

Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project
 Interview Transcription
 June 25, 2012
 White River Junction, VT

Interviewer: Kaitlin O'Shea
 Interviewees: Mary Rogers

Location: Wilder, VT
 Time: 10:00 am

KO: Kaitlin O'Shea
 MR: Mary Rogers

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	<p>KO: Today is Monday June 25, 2012. I am Kaitlin O'Shea and I am interviewing Mary Rogers for the Hartford Agricultural Oral History Project. We are in her home in Wilder, Vermont. Good morning Mary, thank you for having me.</p> <p>MR: Good morning. It's lovely to have you.</p>
Grandparents: Patrick O'Connor; grandmother died young	<p>KO: So you said you wanted to start with some questions. I guess first, tell me your grandparents' names and your parents' names.</p> <p>MR: Okay. My grandfather's name was Patrick O'Connor. His wife died quite young. She was making doughnuts on the stove and somehow she tipped over the grease that the doughnuts were cooking in and it just went all over her and burned her really badly. And they didn't have</p>

Farm in Hartford	<p>much doctors and stuff that could help or anything. I don't know dates, so I don't know. She was very old.</p> <p>KO: Where did they live?</p> <p>MR: They lived here in Hartford. It's actually up – the farm used to be up by the VA and before you get to the VA, if you go up the back way from Hartford, are you familiar with that? Well on the right hand side there is a house that sits way out. You probably don't even notice it. It curves like that. And that's where they lived. So that whole area where the interstate is was all farmland. And I think it went clear probably up to the VA Hospital, across from the VA. So they had quite a bit of land up there.</p>
Grandfather farmed; chickens	<p>He farmed really, like all people do when they own a farm. Raise chickens and all that. And myself and my brother and sister used to bring him meals at night for his supper. So we used to walk from Hartford Village up over the hill to bring it to him. We used to like to go there because it was always fun to be around the cows. Like I said, I never really lived on the farm. I spent a lot of time up there.</p> <p>KO: Was it a family farm or did your grandfather make money off the farm?</p> <p>MR: That's all he did.</p> <p>KO: Did he sell his cattle and his hay?</p> <p>MR: When he got old and couldn't do it himself.</p> <p>KO: I mean, for profit.</p>
Sold milk; peddled milk	<p>MR: Oh did he sell his milk? Yes, he did. Nothing great. Into White River. I'm not too familiar with that, how many he had. But he a pretty good following in White River, of course that was with the horse and buggy.</p> <p>KO: Do you remember if he peddled the milk himself?</p> <p>MR: He did.</p> <p>KO: He drove around the horse.</p> <p>MR: Yes.</p> <p>KO: Did you ever go with him for those trips?</p>

Grandfather walking often	<p>MR: No. In fact, I don't even remember seeing him delivering milk. I know all the stories that he did deliver to people. I think he did it by himself. I wasn't old enough to see that part. And he worked that farm all by himself, except when he was doing something special like haying. Then he'd bring in some friends.</p> <p>KO: So he must have been a busy man if he was doing that all by himself.</p> <p>MR: Oh yes, he was. A very capable man. I can remember when he had to get rid of the farm because he couldn't do it anymore. He came to live with my mother and father down in the village. He was so used to being active that he used to go for long walks. He used to start out in Hartford and go to White River and swing around and go up by the VA Hospital on that road and come back down in Hartford. And he was probably 75 years old when he did that. And he went right along. My mother worried about him because there were no sidewalks. He was pretty healthy. I think he was 80 something when he passed away. And in those days that – I mean, there is a lot of 80/90 people, today, but in those days that was a long, long life. He was very healthy.</p> <p>KO: Do you remember when he was born?</p> <p>MR: No, I don't know his birth date. And I don't have any pictures. We didn't take pictures back then. We didn't have fancy cameras. I guess that's the oldest picture I have {points to picture on wall}. That's my brother and sister.</p> <p>KO: Are they older than you or younger than you?</p>
Siblings	<p>MR: Yes, they are both older. They are all three years apart. But like I say, it's too bad because no one has left anything like that for you to see what it's like. Sure I have some pictures taken up there somewhere, but I don't know whether my sister has any or not. I know I did have some, but I don't think I could put my finger on them.</p>
00:07:53	00:07:53
Siblings & family	<p>KO: Do your brother and sister live around here as well? Is your whole family still here?</p> <p>MR: In the area. Except one daughter, she's down in Florida. That's what I've been watching that for you. Whatever hit down there, is right where she was living. But she called this morning, and the sun was out. She's going to try to get out. And then my other daughter lives up in</p>

	<p>Sharon, and my son lives down in New Hampshire. So they aren't too far.</p> <p>KO: Well, if you think about your grandfather's house – I can't picture where exactly you are describing – can you describe what the house looks like? Or how you remember it.</p>
00:09:07	00:09:07
Grandfather's house; cold; woodstove	<p>MR: Well, the house. I remember staying over night up there in the winter. All we had this old woodstove in the dining room. And we'd get up in the morning and there'd be frost all over the windows and it was so freezing cold in there. To this day, I hate being cold.</p> <p>[Doorbell rings. Pause recorder.]</p>
00:09:51	00:09:51
Stove; cold house	<p>KO: You were saying you were freezing in your grandfather's house.</p> <p>MR: But he'd get that stove pumping and you couldn't get near it. Stoves weren't made that well. It's a good thing we didn't burn the house down. You talked about seeing the house. It's still there. The barn is gone, and of course they have done a lot to it. And the thing I didn't like is to have to go down the cellar and help fill the milk jars because it was always so cold down there. The foundation all stone.</p> <p>KO: Of the barn?</p>
House & barn	<p>MR: The house. The barn was wooden. There was also a horse barn. He had two beautiful horses that he plowed with, and peddled the milk with. So that's my time at a farm. I really wasn't brought up at a farm, so I did a lot and went walking up there a lot. I always liked it up there.</p> <p>KO: How often did you visit?</p>
Visiting the farm on Sundays	<p>MR: My parents used to go up every Sunday. My mother would cook our Sunday meal up there. I know we'd be going on the weekend. But if we had to bring anything up to them, we'd do it after school or in the summertime. It didn't take too long. We used to take a shortcut to get to the farm.</p> <p>KO: Over a hill you said?</p> <p>MR: As you go down this way and go up the back way, as you get to the top of the hill in Hartford across the river, as you turn left you go to</p>

	<p>Woodstock.</p> <p>KO: Oh yes.</p> <p>MR: So you stay straight to go up around. Of course, not many of those houses there were on the side of the road going up the hill. Not too old those buildings there.</p> <p>KO: Did you grandfather's farm have a name?</p> <p>MR: No it didn't. I don't think. It probably did, but I guess I don't recall what that way. Patsy's Farm, probably.</p> <p>KO: Why Patsy's Farm?</p> <p>MR: He should have named it Patsy's Farm. That's his name: Patrick.</p> <p>KO: Did he have a big vegetable garden?</p> <p>MR: No he didn't.</p> <p>KO: I guess he didn't have time.</p> <p>MR: That's right. He was all alone, you know. He had to do his cooking except for what my mother sent up to him.</p> <p>KO: So he lived alone for a long time.</p> <p>MR: Yes. And then when he had to stop farming, he came and lived with us down in the Village of Hartford.</p> <p>KO: When was that, when he had to sell it? Which decade?</p>
<p>Mary graduated high school 1943 00:14:48</p>	<p>MR: I couldn't give you the date. I can't remember when I was in high school. It was when I was in high school, and graduate in '43. So it was probably 1940.</p> <p>00:14:48</p>
<p>Born 1925. Farm when married in Hartford Village; brick</p>	<p>KO: When were you born if you don't mind my asking.</p> <p>MR: I was born February 4, 1925. We had a farm when I was married. My husband decided he wanted to be a farmer. And there used to be a farm right in the village. How would I describe where it was? Do you know when you're in Hartford and you want to go to Wilder, you go the back way?</p>

schoolhouse	<p>KO: I don't think I've done that way.</p> <p>MR: What is back there. You are probably are kind of familiar with the village. If you come out of Hartford, not completely, but if you're coming from the bridge, you make a left turn and you come out in Wilder. You know where there used to be a schoolhouse as you turn in?</p> <p>KO: A big brick schoolhouse. Oh it's still there.</p> <p>MR: Yes. I don't know what it is. It's a business or school. Something they hold up there. Instead of going up that hill to the brick house, you take a left and there was a farm. These people farmed very nicely. If you go up that little hill, right at the top there was a big house and a big barn. And that whole hillside behind there was pasture.</p>
Davis Farm; burned in the 1960s	<p>KO: Is that the Davis Farm?</p> <p>MR: Yes.</p> <p>KO: Okay, I have spoken with Fred Davis.</p> <p>MR: Oh you did? Oh good. We bought that eventually and then it turned.</p>
Farm burned	<p>KO: Oh yea, he said it burned in the '60s?</p> <p>MR. Yup.</p> <p>KO: So you and your husband bought that?</p> <p>MR: Not from that Davis, but from his grandfather.</p> <p>KO: Mapleside Farm, I think it was called.</p> <p>MR: I don't know if we ever named it. Anyway, we bought that and lived there. We didn't lived there very long, but it burned down.</p> <p>KO: The whole house?</p> <p>MR: House and the barn, it was all connected. It was strange. It was haying season. Sometimes if you put hay when you first cut it and put it in the barn, it gathers something – heats up underneath, and then it can explode. My husband had been haying. It just went up like nothing. A huge fire.</p> <p>KO: You were all okay?</p>

<p>00:22:35</p> <p>Sold cows after the fire; moved to Wilder</p>	<p>MR: It was about 3:00 in the afternoon. I was working at the high school. Do you know which –</p> <p>KO: That’s the municipal offices now, right?</p> <p>MR: No, it’s over by Sterns. Do you know Sterns Vegetables. Do you know where the new store is? What’s the same of it – Co-op store. Well that building right behind it – that used to be the high school. I was working there in the principal’s office. And the fire department was across the street, and across the river. You could see it from where I was – the school. I heard the sirens going and I saw all the fire trucks going up the road. And kiddingly I said, “oh maybe my house in on fire.” So I got into Hartford. The house and the barn sits right up near that big building. It looks like a school.</p> <p>I could see the smoke, but it still didn’t dawn on me. I got up to the top – as you’re going into Hartford, you can take that right turn and the house was there. The policeman stopped me. There was a lot action going on. He said you can’t go up there. So I said, why not? The building is on fire. Of course I knew right away. So I got out of the car and ran from there up the hill. It was just completely – my husband was up in the fields working, so he wasn’t there. My youngest daughter and her friend were playing up there. The other girl’s mother came up and got them out of there. And it just was too late that they couldn’t stop it. Fortunately, all the cows were outside except – my son had just got a new little calf. We got it out. Simon got her out but she ran back in the barn. And he couldn’t get her. So the whole barn was completely gone. And then the house was gone because it was adjoining. The house was hitched to it, so that was too damaged to build it up again.</p> <p>KO: What did you do after that?</p> <p>00:22:35</p> <p>MR: I think we stayed at my mother’s. We weren’t farming. We sold the cows. I don’t know. My husband started building houses after that. It’s a blank.</p> <p>KO: Well, maybe it will come back to you.</p> <p>MR: I have a bad time to get over that. We lost all our clothes. We stayed with my mother and father. They lived in Hartford. I think he came up here and built the house.</p> <p>KO: Here in Wilder?</p>
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	<p>MR: Yea.</p> <p>KO: So you eventually moved into Wilder?</p> <p>MR: Yea. That was mostly the farm stuff. After we moved up here, we bought some land. We built down on that same road: yellow house that sits up on the left. We owned all that land – you know what I’m talking about.</p> <p>KO: Yup, Fred drove me up behind the farm.</p> <p>MR: No we’re right in the village. Did you come up the back way?</p> <p>KO: We came from the Norwich side.</p> <p>MR: Where the farm was, and the pasture, he built a house way down below. We sold off all of the grazing part. Turned them into lots and sold them.</p> <p>KO: So you had to sell all of your cattle after the fire.</p> <p>MR: Yes. So, like I say, that was the only time I actually lived on a farm right there. It was fun.</p>
00:25:39	00:25:39
Owning the farm	<p>KO: What were your responsibilities on the farm when you and your husband owned it?</p> <p>MR: What were mine? Nothing.</p> <p>KO: Even better.</p>
Animal care; kids on the farm	<p>MR: I stayed in the house and played the piano. That’s the thing with farming – that you wait until the milking is done. The way they start out milking. Cows get very uncomfortable, especially if they just come in from the pasture. They are heavy with milk. You can’t just leave them, you have to finish it. So you never knew what time supper was going to be. The kids liked it. They had a good time on that farm.</p> <p>KO: Did they help out your husband?</p>
Kids on the farm and at school	<p>MR: They liked to go get – my youngest daughter, she had a pal that liked to be up there and play. They always loved to go up there and get the cows up on the hill, lead them down to the barn. And my son was a</p>

<p>00:28:23</p>	<p>senior in high school then. He used to play football and basketball, the whole deal, and he'd have to come home and start milking cows.</p> <p>KO: I've heard that from a few people. If you wanted to play anything at school, you still had to come home in time for chores.</p> <p>MR: That's right. And he was at football practice, the day the barn burned. He was watching all the smoke. You could see it from the high school down here. Somebody finally went up and got him and told him. That was kind of bad because they got his new little calf out, but it went back in. He felt really bad about that.</p> <p>KO: Why would it go back in?</p> <p>MR: I suppose that's where he figured it that's where he was. Or he was frightened with everything was going on, with hoses and people yelling and running around. He was a very new calf, a cute little calf.</p>
<p>Milking</p>	<p>00:28:23</p> <p>KO: When your husband was milking, was that different than the way your grandfather milked?</p> <p>MR: Oh yes, definitely. My grandfather was all hand milking. And up there you have the things that are hitched and then you just turn the switch on. I think. I don't think we had milking machines. Sorry.</p> <p>KO: that's okay.</p> <p>MR: I didn't go out in the barn very much, as you can tell.</p> <p>KO: Completely by hand? There was a transition between completely by hand and completely mechanized.</p> <p>MR: I want to say it was mechanized. I can't remember the year. I'm not very good about dates. So I never lived on a farm and was connected with farms. I liked it myself. I used to like to go up to the farm. And I liked the farm we had. Who'd you say?</p> <p>KO: Fred Davis.</p> <p>MR: He delivered milk, I think his father. I think it must have been their own.</p> <p>KO: I believe so. They had Mapleside Farm right there in Hartford Village. And – what happened after that? I don't remember exactly. I</p>

	<p>have so many farms in my head.</p> <p>MR: I know. How many have you done?</p> <p>{Discussion of who has been interviewed.}</p>
<p>00:31:15</p> <p>Tank truck to pick up milk; selling milk; bulk tank</p> <p>Husband farming</p> <p>Fred Rogers</p> <p>Farm in Vershire</p>	<p>00:31:15</p> <p>MR: Some farmers had more equipment than others. That's why I can't remember. I know there used to be a big tanker truck that would back into –</p> <p>KO: Come and get the milk?</p> <p>MR: Yea.</p> <p>KO: So you sold the milk from your farm, you and your husband?</p> <p>MR: Yea.</p> <p>KO: And a tank came to get it? Was that the bulk tank days?</p> <p>MR: Yea. The tank used to back right in there and take it. We didn't live there that long actually. My husband wasn't a farmer.</p> <p>KO: He wanted to try it out.</p> <p>MR: I mean, he loved it, but I think when he was younger, he used to help farmers. But he didn't really know that much about farming. He did okay. We weren't starving or anything.</p> <p>KO: What was his name?</p> <p>MR: Fred Rogers.</p> <p>KO: And where did you two meet?</p> <p>MR: At high school. And he lived here in Wilder. I lived in Hartford. So he was kind of having a good time, I think. He did. He liked farming. We ended up buying a farm up in Vershire. He stayed up there and I stayed in Wilder because I was working. He had a farm up there. I don't remember. It was a good size barn for the cattle. And it didn't last a long time. He really didn't make anything on that. So we sold all the cattle. I stayed down there and he stayed up there. He always liked to be out in the country, and he really did love farming. But there's more to it than just going in and milking cows.</p>

	<p>KO: Yea, it's a hard life.</p> <p>MR: So that. When Pat asked me, I said I guess somebody told her I was brought up on a farm. I guess you could say I sort of was with my grandfather's farm because I spent a lot of time there.</p>
00:34:40	00:34:40
Memories of grandfather	<p>KO: Do you have any favorite stories of you and your siblings on the farm or with your grandfather?</p> <p>MR: I just loved my grandfather. He was a typical Irish. He came over on a boat from Ireland. He had a little bit of a brogue. And he had a great sense of humor. I loved him. His wife, she died real early. But like I say, that's my only experience actually being that close to a farm growing up. And the one we had in Hartford. I just kept the house. I didn't have anything to do with the farm.</p> <p>KO: That's alright. You don't have to be an expert. I just want to hear about your grandfather.</p> <p>MR: He was great. And I can't think of anything else.</p> <p>KO: What was your favorite thing about the farm?</p>
Favorite farm memories	<p>MR: My favorite thing was when the relatives all came. They came from Bellows Falls and Plattsburgh, NY. It was a fun time. The kids especially. We just went crazy. That was fun.</p> <p>KO: Was that for big holidays?</p>
Holidays	<p>MR: Mostly. My folks both worked then in the mill. Do you remember the mill?</p> <p>KO: Not personally, but I've heard of it.</p> <p>MR: Of course, that the thing in Hartford for work.</p> <p>KO: The Woolen Mill?</p>
Woolen mill fire	<p>MR: Yes. That was a terrible fire. Where I lived when that burned was up on the hill, on top of the hill. Oh what a fire that was. I could see it right from my house. Those mills, they put – I don't know why – the put oil on their floors. This mill was a woolen mill so probably to keep – there was a lot of stuff from the air. And the floors are all oiled. They used to oil the floors. I never really knew why, but that's they only thing</p>

	<p>I can think of. So when that burned it was a horrendous fire, down at the foot of the Hartford bridge. It's still there, right?</p> <p>KO: Some of it.</p> <p>MR: When she [Pat Stark] asked me to do this, I thought I didn't really spend that much time.</p> <p>KO: Well it's the bits and pieces.</p> <p>MR: But it was a thing that I enjoyed when I was growing up. Kids loved to go to farms.</p> <p>KO: Yea, I always wished I grew up on a farm.</p> <p>MR: Well there was always something to do, that's for sure.</p> <p>KO: You said you had to go fill up the milk jars in the basement? Or the milk bottles? And you didn't like to do that.</p>
Available milk	<p>MR: Oh, no. We didn't sell our milk. We used to put it in a big vat. Then you put it in bottles. We didn't put the whole vat in the thing. We weren't selling it. I mean, we sold it to some milk place. It was probably out of town. It's got to be. It came with a big truck.</p> <p>KO: So when you wanted milk, you would just go get some?</p> <p>MR: Yes.</p> <p>KO: And that was in the basement of the house to keep it cool enough?</p> <p>MR: No, that was in the barn there was one little room that cool.</p> <p>KO: Was it refrigerated or was it ice?</p> <p>MR: I think it was refrigerated.</p> <p>KO: Did you help out with the cows or just go look at them?</p>
Loved cows	<p>MR: I loved the cows, but I didn't spend much time in the barn. That wasn't my – Cows are so – if you go out in the wintertime, they are always so cozy and warm. I'd love to get a hold on them and keep warm from them. They just generate all this heat. That's because they're all chewing.</p> <p>KO: Were they Jersey or Holsteins?</p>

	<p>MR: They were a mixture. I don't know. Maybe they were Holsteins. I think they were all kind of brown and white. I don't know if that's the same breed. You see I didn't know about farming and still don't. It was nice because it was right in town. You weren't stuck way out until we bought that one up in Vershire. That was a little out of the way. I think it's a good life.</p> <p>KO: How so?</p>
Hard life	<p>MR: Farming. It's a lot of work, and you probably worked 24 hours a day when it's busy. But it's a nice job, so to say.</p> <p>KO: What do you think is the best part about it?</p>
Best part about farming	<p>MR: I don't know. Maybe because your family has to get together to help out. That kind of keeps your family in closer to you. Of course the kids were – my son wasn't too fond of it. The girls just like to go out and play in the hay. It's a good life if you run it and know how to farm, I think. I never did it that much, but I think it keeps the family together in lots of places, lots of time. I don't know how many farmers' kids went into it after they grew up, but I think a good percentage of them probably took over. I'm not sure.</p> <p>KO: I think it's been kind of a mix. Some people grew up and loved farming, and others just said, I'm glad I grew up that way, but I'm not a farmer.</p> <p>MR: You are or you aren't. It's a hard job. It's almost like 24 hours a day. There are so many things. You got a cow that's sick. You stay up all night if it's having her calf. You have to stay with it. It's a hard job.</p> <p>KO: Cows are high maintenance, I've heard. Well let's see, you said your mother would cook Sunday meals at your grandfather's house. Was there a particular meal that was her specialty or that she liked to cook?</p>
Mother cooking; uncles worked for the railroad	<p>MR: Nothing special. I remember her baking beans every weekend. Of course she had a woodstove. She had to get used to that. She stayed on the farm. She was maybe the last one to leave the farm. She had three brothers: Jim, John – three brothers. They all went to work for the railroad when they got out of school. They didn't go into the farming business. All three of them worked for the railroad. They worked a long time on the railroad. That's probably as good a job as probably farming in White River. There is a lot of train activity here.</p> <p>KO: It's a hub here.</p>

<p>00:46:00</p>	<p>MR: Yup. They used to help out once in a while on the farm.</p> <p>00:46:00</p> <p>KO: Did you ever ride horses on the farm?</p>
<p>Horses, dogs, cats</p>	<p>MR: No, I never rode. I was always afraid of horses. I always wished I had. My daughter rides a lot. She loves horses. They were too big and they were workhorses. They looked so huge to me. They were beautiful, big, heavy horses. I always wished that I had done that, but I didn't. Dogs are my specialty I guess. I can't have a dog here. And I'm not a big cat – I like cats, but dogs are my favorite.</p> <p>KO: Did you grandfather have a dog on the farm?</p> <p>MR: Yes. What were they: tan, white?</p> <p>KO: Labs? Collies?</p> <p>MR: I don't know. But how they liked to chase the cows.</p> <p>KO: Herd them in?</p> <p>MR: They know what they're supposed to do if it's a regular farm dog. Get them in a circle and get behind them barking.</p> <p>KO: One dog could do that or was there more than one?</p> <p>MR: Well we only had one dog. But there's a lot of people who farm a lot who I guess had more dogs. Beautiful dogs, usually black and white. I guess any dog could scare him.</p> <p>KO: I guess if something ran at you barking.</p> <p>MR: They seemed to enjoy that, being big shots moving the cows.</p>
<p>00:48:17</p>	<p>00:48:17</p> <p>KO: Were there chickens on the farm?</p> <p>MR: Yes, there were.</p> <p>KO: Were there lots?</p>
<p>Chickens,</p>	<p>MR: I did not like chickens. My cousins used to go in and get the eggs. I</p>

<p>eggs, plucking, slaughtering</p>	<p>didn't like chickens. I like chicken to eat. That was another thing. My parents used to kill the chickens and then they would dunk them in water to loosen up the feathers, and then they would pluck the chickens. Then they would eat them and we would them. It was alright when we got to that part. But I didn't want to watch them chop their heads off.</p> <p>KO: I wouldn't either.</p> <p>MR: My father used to do that.</p> <p>KO: Were the chickens to sell the eggs?</p> <p>MR: Oh no, we didn't have that many. We only had a few. And those were on the farm when my grandfather was there.</p> <p>KO: And you said your grandfather did a lot of haying.</p> <p>MR: Yes.</p> <p>KO: Did he grow corn or anything else?</p>
<p>Haying; loose hay; pitchfork;</p>	<p>MR: No, he didn't. I can remember him haying. Of course, you've seen all those things you've had. You get the hay together and run through with a horse or a tractor nowadays and it's got this thing on the back and pushes the hay to the back of the truck in a bale. And they pick up the bales. So that's changed a lot. I remember them – my cousins, the boys – used to be out there with a pitchfork. They put the rows and rows, and they had a wagon and a horse. The boys would get behind the wagon or even with the wagon and use a pitchfork to fill up the wagon with hay. They'd take it back to barn, pitchfork it out again. In those days they didn't have the things to lift them out. They're all baled and lifted and put out again into the barn. They didn't do that. The hay came in all loose in a wagon. You had to pitch all that hay. And that stuff used to get down and you'd get sweaty. It was a hard job.</p> <p>KO: I bet. So how did it get from loose hay into a bale of hay when your cousins were doing it?</p> <p>MR: Oh they didn't bale it. They just threw it in the barn loose. There used to be a big-</p> <p>KO: -hayloft-</p> <p>MR: -yea, and the doors, they just threw it in.</p> <p>KO: And just took it down as they needed it.</p> <p>MR: That was a hot messy – that stuff falling off when they're sweaty.</p>

	<p>Farmers work hard. Not so much now, but back then.</p> <p>KO: So your grandfather always had the manual machines. He didn't have the big mechanized balers.</p> <p>MR: Oh no, it was all hand.</p> <p>KO: Did he plow with horses or a tractor?</p> <p>MR: You know, I can't remember. He must have. I can sort of visualize him running that thing behind a horse, that makes rows. I would guess he did that.</p>
<p>00:53:10</p> <p>Playtime as a child; board games</p>	<p>00:53:10</p> <p>KO: What sorts of games did you and your siblings play on the farm?</p> <p>MR: We played a lot of board games. My husband's mother loved to play games. So the kids had somebody. She'd just walk in and they would play so and so. She loved to play games. So I don't care about playing, oh what are some of those games? I can't think of those games.</p> <p>KO: Risk?</p> <p>MR: Where you land on property?</p> <p>KO: Monopoly?</p> <p>MR: Oh that's one. Well there were a lot of kids games. I'd play once in a while.</p> <p>KO: What about when you played outside? What would you do, you and your brother and sister.</p>
<p>Riding bicycles; playing in the river; playing baseball</p>	<p>MR: The thing I remember mostly is riding bikes. I never had till I was a lot older. Kids used to always gather at our house. It's right on the street on Summer Street in Hartford. The ones that would come with bikes, we'd have to take turns and drive the bike. A lot of kids had them but we didn't have them till we were probably 9 or 10, or 20 or so. Of course we lived in the river. We were always there, all the time.</p> <p>KO: Where would you go down to the river?</p> <p>MR: You go down the bridge and turn right and go up that road. There used to be a dam up there between there and the water on that road. The dam used to furnish water for the mill. They had – what's that water</p>

<p>00:59:04</p> <p>Aunt Aggie & her visits; grandfather from Ireland</p>	<p>when it's in a little area.</p> <p>KO: I don't know. A lock maybe?</p> <p>MR: Anyway the dam held the water back, and it would open up some.</p> <p>KO: The locks?</p> <p>MR: A lot like locks. They would feed the mill. They used to die their own wool and everything down there. We used to spend – when the water wasn't very high, there was a big island in the middle of the river. We used to spend days and days playing baseball.</p> <p>KO: In the river?</p> <p>MR: Yea. I think that was – back then we were always at the swimming hole above the dam. That's where I learned to swim.</p> <p>KO: This would have been a good week for swimming down at the river. It was so hot this week – or last week.</p> <p>MR: Oh yea. This weather – crazy.</p> <p>{Mentions tropical storm down in Florida, weather in New York. Asks where KO lives.}</p> <p>00:59:04</p> <p>MR: I had an aunt who lived in Waterbury. Aunt Aggie. She was my grandfather's sister. She used to come down every once in a while. She used to make something – it's a cheese thing and you put it on crackers. Us kids loved it.</p> <p>KO: Like a cheese spread?</p> <p>MR: No, you could pour it on your crackers. I suppose it's like having a hunk of cheese and melt it. What do you call it? I don't know. We used to be glad to see her coming because she'd make her cheese. She was a nice old lady. She never got married. She was an old maid. I forgot all about Aggie. That was my grandfather's sister.</p> <p>KO: So the farm that your grandfather owned, that's where your mother grew up. And did your grandfather grow up there or did he buy the farm when he was adult?</p> <p>MR: My grandfather. I don't know. I never asked that question. I don't</p>
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Wintertime activities	<p>know how long he had that. As long as I could remember back then. Oh, he came over from Ireland.</p> <p>KO: Oh you said that.</p> <p>MR: That's right. I think he came, he probably was – I think he came alone. I don't know or remember how that went. They sent him over or something. He had kind of a brogue.</p> <p>KO: And his sister, Aggie, you said. Did he have other siblings?</p> <p>MR: No. That was all he had. I don't know if anything else would be.</p> <p>KO: Did you ever go over in the wintertime? Where would you go sledding?</p> <p>MR: We used to slide down that road. That road that comes out by the VA. We used to start at the top of that hill and slide all the way into Hartford, all the way down that road. And traverse used to be a big thing. You know what that is? It had these things – they called the thing a traverse. You could probably get 7 or 8 kids on one traverse.</p> <p>KO: Like a tobagon?</p> <p>MR: It was wooden and had these wooden runners. We used to come down that road. It wasn't the traffic then. We didn't know that. Well, that's a good place to slide, too, where my grandfather lived. His house like this, and there was a bank kind of going up. So it was a good place out in the field so we could slide. And we had those things – tobaggons. I never liked those because you couldn't steer them. When we went down the road, we weren't supposed to do that. We'd send them down so we could see them and they could see if there was anything coming.</p>
01:04:06 Hartford is the best place to be	<p>01:04:06</p> <p>KO: What was Hartford Village like when you grew up there?</p> <p>MR: Growing up there, I always thought it's the best place to be. I loved it. We were out every single night. We really didn't go anywhere so there was always a bunch of kids to play with outside. Who do you see here? Once in a while I'll see some boys over there playing in that fields. Other, they're in cars. Otherwise we spent a lot of time sitting on our porch and gabbing, talking about people. Oh that girl, she's a pain the neck.</p> <p>KO: What sorts of businesses in town?</p>

<p>Businesses in Hartford Village</p>	<p>MR: Which town?</p> <p>KO: Hartford.</p> <p>MR: There was a drugstore. I don't know how early that drugstore was there. It was there when I was probably 16. They had a soda fountain. There was a barber, right in the drugstore, where you cut your hair. Later on there was a good size grocery store that came in there. And since there has been people in and out, and there were some others, that used to be on Main Street. I don't know what's in the those stores now.</p> <p>KO: It seems kind of empty nowadays.</p> <p>MR: It is. Or it's more businesses than people that I remember. Of course that filling station wasn't there. That house was there.</p>
<p>Post office</p>	<p>KO: There was a post office there, right?</p> <p>MR: Oh, where was the post office? I don't know if there was a post office? I don't remember my parents getting mail or sending mail. There had to be.</p> <p>KO: Just curious.</p> <p>MR: There had to be. Where did the mail come from?</p> <p>KO: Maybe in White River, down here?</p> <p>MR: I don't remember. Oh, yes, there was a post office right on the front street, come to think of it. It was partially house. And the people who ran the post office lived in the house. We did have a post office. And like I say, had that store. That was a good store.</p>
<p>01:08:39</p>	<p>01:08:39</p>
<p>Shopping in Lebanon, NH</p>	<p>KO: Did you do most of your shopping in Hartford or did your parents go to White River?</p> <p>MR: They used to go to Lebanon every Saturday night. My uncle had a car. By that time I was probably in high school. He had a car, and he and my folks used to go with him. I wasn't in high school. I was younger than that. So we'd go to Lebanon because it was all kinds of stores over there, we thought. And my mother and my aunt used to go shopping, and then after they got through shopping, we would all go to the drugstore and have ice cream. So that's why I always went. It was clothes</p>

<p>Best friend – Ann Davis</p>	<p>shopping. We shopped locally in Hartford because we did have a store there, a nice store. A good place to grow up. I think. I never grew up anywhere else.</p> <p>My best friend always used to say as we grew older. She’s not here. She passed away. We were inseparable. And we always used to say, didn’t we have a great time when we were young. We didn’t even know it, but we were having such a good time. When you think about the ghettos and kids sitting on the streets, we thought we had a time. I think we did. She an aunt that used to take us in her car, and invite us for Sunday dinner. We were inseparable. That was a good part of my life, was having such a real good friend. Right up till she passed away. In high school – she did go away to college and I worked here up in Norwich.</p> <p>KO: What was her name?</p> <p>MR: Ann Davis. She lived right there on the corner in Hartford as you turned to go up Christian Street.</p> <p>KO: So you grew up together and then did she live in Hartford as an adult as well?</p> <p>MR: Oh yes.</p> <p>KO: That’s nice. So you always had each other.</p> <p>MR: We were tight there for a while. I lived all my life in Hartford.</p> <p>KO: It’s a good place to be.</p>
<p>Working at the school</p>	<p>MR: I think so. I’m not one to travel either. I have a house in Florida – my daughter lives down there – and I don’t have any desire to do that. I worked at the school for 40 years, so I’m willing just to sit.</p> <p>KO: What did you do at the school?</p> <p>MR: I was the secretary to the principal. That girl who came to the door said to me, did you used to work down at the school? After she said who she was, I recognized her. Did you used to work down at the school? A long time ago. I liked that job. I must have, to stay all that time. I did, I loved it. Being around kids is the best thing you could do. I had a good boss, so I was lucky.</p> <p>I don’t know some of those people that you’re doing this for. Pat Stark, I have no idea. I know she’s big in the history.</p> <p>KO: Yes, she’s very involved in the historical society and she works for</p>

	<p>the lister's office. She's very nice.</p> <p>MR: I think she does a lot of good things.</p> <p>KO: Yea. They work pretty hard over there in the offices.</p> <p>MR: Where's this?</p> <p>KO: In the Hartford Offices – the municipal offices.</p> <p>MR: What's her job?</p> <p>KO: I don't know exactly her job, but she works in the Lister's Office.</p> <p>MR: Oh she does. She gets probably all the complaints when the list comes out.</p> <p>{Lister's office mention. Aunt & daughter as town clerks. Asks KO if she knows the area, and asks about her job.}</p>
<p>01:16:00</p> <p>Memories</p> <p>Feeling lucky</p>	<p>01:16:00</p> <p>KO: Well, let's see. I guess I don't want to keep you too long. But do you have any memories or any thoughts of your grandfather or just of the farm. When you close your eyes, what do you think of?</p> <p>MR: Say that again.</p> <p>KO: Well I like to ask at the end, if there are any things that you would like to add. Like if you were to close your eyes and think of your grandfather, what would come to mind? What would you like to keep for posterity?</p> <p>MR: What would I like to keep?</p> <p>KO: To pass on, a memory.</p> <p>MR: It was probably the farm. I had a good time. I was kind of a tomboy anyway. I probably should have been a boy. I just did something with the boys for some time and they used to call me a tomboy. I just think I was very lucky. I think I was blessed in my childhood and growing up, my family. I have three great kids. That's what I feel. Once in a while, I think I'm really lucky. I consider myself lucky.</p> <p>KO: Well that's all that matters.</p>

01:21:35	<p>MR: I've been very lucky. Very fortunate. I can't complain one bit.</p> <p>KO: That's nice to hear.</p> <p>MR: My husband committed suicide –</p> <p>KO: -I'm sorry –</p> <p>MR: -that put a crink in that.</p> <p>KO: I'd imagine. You have your kids. You have your grandkids. I see a lot of kids on the wall.</p> <p>MR: How many do I have? Two, four, five.</p> <p>{Discussion of grandkids. Grandson played hockey for Michigan. Loved the games. Visiting Michigan and stadium. Talks about other grandkids and nieces and nephews. Brother and sister.}</p> <p>01:21:35</p> <p>MR: So how many more places do you have to stop today?</p> <p>{KO explains transcription, project and project products. Asks about KO's background in historic preservation.}</p>
01:23:25	<p>01:23:35</p> <p>KO: Is there anything else you would like to add?</p> <p>MR: I can't think of anything. I wasn't very –</p> <p>KO: I think you added more than you think. The little bits and pieces you can pull out. People always say, "I don't know that much."</p> <p>MR: Once you get started.</p> <p>KO: The memories that fill the gaps.</p> <p>MR: You can make what you want of them, as far as I'm concerned.</p> <p>KO: If we just had dates and the bigger pictures, then we wouldn't have the whole picture. It's nice to have the stories even more so than the dates, I think.</p> <p>MR: Oh absolutely.</p> <p>KO: That's what matters.</p>

	<p>MR: I love to see – sometimes they have old pictures in the paper. I think, how the heck did they get that picture.</p> <p>KO: It's amazing what people have.</p> <p>MR: They post these pictures up to the co-op in Hanover. They post them where you can eat. Have you been there? It's the co-op, I think. They have all these older pictures on the wall. They've obviously taken probably in Hanover or somewhere or Lebanon. It looked more like Hanover. They are regular photographs that photographers have. And they bring them in and show them. They are very interesting. They swap it around every so often.</p> <p>KO: Oh neat.</p> <p>MR: A lot of people really do a lot of research.</p> <p>KO: It's good to understand where we've come from in order to know where we're going, I think.</p> <p>MR: Yea. And you're always surprised by something you've never heard. It can't be that. I think people maybe are getting into it more. I mean they must have everything in Hanover that you could ever want to see or look up. It's pretty neat there. It's nice to eat up there.</p> <p>KO: I'll have to go by sometime.</p> <p>MR: And the name of that place on Main Street. Anyway the food is so good.</p> <p>KO: Well I have a few forms to ask you to sign, but thank you so much.</p> <p>MR: Oh you're welcome.</p>
01:26:58	END OF INTERVIEW.