> <p>KO: I guess he was always active on the farm so he was still in good shape.</p> <p>PG: I can remember being at home where he grew up. That's where his family was. His brother and sister went out picking one day and they came home with the berries full. They had stuffed the bottom of the pail so it was just the top that was covered.</p>
<p>00:43:55</p>	<p>00:43:55</p>
<p>Interstate effects; culvert under interstate</p>	<p>KO: So what was it like when the interstate came through, aside from cutting off your farm?</p> <p>PG: You'll have to ask her [Wanda].</p> <p>KO: Did you watch the interstate construction?</p> <p>WW: Oh yea, we used to sit on the hill and watch it. Watch the big scrapers go through. Pull up the dirt, move it along, bring up the dirt and dump it. There was a big gully there. They actually had to fill in quite a bit. There was a culvert underneath that we used to go through. I don't think I'd dare to anymore.</p>

<p>Changes to area</p>	<p>PG: It had to be a small culvert.</p> <p>WW: It's probably a 3-4' because we went through it.</p> <p>KO: All the way under?</p> <p>WW: Yea.</p> <p>KO: Oh, wow that's long.</p> <p>WW: I don't think we could stand up in it, but I'm pretty sure we crawled through it.</p> <p>PG: I can just remember coming home when they were putting the interstate in, that we could get lost it because we weren't used to it. We weren't here.</p> <p>KO: Did it change the area a lot, the interstate?</p> <p>WW: I think it did. It divided a lot of things.</p>
<p>Traffic increase</p>	<p>PG: You look at the traffic there now. We've never had that traffic. I haven't seen trucks today, but Conway is a big one. UPS comes up and down. Heavy in the morning, again at night. It's just trucks. And this is supposed to be residential. And I recall when I was in grade school up at the Christian Street School, just before Dothan Brook – the caterers – that's the school. We were coming home from school and there was a car coming down the hill, slow. And for some reason, a whole bunch of us, we were all over the road. We got to the side of the road. The car stopped and reamed us out because we didn't stay on the same side of the street to get out of the way of the car.</p>
<p>00:46:27</p> <p>School in Wilder; changes from interstate</p>	<p>00:46:27</p> <p>WW: We went to school in Wilder, the school down there. We used to be able to stay after to play with friends or wait for the boys to do ballgames and we'd just walk home. Once the interstate went in, we couldn't do that anymore. Then we had to come around on the road, which was still not bad –</p> <p>PG: It was a long way around.</p>
<p>Walking from school</p>	<p>WW: It was a long way around, when it was just a straight shot down to the school. My older brother and I used to walk home. I don't think Shane ever did.</p>

<p>No school buses till 1950</p>	<p>PG: When I was going to school, as I said, there we no buses. No paved roads. Really no vehicles to get a ride in, so you walked.</p> <p>KO: How far was it?</p> <p>PG: To Wilder it was a good mile, maybe a mile. Just straight down the valley, down the hill, up the cow pass and crossed a few fences.</p> <p>KO: So just through everybody's farms?</p> <p>PG: It was ours. It went to the village.</p> <p>KO: Oh okay.</p> <p>PG: Then when we started high school, we walked too.</p> <p>KO: No buses then either.</p> <p>PG: No buses. The buses didn't start until 1950. My younger brothers and sisters took it.</p> <p>KO: Are you the oldest?</p> <p>PG: I am the oldest. Then I have a brother about a year younger. He and I walked, separately.</p> <p>WW: Up hill, both ways, barefoot in a snowstorm.</p> <p>KO: I've heard that before.</p>
<p>00:48:15</p>	<p>00:48:15</p> <p>KO: So if you had to go into town, which town would you go into. Which village?</p>
<p>White River Junction</p>	<p>PG: We always went to White River.</p> <p>KO: To buy the few things that you needed from the store?</p>
<p>Groceries delivered</p>	<p>PG: Let me take that back. When I was real little, Dan and Whit had just bought out the store in Norwich. I believe it was Dan that came to the house every Monday and took your order. And then every Thursday or Friday, Whit would bring your order and deliver it. You really didn't have to go out because you didn't have any car. Don't forget the Depression was in '29.</p>

<p>Wearing skirts to school</p>	<p>And I know when we started high school, you were allowed basically one skirt. You could wear pants to and from, but you had to remove your pants. I'm talking ski pants – something to keep your legs warm in the cold. They were not allowed in school.</p> <p>KO: So did you ever go into White River Junction for anything? Or was that too far?</p>
<p>Father worked in grain store in WRJ</p>	<p>PG: I'm sure they did. See the barn burned in '42, I think. And then my father worked at the grain store in White River after that. So we did go '42 – he went. And then eventually he got a vehicle for work and he could take us to school because it was on his way. But we couldn't get a ride back because we went too early. So if the weather was bad we used to take the Vermont Transit, I think it was, from White River to the corner up here. And then walk the rest of the way home.</p>
<p>00:51:04</p>	<p>00:51:04</p>
<p>1930s Depression</p>	<p>KO: When you say during the Depression, were you aware as a kid that it was the Depression?</p> <p>PG: Not really.</p> <p>KO: Just went by what your parents' said?</p> <p>PG: Even when we went to high school, nobody was wealthy. Everybody was in the same boat. We always had enough to eat. We were always covered. My mother redid clothes. They kept us clothed and fed. It was simple food and a lot of it was milk based. And chances are it was probably skim milk, too.</p> <p>KO: Why is that?</p>
<p>Cream & milk</p>	<p>PG: Cream was the money. So once in a while, Gram would sneak some cream. "Don't tell your father." Yet she catered to him.</p> <p>KO: So your grandparents are your father's parents?</p> <p>PG: No, my mother's.</p> <p>KO: Okay.</p> <p>PG: His parents were in Lyme, NH. His father the day after we were born. His mother died the early '50s, I think. The other grandmother was 55 when my niece was a baby.</p>

00:52:55	00:52:55
Meaning of growing up on a farm	<p>KO: Let me think. So, what does it mean to to you to have grown up on a farm in Vermont? Do you have any special connection?</p>
	<p>PG: What?</p>
	<p>KO: What does it mean to you have grown up on a farm in Vermont?</p>
Mills	<p>PG: I don't know anything else. The majority of the people that I knew in the area were basically farmers or farmers' children. When we went to high school we ran into more people that had other jobs. At that time, the Hartford Mills were in operation. I'm sure a percentage of those were mill workers.</p>
	<p>KO: Your family never worked at the mills at all?</p>
	<p>PG: No. And yet, when you're a teenager, you don't run around say, what does your father do. To be honest, I don't know what they did. We didn't know any better.</p>
	<p>KO: What about you Wanda. Have you always lived here in Hartford?</p>
	<p>WW: Actually, I live in Hartland now. I don't know, I guess I always just had some kind of a hand in – not doing the farming, but because we lived next door, we were over all the time. We helped in the fields. We helped in the garden. We helped with haying. And then when Gramp got out of farming, my father did some. Then my brothers. He got done with that. My older brother took over the farm. It's had some downtime but it's mostly been a farm.</p>
Chickens, garden, farming elements remain	<p>We've had chickens at our house. I have a large garden that I take care of. I do a lot of things that maybe Gram didn't teach you guys, she taught my generation. She taught me how to knit. She taught me how to cane chairs. Lots of different things that I still do. Even though we're not technically on the farm, I still do things that I learned on the farm.</p>
	<p>KO: Stays with you.</p>
	<p>WW: Yea.</p>
	<p>PG: She probably spent more time on the farm than I ever did.</p>
	<p>WW: Probably.</p>
	<p>KO: At least in the barn.</p>

<p>Grandmother</p>	<p>WW: One of the stories that Gram used to tell and my mom used to tell – my grandmother (her mother) was not allowed to do anything on the farm because she was the little princess. She was like the darling little daughter.</p> <p>PG: It was the only one they had and they were old. I think my grandmother was 40 when my mother was born and my grandfather was older.</p> <p>WW: So that might be why they weren't allowed to do anything, because my Gram wasn't allowed. So she didn't allow her granddaughters. But when we came along, we worked in the gardens, worked in the field.</p>
<p>Working the gardens, barns</p>	<p>PG: I read a lot, but as far as the garden: no. As far as the barn: no. I vaguely remember going out with my brother raking, but I didn't like the way he drove the horse and I never went out with him again.</p> <p>WW: I remember doing the haying and stuff with Gramp. But it must for our cows because by that time, if I was big enough to be throwing hay bales, that would have been late 60s, early 70s.</p>
<p>Grandfather retired</p>	<p>PG: He basically retired at 65.</p> <p>WW: Right. But he was out there with us. I remember working the garden with him. Working the hayfield with him. He must have been helping us.</p>
<p>00:57:58</p>	<p>00:57:58</p>
<p>Haying</p>	<p>KO: At that time, do you remember what kind of haying machines and mowers there were? You said it was bales.</p> <p>WW: It was bales. They would go around and cut it. Then they would tether it. Then they would rake it. Then they would bale it. Then we would drive around – I can remember driving around a tractor with a trailer.</p>
<p>Tractors</p>	<p>PG: I don't think he got the tractor – until, I don't know he got until just before I left.</p> <p>WW: They had a Case tractor. And they had a John Deere. And one of them had two tires in the center of the front. And then the other had two that were further apart. He taught me to drive on the tractors. He let me get up there and drive.</p>

	<p>PG: I never got any of that.</p> <p>WW: I drove the tractor. And I drove the pick-ups around the farm.</p> <p>KO: Were you expected to help, or you and your siblings chose to help?</p> <p>PG: I think it's choose.</p> <p>WW: I think both. I think my father might have expected us to do it, but I don't think Gramp did. I think it was both.</p> <p>KO: Did you have to work all the time or certain times of year or day?</p>
<p>Always in the garden</p>	<p>WW: We were always in the garden. I think we were expected to work in the garden. I think that was mom's thing – to have us in the garden weeding. Hated it then, don't mind it now.</p>
<p>Potato bugs</p>	<p>PG: The only thing I can say about gardens is that we had to pick potato bugs. That's the only thing I can remember about gardens.</p> <p>WW: That's why I don't have potatoes.</p> <p>PG: I don't remember that was.</p> <p>WW: That would have been before me. But Gram was still picking potato bugs when I was old enough to remember. She used to take a potato bug and smush them. Gramp would take them and put them in the gasoline.</p> <p>KO: What's a potato bug?</p> <p>WW: Just a beetle that gets on potatoes and eats the leaves. Gram would just walk and – it was gross.</p> <p>KO: I'm not a fan of bugs.</p> <p>PG: There were plenty of bugs.</p> <p>KO: I bet.</p>
<p>01:00:41</p> <p>Differences in farming</p>	<p>01:00:41</p> <p>KO: So how was the farming different when you were a kid [PG] vs. when you were a kid [WW]? What's the biggest difference?</p> <p>PG: We had no machinery. And that's put it right back.</p>

<p>Beef cattle; dairy cows</p>	<p>WW: And I think ours was a choice, not a necessity. Both of my parents worked, so ours was more of a hobby and a supplement. And theirs was a way of life. I think my father got into it with my brothers as something to do and to raise some beef. We had beef cows.</p> <p>KO: You didn't have dairy cows?</p> <p>WW: No. I think that was the difference. Ours was a hobby and a want to.</p> <p>PG: I think my father must have sold out shortly after he retired. I don't know. I wasn't here.</p> <p>WW: I do remember a short period of time when there was nothing in the barn. I don't know when we got our first cows. But, it was probably not very long. A couple years. It really hasn't been – the longest time of no animals was probably the time we stopped until Monty, my brother started up again.</p> <p>KO: When was that?</p> <p>WW: It might have been 15 years.</p> <p>PG: I don't remember.</p> <p>WW: From the time I graduated, my younger brother said there was still cows.</p> <p>PG: Who was taking care of them?</p> <p>WW: He said he was.</p> <p>PG: Shane?</p>
<p>Family farming still</p>	<p>WW: Yes. He graduated in '80. Maybe 15 years there was nothing there. Other than that, it's been some kind of farming going on most of the time.</p> <p>KO: There is still haying? Or just animals and produce?</p> <p>WW: They don't hay this anymore. He doesn't have the equipment, and he just grazes the cows out here and buys the hay. He grazes the cows and pigs. He has a big garden and a big blackberry patch. And I don't know if they're doing it this year or not, but for a lot of years they would pick the berries and sell them to the different stores around.</p>

<p>Remaining acreage</p>	<p>PG: They did that last year.</p> <p>KO: How much property is remaining?</p> <p>PG: I think it's about 35 acres.</p> <p>KO: Has that been the same since the interstate?</p> <p>PG: Yes.</p> <p>WW: I don't think it's that much. I thought it was 19. Monty said 26.</p> <p>PG: I guess I don't know. But it's from as far as you can see to the interstate. Where the big trees are up there to the fence post, that goes to the interstate. And there's a tree over there behind the trees.</p> <p>WW: I don't know. I thought it was 19. Monty says 26. She says 35.</p> <p>KO: 26 sounds like the average then.</p> <p>PG: Take your pick.</p> <p>KO: Did your family receive any compensation for the interstate coming through?</p> <p>PG: They did, but not for what it was worth.</p>
<p>Gravel pit, interstate</p>	<p>KO: That seems to be the case.</p> <p>PG: They did have – I'm not sure where they got it and they did sell some of that. But I'm not sure where the gravel pit was. A lot of this happened when I wasn't home.</p> <p>WW: It's over there.</p> <p>PG: Where?</p> <p>WW: Over there. Go to the end of the tree/fence line and there used to be a road that went into the other field. I believe it was down. I can vaguely remember it.</p>
<p>Al Abbott, bus company</p>	<p>PG: I just remember it was there. And Al Abbott bought that golf links we called it. They developed the development down there. But I don't know how much acreage he bought. He owned the bus company. Do you remember what it was called?</p>

	<p>WW: The bus company? No. Do you?</p> <p>PG: No, I don't.</p> <p>WW: I thought it was a test.</p> <p>PG: It was a local bus company, but I don't know what it was. I had enough of the dam napkins on the headrests because I babysat for the two boys.</p> <p>KO: Which two boys?</p> <p>PG: Al Abbott had two boys at the time and I was babysitting. For some reason I want to say they had another child, but I don't know.</p>
01:07:35	<p>01:07:35</p> <p>KO: When was this road paved out here?</p> <p>PG: 1950, give or take. In this last year, it's been extremely heavy traffic.</p> <p>{Discussion of traffic. Shortcut from Route 5 and Route 14. Population increase. PG asks where KO lives and why she's working down here.}</p>
01:08:49	<p>01:08:49</p> <p>1960s-1970s, playing in the road</p> <p>WW: We used to play in the road. We'd play frisbee, hopscotch. We could be out there all day and hardly ever have to move for a car. That was in the '60s. If I can remember, I'd say '65 – '75. We could play out there. And when people went by they were going slow enough, plenty of time to see us and for us to see them,</p> <p>KO: Not the case anymore.</p> <p>PG: No, they zip by here like it was going out of style. It's bad enough for the cars, but when the trucks go. And the buses come by out of service.</p> <p>WW: Advance Transit.</p>
01:09:56	<p>01:09:56</p> <p>KO: Do you have any particular memories that we haven't reached out to that you think are important to add to the collection of history in Hartford? Or just your favorite memories. People don't always think their memories are important, but I promise you they are.</p>

Memories of grandparents	<p>WW: The story that my grandmother always told me was that when her parents moved to the area – there must have been a train station in Hartford Village.</p> <p>PG: I'm not sure.</p> <p>WW: The story is that they were bringing their possessions up in horse and wagon. They go to the top of the hill coming out of Hartford Village. From that point you can see to the top of this hill right here. And they just remember, she said that she couldn't believe that their horse was going to be able to make it up that hill. Even though the one they had come up was steeper. But this one because you could look so far, that was the story. They couldn't believe that they could up the hill.</p>
Train to Woodstock	<p>PG: I know mother always said she went by train to Woodstock. When they stopped that, I don't know. And I always commuted by train when I was in Fitchburg. And we always had to change in Bellows Falls to come to White River.</p>
Teaching school	<p>WW: She taught in Pomfret in '26.</p> <p>PG: Where did she go to school first? From what I can understand, she went in Woodstock and Keene, but I don't know the sequence, if it was before or after Pomfret.</p> <p>WW: I have that in the report that I wrote – that paper. I had to do a history, a woman in Vermont history, so I chose her. So I interviewed my grandmother and wrote it up. So I think she went to the Keene Normal School and then her first job in Pomfret. And then she went to Lyme.</p> <p>PG: When did she go to Woodstock?</p> <p>WW: I don't remember.</p> <p>PG: I know she went to Woodstock and commuted by train. That's where the girls picked her up for swearing for looking the dam. They had to go by the one in Taftsville. And there was one in Quechee.</p> <p>KO: Do you have a copy of your report to share?</p> <p>WW: No, I don't have a digital copy. Do you know where your copy is?</p> <p>PG: I think I can find it. It's going to take me a while.</p> <p>{Discussing report locations. WW offers to send the report. In the report,</p>

<p>Olcott Falls Grange</p> <p>Dam in Wilder, changes to landscape</p> <p>01:15:18</p>	<p>grandmother talks about making mattresses for the Army, Home Dem, school, some grange.}</p> <p>PG: I think she was a charter member of the Olcott Falls Grange, but I may be wrong.</p> <p>KO: Where is that?</p> <p>PG: The grange in Wilder.</p> <p>WW: Olcott Falls are the falls that are under the water in the Wilder dam. There were some falls when the dam went in there.</p> <p>PG: Originally way back when, I believe Wilder was called Olcott Falls. And then when they put the big dam in, they buried the falls. At one time, you look out the window and you could hear the church bells and you could see Baker Tower in Hanover. And when it was going to be bad weather you could always hear the trains. Usually probably in Hartford when it was going up and down. You can just hear the bells now, you can't see anything else.</p> <p>KO: Landscape change?</p> <p>PG: Landscape change and the growth of the trees.</p> <p>01:15:18</p> <p>KO: Well I think that's all I've got for today. Do you have anything else you'd like to add?</p> <p>PG: Not really, but it's always good to be home.</p> <p>KO: It is good to be home.</p> <p>PG: Yea, it's good to be home.</p> <p>KO: Well then, thank you very much for your time.</p> <p>PG: You're very welcome.</p>
01:15:43	END OF INTERVIEW