

Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project
 Interview Transcription
 July 4, 2012
 White River Junction, VT

Interviewer: Kaitlin O'Shea
 Interviewees: Doug Punt

Location: Quechee, VT
 Time: 11:00am

KO: Kaitlin O'Shea
 DP: Doug Punt

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	Edited Transcription
00:00:01	00:00:01
Introductions	KO: Today is Wednesday July 4, 2012. I am Kaitlin O'Shea and I am interviewing Douglas Punt for the Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project. So, good morning Doug. Thank you for having me on the this 4 th of July. I guess just tell me a little bit about yourself to start. How long have you lived here? How long has your family lived here?
1950s, grandparents	DP: My grandparents bought the place in the early 50s. I think it was around '51. I've lived here since '69. Went away to college for a few years. Bought a house in Windsor and lived there for about 12 years. My grandmother became ill and passed away and left this section of the farm to my father and my mom. She left the other section of her property line by the Mobil station to my two uncles. After she passed away, I sold my house in Windsor and moved here to try to help my folks out. I guess that was 2001.

Family	<p>KO: Do your folks still live here?</p> <p>DP: My father lives next door store. Our original house is just behind that bush out the window there. And they put a newer modular home to the right of that. He's at camp during the summer a lot.</p> <p>KO: Lucky. Do you have any siblings?</p>
Siblings & relatives	<p>DP: Nope. I'm an only child. My dad's two brothers moved away a while back. The middle one, David, is out in New York. He has a farm in Canton, NY. His older brother Earnest lives up north with my cousins and his family.</p>
00:02:27	00:02:27
Grandmother	<p>KO: You said everyone would know your grandmother. What was her name?</p> <p>DP: Rose.</p> <p>KO: And she grew up in this area or where?</p>
Woodstock	<p>DP: Pretty much in this general area. Before they bought this place, they lived on a farm in Woodstock. I'm not really sure where it used to be. She's from the area. Some relatives fairly close by.</p>
1951	<p>KO: And your family moved here in '51 to this property?</p> <p>DP: I believe so. I have all the old deeds. I'd have to check.</p> <p>KO: So it was pre-interstate?</p>
Interstate effects; grandfather	<p>DP: The interstate came through right around before I was born. In '68 or so I think they put the ramp through the farm. That was pretty painful for my grandfather especially. I don't know – it probably didn't help them too much. He ended up having a heart attack a year or two after that. I don't think the added stress of the interstate helped him too much. He wasn't very old.</p> <p>KO: Did he still farm after the interstate?</p>
Interstate effects: cattle crossings,	<p>DP: He tried to. It was harder for him after that because he wasn't allowed to put the cows back and forth across the ramp after it came through. There used to be an old cattle crossing under the road, but it got dug up when they put the interstate through.</p>

<p>ramps</p>	<p>KO: And they didn't put one in?</p> <p>DP: I guess they told them that nothing was going to change much, you'd still be able to do what you've always done. But once the project got going and they took the land from them and all the stipulations started appearing. He ended up just stopping. He was still haying the fields but couldn't get the cows around after that. Limited the feed for the cows.</p> <p>KO: I imagine. The ramps are big. That must have taken up a lot of acreage from the farm.</p> <p>DP: They are right in the middle of this on and off ramp there was a couple of ponds for the cows to get water off. Dad used to fish them when he was a kid. It really upset the brooks and streams and drained a lot of ponds. You can still the see the divet out there between the ramps out there.</p> <p>KO: I'll have to look. And your family had property across Route 4 behind the Mobil Station?</p>
<p>350 acres; sold; Humble Oil Company</p>	<p>DP: It was connected. I think it was about 350 acres that my grandparents bought. And over the years, farming for them got harder and harder so they started selling some lots. The Humble Oil Company bought the gas station lot. My father used to run that. He got tired of that. Humble Oil bought it then they got bought out. I think it was Exxon, Texaco or Mobil or Esso. The names have changed over the years. Slowly the lots got sold piece by piece.</p> <p>KO: So how much property is left?</p>
<p>17 acres remain</p>	<p>DP: There's about 17 acres, I think on this side of the ramp and about 20 or so across the ramp. My uncle sold theirs. I think they had 160 behind the gas station. Milton Travel owns that now. I guess they want to develop that.</p> <p>KO: Things change, huh? So do you still do any haying on the fields here?</p>
<p>Mike Koloski</p>	<p>DP: My cousin – my second cousin – Mike Koloski, he was up here a couple days ago. He still has his dad's farm down the road.</p> <p>KO: I've talked to Randy Kolosku recently.</p>
<p>Hobby farming</p>	<p>DP: They're cousins. He's kind of more of a hobby farmer, but he does a lot. It's more than a hobby if you ask more. We only cut the fields here</p>

Parents	<p>once a year because it's pretty much all he needs. He has other fields he hays. He's been mowing as a favor to keep it from growing up. When I first moved here I had to take my large lawn mower across the road to where some trees started growing. Kind of thrashed my lawn mower a bit. Cleaned it out so he can hay it a bit.</p> <p>KO: So you grew up in the house over there behind us?</p> <p>DP: My parents got married young and had me. They went on vacation for a while and called home to get in and my grandfather said, we got you a trailer. Told them where they put it. It was just an old single trailer and then over the years my dad added on to it and made it a little bigger and user friendly. Ended up staying here. He helped out quite often because he was right next door all the time. If my grandmother needed something that her boyfriend couldn't help with</p>
00:09:53	00:09:53
Barns	<p>KO: And there is one barn outside this house. Were there other barns as well?</p>
Barn fire	<p>DP: Yes. There was quite a few around here. The barn that's left, I think that's one of the older barns. I have some old pictures of it. It used to be about twice as wide. There was a lean-to thing out back. But it was always mucky out there because the cows were chomping around. We had one large pole barn up by my parents' new house that my grandfather made. I guess it was supposed to be temporary but it was about 6 years old before they took it down. They kept most of the hay up there. And the old milk house out there, I think that was before my grandparents. There was a milk house attached to the barn, too. And I can't remember if my grandparents added that themselves or not. I think that was the main one, but they quit using it shortly after they moved here and used the one that was right on the barn. That's where my new garage is because the garage burned down.</p> <p>KO: when did it burn?</p> <p>DP: I was six or seven years old. '76 or '77.</p> <p>KO: Did you see it burn?</p> <p>DP: It was pretty bad. You could feel the heat from our old house. I was sitting on the kitchen table. My mom stuck me on the kitchen table so I could look at the window. It was pretty bad.</p> <p>KO: Do you know why it caught fire?</p>

	<p>DP: I think it was because there was some green hay mixed, but I'm not certain. From the stories over the years, it sounds like it started in the hay.</p> <p>KO: It seems pretty common.</p>
Barn fire	<p>DP: It had been around for so many years. I think it was my cousin Mike Koloski's dad who came up. When it caught fire a lot of people showed up. Got all the animals out. Mike's dad Henry, I think he's the one who got a little crazier than the rest. He ran in there and cut a lot of the animals out. I think everything got out except for maybe a pig or two. We got all the cows and horses out. It was in the middle of winter so I don't know if the fire trucks ran out of water or didn't come with enough. There wasn't any place for them to get water. So basically they tried to keep the house and the milk house from catching on fire. There are still charred boards. It was pretty hot.</p>
Growing up	<p>KO: At least you got all the cows out. Don't want to lose your cows or horses. So when you were a kid growing up here, was there farming going on? What do you remember?</p>
Family nearby	<p>DP: Somewhat. My uncles David and Earnest, David mostly was using this farm, this side. My uncle used to live across the road behind the gas station at the time. And he had some animals over there. And sometimes he'd hay over here. And it was a lot back and forth. My dad wasn't interested in farming. He had enough when he was a kid. After the barn burned down, there wasn't any insurance on much of anything, and it was a pretty good sized barn, so it would have been too much to rebuild it. My uncle David found a place in Post Mills, a farm right on the corner as you go into Post Mills. It's still there. He bought that place and has been there for a while. Farmed that.</p>
00:15:00	<p>00:15:00</p> <p>KO: What did your dad do?</p>
Father's occupations	<p>DP: He ran the gas station for a little while. And he went right into working construction after that when he got tired for the gas station business. And he as a carpenter for like 20 years.</p>
Mother's occupations	<p>KO: What about your mom?</p> <p>DP: She didn't work for a while when I was younger. She had to keep an eye on me. I had some problems. She ended up going over to – I can't remember the name of it – there used to be a sales company over next to Fog's Hardware Store, like an import/export company. I'll probably think</p>

<p>School; Quechee Elementary</p>	<p>of it in the middle of the night. She worked there for quite a while. They had all kinds of strange items. It was like one of those ?? where you could odd items – expensive weird things. She worked there for quite a while. I think she went from there to work at the Dartmouth Student College Chapel. She was over there for a long time as Office Manager. Help keep the place running, kept everything fixed. All the office work, contracts for the grounds and buildings, the care.</p> <p>KO: Neat. Where did you go to school?</p> <p>DP: I went to high school in Hartford. Quechee Elementary School, the Waldorf School now.</p>
<p>Vermont Technical College</p>	<p>KO: Oh yea, the one that is up on the hill?</p> <p>DP: Yea. So I went there to Quechee School and I went to Hartford School. I went to Vermont Technical College for two years for electronics. Then for a year and a half I went to New England Insitute of Technology in Warwick, RI and got my bachelor’s in electronics down there. When I was younger I had a lot of tutors and stuff like that. I was in the hospital a lot, so a lot it was self taught just to keep up.</p> <p>KO: Well that’s impressive.</p> <p>DP: It was different. I kept up. That was a good thing. I was always afraid I would be an 18 year old sixth-grader.</p>
<p>Location of farm; “Brier Rose” name</p>	<p>KO: It’s hard to make friends then. So do you say you live in Quechee or Woodstock? Where are we right now? Obviously the Town of Hartford.</p> <p>DP: We always say White River. Don’t have the cash for Quechee. We’re kind of right on the edge. We’ve had probably 10 different addresses here over my lifetime. They change street numbers and street names. I guess my grandfather named the farm Briar Rose with an “A” but now the street sign has an “E” on it. Semantics. It is a brier bush or a briar rose. I don’t know. Look in the dictionary. I guess White River is what our address is.</p> <p>KO: I like to ask because I’ve sent many things to White River or Hartford and it comes back to me because it’s the wrong one.</p> <p>DP: Well, it’s weird because most of the stuff is automated by the post office with 05001, Lyman, VT pops up.</p> <p>KO: Oh, Lyman Station. That’s downtown White River. I didn’t know that was a town. That’s funny.</p>

00:20:25	<p>DP: It's funny unless somebody doesn't know.</p> <p>00:20:25</p>
History of house	<p>KO: So this house you said was built in 1789 or so? What do you know about its history?</p> <p>DP: I have a lot of the old paperwork going back probably five or six owners. I think 1800 something I have a deed for. It's kind of neat looking at that old paperwork. I have a strange house. It looks like people have added on to it over the years.</p> <p>KO: That's usually the case.</p> <p>DP: You can tell the ell was added on. Every beam was hand hewn. It's got some character. It needs a lot of work.</p> <p>KO: the good ones usually do. Have you changed it much since you've lived here?</p>
Renovations of the house	<p>DP: Not really. I tried to upgrade stuff with keeping it how it was – rewiring, replumbing. I kept the old cabinets, sinks. I got the old pedestal sinks in the bathroom working again. That thing was off for like 40 something years. It had old lead pipe drains on it. It got clogged up and disconnected. When we moved in, we did the kitchen, bathroom, living room. Put the old sink back to use. I think it has a date of 1906 on it.</p> <p>KO: Does it have two knobs for hot and cold?</p> <p>DP: It did. But I found a place to make a custom faucet. I didn't like having hot and cold.</p> <p>KO: Our house is like that. It's kind of an art form to get the exact temperature.</p> <p>{sinks}</p> <p>DP: It had a wood stove in one of the other rooms, the one I use as the living room now. We tore down the old horsehair plaster there were some burned boards underneath. All the boards are almost as wide as this table. I think they were King Edward's trees or something.</p> <p>KO: It's nice.</p> <p>00:24:05</p> <p>00:24:05</p>

Animals on the farm; picking apples; drunk horses	<p>KO: So, the things you remember about the farm from when you were growing up.</p> <p>DP: I liked the animals.</p> <p>KO: Did you help take care of the animals?</p> <p>DP: I probably thought I was, but I doubt I was. I probably wasn't doing much service. Used to ride around on the hay wagons and stuff. Kid stuff. Picking apples and watching the horses get drunk. That was fun. See how many apples it would take the horse or pony before it was frothing at the mouth or walking sideways.</p> <p>KO: I haven't heard that before.</p>
Rabbit as pet	<p>DP: I had a rabbit when I was younger as a pet. It was outside mostly. It was fun. It was smart as a dog.</p> <p>KO: Did it follow you around?</p> <p>DP: It would. I'd check on it. It would come to you when you called it. It was about four years old or so, found out he was a girl.</p> <p>KO: Hope he didn't have an identity crisis.</p> <p>DP: Ralphette. I was hanging out in the barn. But I probably wasn't so useful being so young. It was neat. Everybody was always doing something. Watch people figure stuff out.</p>
Milking process on the farm	<p>KO: Did you family have the milking machines or was it milk cans at the point? Do you remember?</p> <p>DP: They had some machines. They had those big stainless jugs.</p> <p>KO: Like the things people put on their porch now?</p>
Grasses for cows	<p>DP: Yea, kind of round. But they did a lot of hand milking too. I guess when my grandfather did all – when my dad was younger – had a pretty good dairy farm. He used to get recognized. There was some special grass that he would grow. It wasn't alfalfa, but it wasn't regular hay. Used to have good numbers on his milk all the time. He was always cleaning it. Used to have a lot of the milk fat content.</p> <p>KO: Were there different grasses better for the cows than others?</p> <p>DP: I guess there are some. I'm not a farmer really, but there are some</p>

<p>Tractors; ponies for pet; riding in a buggy; Marshland Farm</p>	<p>that have better minerals and some that they just like to eat better. Clover. First time mowing fields, the grass usually has more nutrients in it. That's why they ask more for first cut.</p> <p>KO: I did not know that.</p> <p>DP: That's the kind of stuff you should ask my cousin Mike.</p> <p>KO: He'll know? Well I'm not a farmer either so I ask any questions. There were horses? Did your grandparents or cousins plow with horses or tractors?</p> <p>DP: They had tractors. The ponies were pets. We had buggies. They used to use them in the little buggies and ride around in. My Uncle Henry used to give rides down to Marshland Farm.</p> <p>KO: Where's that?</p> <p>DP: It's right down the road in Quechee, where they had the balloon festival this year. I wouldn't know if they used horses. They might have before I was born. I remember an old Farm-all tractor. They had a couple old 45 – 55 Farm-all C or H, the tricycle tractor.</p> <p>KO: Did you ride on the tractors?</p>
<p>Riding the tractors; sugarcane for the cows</p>	<p>DP: Sometimes. Keeping me up there. Or the hay wagon. Where my parents' houses are, the new one and the old one used to be part of the pasture. We'd go through on the wagon. I forget where they'd get it. They used to get sugarcane stalks. I'm not sure where they came from, but the cows used to love them. Stuck sugarcane stalks on the wagon, drag me on. Out there the cows would come running. Sugarcane stalks, they liked that pretty well.</p> <p>KO: I hear cows have a sweet tooth. Did you just ride on the hay wagon? Were you too young to help?</p> <p>DP: I was pretty young and hanging out.</p> <p>KO: Did your family have a baler?</p>
<p>Haying</p>	<p>DP: Yea. My grandfather had all that stuff. Mostly what Mike has out in the yard is basically Dad's rakes, tractor, baler. Just enough.</p> <p>KO: Do they sell hay or was it for feed, silage?</p> <p>DP: It was mostly baled up for the cows. There was a couple silos at the</p>

Chickens, pigs	<p>end of the barn. Dad mentioned that they used to use them. I think pretty much all the hay was used for bales.</p> <p>KO: That's what I've heard a lot. The hay was to feed the animals unless there was extra. What about chickens or pigs?</p> <p>DP: Yup. We had chickens and pigs. I don't remember ducks. There was a special area on the back of the barn where the pigs were kept. After the barn burned, my parents used to raise pigs. We used to keep them across the road in the pen. We did that for quite a while until Dad realized you could buy pigs at the market cheaper than you could raise them. So we ended up giving that up.</p> <p>KO: So he would butcher the pigs when he had them?</p>
Butchering; Sharon	<p>DP: There was a place he would take them, a place in Sharon. I think they are still there. There was a place in Sharon that was a pretty good sized butcher shop. People would bring their animals. I think there was some places in downtown White River where they would do it, too. Next to the True Value Hardware Store, there used to be some stores and stuff. A lot of the family members were good at doing it. Sometimes they would do it themselves so we wouldn't have to pay somebody.</p>
Plucking chickens	<p>I remember plucking chickens when I was a kid. I don't think I'd raise chickens. Pretty chickens. There was a wooden horse hitch out there next to the old stone fireplace. Sometimes they'd used that stone fireplace to boil the chickens on and hang them off the horse hitching post. Luckily I could reach those, so I got to help them that. Get covered in wet feathers. I think Dad would do this on purpose, but you take the head off the chicken and the thing would run at me. I could turn, didn't matter. It was like a campfire. No matter where I was, the smoke would find me. The dead chicken would head at me,</p>
Chickens running with head cut off	<p>KO: I heard that they run without their heads.</p> <p>DP: It used to freak me out. It didn't matter. It would turn and head at me.</p> <p>KO: So did you have to do anything besides pluck the chickens?</p> <p>DP: Not really. I probably wasn't good at that. I was only about 6.</p> <p>KO: I've heard nobody likes chickens, having them.</p> <p>DP: They are kind of nasty animals. Cannibals. They'll eat anything.</p> <p>KO: And they're dumb, I hear. What about a garden? Did your</p>

<p>Garden</p> <p>00:38:18</p>	<p>grandmother or mom have a garden</p> <p>DP: Yup, my grandmother kept a garden towards the interstate. That was there quite a while.</p> <p>KO: Was it a market garden or just for family use?</p> <p>DP: Just for the family. She used to can everything all the time. She'd can string beans and beats. I think it took me like five years to go through all the rest of the canned food she had downstairs after she passed away. There's a little crab apple tree out there – it's got to be 150 years old, there was like three or four of them – she used to make crab apple jelly or strawberry rhubarb jelly. There's a rhubarb patch over by the old chicken coop. I have some in the freezer. Picked out of that same patch for like 60 years.</p> <p>I don't remember any garden. My parents have a garden. It was mostly for ourselves so we wouldn't have to spend money.</p> <p>KO: Yea. Food is expensive.</p> <p>00:38:18</p>
<p>Grandmother</p> <p>Grandfather</p>	<p>KO: What do you remember about your grandmother?</p> <p>DP: She was pretty funny. I never really thought about it. She never everybody. A lot of people know me that I don't know because of her. She's the boss. She'd always sit at the head of the table so she could see who was coming in the door. She was pretty funny. Sometimes she'd act like she wasn't quite smart, but she really was, just to see what you'd try to tell her. I was probably the only one to talk back to her, and people probably thought I was rude. But she'd just laugh because she knew I knew she was up to something. I used to give her a lot of grief. It's how we got along.</p> <p>KO: She was the matriarch of the family?</p> <p>DP: Pretty much. Everyone would come here. She was like Queen Bee or something. People would come here and see her. She didn't have to go anywhere. My uncle he was pretty funny. He'd always ring the bell outside that door so she'd know he was coming to visit.</p> <p>KO: What about your grandfather?</p> <p>DP: I don't really remember him at all. I was only like six months old when he died. The thing I remember about him, there was a maple tree</p>

<p>00:41:27</p>	<p>out next to the end of old cherry out there that's still there. He used to hang me off the branch and hang me on and swing me because he thought it would help straighten out my hands and stuff, stretch them out. He had the right idea. Didn't really do anything. That's basically what the doctors were doing. That's pretty much all I remember, is him swinging out of that tree.</p> <p>KO: It's hard to remember when you're so young.</p> <p>DP: I have a lot of old pictures and stuff, but I don't remember.</p> <p>KO: Do you have them in easy reach that we can look at?</p> <p>DP: I have a few that I can get.</p> <p>00:41:27</p> <p>{DP goes to get pictures and brings them back to the table. Looking through photographs. Some of these have been scanned and included in the project. DP explains photographs, talks about newspaper clippings. Includes: house, interstate ramps, helicopters, milk house. Never use the front door, only side. Family members. Underpass for the cows. Interstate ruined a lot of things for all people. Ponds removed by the interstate. Fields all connected prior to interstate. Digging up the driveway. Changed direction of the driveway when interstate came in. Some unknown photograph subjects. Crab apple trees. Grandfather's camp.}</p> <p>{Photographs are not labeled.}</p>
<p>00:49:53</p> <p>Favorite memories; river; Minta Koloski; sawdust pile; hay bales</p>	<p>00:49:53</p> <p>KO: So what else do you remember? As a kid hanging around the farm? Any favorite memories?</p> <p>DP: We used to go down to the river a lot. My Aunt Minta Koloski had some land down by the river. We spent a lot of time down there when it was really hot. It was back when you could ride on the back of the truck, sit on the tailgate, let you feet hang. That was fun. Some of the times we used to go out into the ?? out there still. There was a sawdust pile out there and we'd dig into it like an igloo, like caves. They didn't like that though. "It's going to fall out and suffocate on you." Or I'd go up to the hay barn and move the hay bales around. Build tunnels.</p> <p>KO: that sounds like fun, too.</p>

	<p>DP: You're going to break the bales. Yea, yea.</p> <p>KO: So you played with your cousins?</p>
Cousins	<p>DP: Yea, my cousins were around quite often. And a lot of the other family kids would hang out a lot. There was always something going on, a birthday party or a picnic. A lot of people ended up here, scurrying around.</p>
Neighboring farms	<p>KO: Were there neighboring farms? Who were your neighbors here?</p>
Minta & Bunny Koloski – Randy, Mark	<p>DP: All my relatives. ? and Alex Koloski live on Main Street in Quechee. I think that's the house they recently renovated. The house was towards the golf course side and there garage was across the street, down the road a little ways. They'd come up here. Minta and her husband Bunny would come up here. Their kids, Randy – I didn't hang out with Randy till I was older. But Mark, his younger brother, I'd hang out with him sometimes. It was pretty much everyone around here was pretty close back then. There wasn't so many people. A lot of people have summer homes and stuff. The interstate moving in and these extra expensive vacation homes have dispersed the natives. It's costing too much to live around here.</p> <p>KO: Was that one of the biggest you think from when you were growing up around here to now?</p>
Changes to the area	<p>DP: I think so. I think the interstate did a lot of damage to the older farms. People that were kind of getting by, they were mostly working hard just to keep the families going. Might have had enough money to play with, but not a lot of extra money, but everybody was happy with that. Once the interstate came through, started ruining the different farms and dividing them up and blocking cows from the pasture. Ruin the fishing holes. Even when I was a kid, I used to be able to catch trout out of a brook down here. Down it's basically drainage. It runs all the time, but there's nothing living in anymore. There was a campground up the road that started that. They put a pond in.</p> <p>KO: The KOA?</p> <p>DP: It wasn't KOA at the time, but I think they dug that pond either close to the brook or into the brook. After that the fish kept going smaller. They wouldn't do something like that nowadays. Back then they didn't think too much of it. But, yea, it's harder to get from one spot to the next if you want to try to farm around here. It makes it more expensive than it's worth. My cousin Mike has a lot – his property is left in one big chunk so he doesn't have worry too much, but he still has problems. Extra vehicles,</p>

Interstate	<p>extra people that come around and cut fences and stuff like that.</p> <p>KO: The interstates divided a lot of farms. I don't know if you know David Brown – Windsor Brown farm down on Route 5 –</p> <p>DP: I don't know him personally, but I've heard.</p> <p>KO: The interstate went right through their farm, too. Are there other farms you know of that were divided by the interstate? Your family seems very much affected, more than others.</p> <p>DP: I'm not sure. I don't remember.</p> <p>KO: that was before you. Just curious.</p>
00:57:09	<p>00:57:09</p> <p>KO: Did you ever go into town with your parents or somebody from your family?</p> <p>DP: Probably. Not very often.</p> <p>KO: Would that be Quechee or downtown White River?</p>
White River Junction; Quechee Village	<p>DP: White River. It wasn't really much for us in Quechee. The only time we were in Quechee was for the Marshland Farm when my uncle would have something going on like hay rides or go fishing at Dewey's Pond. But if we had to go to a store, it's usually downtown White River. There was a little store down there. I don't remember the name. They were friends of the family – had a bakery, deli. It is more business stuff now. It used to be more small grocery stores and stuff.</p> <p>KO: Now there are a few lunch places and not too much.</p> <p>DP: Polka Dot has been around for a while.</p> <p>KO: I can never tell if that is open or closed.</p> <p>DP: Just walk in. I don't remember too much going downtown.</p>
Holidays with the family	<p>KO: Does your family have big holiday events?</p> <p>DP: Christmas and Thanksgiving was always pretty full. We had the kids' table and the adults would have their own table. The adults were in there. They'd put the leaves in that table. Sometimes there'd be friends or something that didn't have a place to go. If I was in college, I'd bring one</p>

	<p>or two friends to make it to where they were. Mostly it was just family. People would stop in and say hi and Merry Christmas and go back to their family thing. It was pretty full with my dad and his two brothers and all of his cousins.</p> <p>KO: Any family traditions that you can think of?</p> <p>DP: Probably none that I want recorded.</p> <p>KO: I understand.</p> <p>DP: But we had fun.</p> <p>KO: A good time was had by all.</p>
01:00:25	01:00:25
Christmas Eve	<p>DP: It was a Christmas Eve thing mostly at Gram's house and during the day we'd be with our families. I was down here a lot because I was so close. And my other cousins were here quite often because they lived across the street. We'd terrorize each other.</p>
01:01:06	01:01:06
Maple sugaring	<p>KO: Well, we covered gardens, hay, cows, house, family. {Flips through notes.} Did your family do any maple sugaring?</p> <p>DP: A little bit. We didn't have a sugarbush but we had some maple trees around. We'd get a gallon or two. We didn't have too many trees to tap. I did some out here with a stone fireplace. I'm not sure who built that. It's been there forever. Something else I have to go fix. We used to do that sometimes.</p> <p>KO: What about apple trees or any other sorts of fruit?</p>
Fruit trees in the yard	<p>DP: We had a pear tree here for a long time. About five winters or so ago, we had snowstorms and it broke that pear tree down and an apple tree sprouted up from the stump. So I guess it must have been grafted. We used to have a pear tree. We didn't really – I'm surprised Gram didn't can them too. We liked to eat them. We had a lot of apple trees around here too. Many years ago, I heard there was an apple orchard on the farm out by the house and smaller fields. These trees would grow up next to the pasture and the fence. If a tree grew up, someone would leave it alone because it wasn't in the way and they didn't have lawn mowers. Even when I was a kid, we had some trees that just grew because you couldn't get at them with the lawn mower. We have some of the old apple trees</p>

	<p>left, but most have died. They were pretty old to begin with. There were some McIntosh, Cortlands. There is one apple tree that is an older tree. I'm surprised that's lasted that long because it's pulling itself apart. It still produces a ton of apples and the weight is just ripping itself apart. But I put some new stuff out in the field to replace it with the stuff that's going by. I put some of the yellow transparents and some tocca plums and superior plums and apricot trees.</p> <p>KO: Plums and apricots will grow up here?</p> <p>DP: Yup. Well I haven't seen proof of the apricots yet. The trees are still growing. I put them in last fall. I got some plums last year. Had problems last year with the rain. I guess plums are finicky. Plums grew fast and the skin split. Didn't get too many good plums last year. Had a lot, but the skins split. Too much rain. We had an old plum tree towards our old house, too. It had always been there. Used to eat plums off that. They were small ones. An ice storm took that. They were tasty. It's managed to grow back from the stump. Sometimes they give you that and sometimes they don't. The crab apple tree is open. A sucker would grow off the side. I think that it's gone, it's gone.</p>
01:07:07	01:07:07
Grandmother Canning	<p>KO: Did your grandmother teach you how to can as well?</p> <p>DP: She didn't really teach me on purpose, but I used to be here enough so I helped her.</p> <p>KO: Would can things today?</p> <p>DP: I think I would. I've thought about it. It's a lot of work. It can get a little hairy when you're carrying a couple gallons of boiling water and moving stuff from the to the table. Sometimes I'm feeling brave and I'll attempt. Sometimes maybe not. I remember helping her make ice cream and butter. Skimming the milk and churn it. Set me on the kitchen table where I can reach it and churn the butter.</p> <p>KO: In a big wooden churn, like the wooden ones?</p> <p>DP: It must not have been too big if I could reach.</p> <p>KO: And how would you make ice cream?</p> <p>DP: She had another bucket with ice. I don't remember exactly. I think it was one of the old hand crank models, got ice and salt and milk and other stuff. I don't remember exactly. I was pretty young. But it had to be hand</p>

Electricity	<p>cranked, because there wasn't an outlets.</p> <p>KO: Oh really?</p> <p>DP: All she had was that light in the middle of the table. This house was so old, they added electricity later. And when they did, they just made one whole loop around the bottom floor. {Explains one electric loop.}</p> <p>KO: Do you know when this house got electricity?</p> <p>DP: Not sure.</p> <p>{More conversation on electricity in houses.}</p>
01:10:55	01:10:55
Tour of house	<p>KO: I see there's different wallpaper in that room. Is there different eras?</p> <p>DP: You can wander around if you want.</p> <p>{KO & DP take a tour of the house.}</p> <p>DP: The woodstove was here. They put some tin on the back to keep it from getting hot. I had some really old wallpaper upstairs that was still in the rolls. I don't know how old it was.</p> <p>KO: Did it match any wallpaper that is existing in the house.</p> <p>DP: Some of the wallpaper is still in good shape. It's hard to see but there is pictures in that wallpaper.</p> <p>{Looking at banister on staircase and wallpaper on stairwell. Original balusters.}</p>
01:14:15	01:14:15
Tour of house	<p>DP: You can wander around if you want, but you might get dusty. When we were kids, we used to call this the cold room because it was the coldest room in the house. {DP explains renovations to this room: adding in false walls to add in insulation.} We'd come out here in the winter and close the doors so Gram wouldn't have to heat. You'd see your breath. This is where you can see there must have been an old stove in here.</p> <p>{DP explains room renovations. Talk about original hardware on doors. Redoing the original hardware. Looking at door hardware. Plaster and lath. Insulation. Room renovations. Hand hewn beams exposed. Talking</p>

<p>01:20:20</p> <p>Plumbing in the house; gravity plumbing</p>	<p>about possible earlier room configurations, walls, floorboards. Stripping paint.}</p> <p>01:20:20</p> <p>DP: The upstairs, if you want to take a peak, the floorboards, you can see how wide they are.</p> <p>KO: Oh my goodness. They are like two feet across.</p> <p>DP: Some of the one that make the roof are wider than those.</p> <p>KO: I see the paper.</p> <p>DP: And there's an old closet inside the bedroom there. Down in the far corner is a door.</p> <p>KO: Oh I see that.</p> <p>DP: There's an old wooden barrel in there. Back when they were first putting the plumbing in the house they used that as gravity feed. There was a pipe that came from the Center of Town Road up the hill and came down to this house. And it filled the barrel and used that.</p> <p>KO: That makes sense. This house is neat. There are so many layers to it.</p> <p>DP: It has a little bit from everyone who has lived in it. That's the kind of stuff we took off the ceiling.</p> <p>KO: Thanks for the tour. Intriguing. Well, I have a few forms for you to look at and sign.</p> <p>DP: This is some of the stuff I copied for Pat [Stark]. These are all papers my grandfather got when I they were putting in the interstate. My copy machine is not big enough for them.</p> <p>{DP shows KO collection of deeds. Says he might get them scanned and copied. Says that is his winter hobby – to get things organized.}</p> <p>DP: I can show you the barn foundation.</p> <p>KO: That would be good to see.</p> <p>DP: I can remember how it's laid out. Some of the main house shingles would break so they'd take them off the old ell and use them to cover the main house. So now my ell is half shingles.</p>
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	KO: Before we go outside, can I ask you to look at a form? I can email it you, if you prefer.
01:24:30	END OF INTERVIEW.