Historical Overview and Oral Histories

Beaver County Home

Potter Township, Pennsylvania

1853-1959

Sponsored by:

Shell Chemical Appalachia LLC

Prepared by:

AECOM

September 2020

Table of Contents

Appendices

List of Figures

1.0 Introduction

For three hundred years before the United States passed the Social Security Act of 1935, the availability of aid for the most vulnerable in America (the poor, disabled, and elderly) was dependent on American laws derived from England's Elizabethan Poor Laws. In the early colonial period, the poor and debilitated were frequently cared for privately by extended families, churches, and ethnic associations. With an increase in population and a growing influx of immigrants, public assistance became increasingly necessary.

Depending on their circumstances, those requiring public assistance might be helped by what was termed "Outdoor Relief," where the recipient received money, food, clothing, or goods while staying at home rather than entering an institution. Other options in Colonial America included "boarding them out"; "auctioning them off" (to the lowest bidder who might use their labor); and what came to be known as "Indoor Relief," which was aid provided in an institution such as an almshouse. In the case of an almshouse (also known at the time as a poorhouse), shelter, food, clothing, and medical care were provided, frequently in exchange for physical labor.[1]

Beaver County's almshouse was originally established in 1853 for the poor and needy of Beaver County, Pennsylvania (PA). Over time, the institution would come to be referred to by a number of different names: *Beaver County Home*, *Beaver County Home and Poor Farm*, *County Home*, *Poor Farm*, *County Farm*, *Poorhouse*, *Almshouse*, *and Beaver County Home and Hospital*; several of these names are referenced herein. The Beaver County Home was closed in 1959 and sat largely dormant for the next 55 years, until it was removed by Horsehead Corporation in 2014-2015.

Documentation for this historical overview and oral histories of the Beaver County Home included interviews of seven persons, called "narrators" for the purposes of the document. The oral historian initially consulted with the Beaver County Historical Research & Landmarks Foundation (BCHR&LF) for recommendations of prospective interview candidates. Speaking with one person often led to suggestions for others. The interviews took place in November and December, 2016. Videotaped interview sessions, lasting from approximately 35 to 90 minutes, were conducted in people's homes or at the Captain William Vicary Mansion in Freedom, PA (home of the BCHR&LF).

While the historical narrative report for the Beaver County Home accounts for the general chronology and many key figures of the institution, the oral histories enrich the document with additional perspectives. The narrators also share their thoughts on Shell Chemical Appalachia LLC's (hereafter Shell) coming to Beaver County to build a petrochemical complex on the property where the Beaver County Home once stood. The historical overview was prepared by AECOM Senior Historian Ingrid Wuebber and the oral history interviews were conducted by AECOM Oral History Specialist Julie Throckmorton.

[1] David Wagner, *The Poorhouse: America's Forgotten Institution* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2005), 7-8.

The Shell petrochemical complex was subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which required parties to consider the effects of the project on historic resources. The county home was located in the project's area of potential effects, and was determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It was determined that the project would have an adverse effect upon the county home, and a Programmatic Agreement was entered into between the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office and Shell to mitigate the adverse effect. This report addresses one of the mitigation stipulations in the agreement.

Acknowledgments

This report would not have been possible without the interest and availability of a variety of individuals. Thanks are due to the BCHR&LF Executive Director Brenda Applegate and researcher Roger Applegate, as well as BCHR&LF Trustee Charles Townsend, who provided a number of historical photographs. Gratitude is also due to the narrators who provided oral history interviews: JoAnn Bishop, Jim Camp, Bill Elliott, Jr., Melissa Haney, Jamie Hoskinson, Sam Moore, and Jeff Snedden.

2.0 Poor Relief in Pennsylvania

Colonial Pennsylvania

The Beaver County Home had its origins in customs and laws dating back to Colonial America. In the early colonial period, the poor and debilitated were frequently cared for privately by extended families, churches, and ethnic associations. An example of an ethnic association in Colonial America was the Scots' Charitable Society of Boston, which was founded in 1657 and modelled on the Royal Scottish Corporation that provided aid to impoverished Scots in London who were not entitled to parish poor relief.[2] An example of church support was the Friends Almshouse (Figure 1), which was constructed in Philadelphia, PA in 1713 and run by the Religious Society of Friends (i.e. Quakers) for poor, widowed, and aged members of the society.

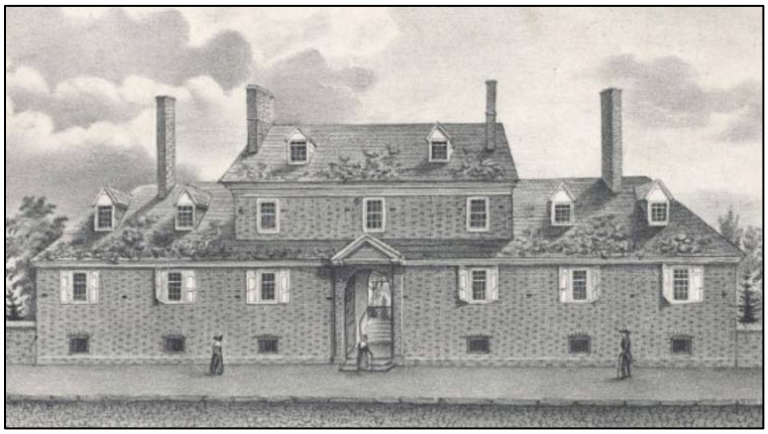


Figure 1. The Friends House, Philadelphia, PA (1713). [3]

With an increase in population and a growing influx of immigrants, public assistance became increasingly necessary in Colonial America. Pennsylvania, in step with other British colonies, modeled its social welfare system on the one used in England in which public assistance was financed through compulsory taxation. Philadelphia was Colonial America's most populous city and as such found it necessary to manage poor relief for a larger segment of society at an earlier date than other parts of the colonies. Pennsylvania's elected representatives met for the first time in 1682 to enact a series of statutes that became the basis for its government. Many of these laws reflected Quaker religious beliefs, including dealing with the poor. People who could no longer support themselves or their family could apply to their local justices of the peace who would provide for them until the county arranged "their future comfortable subsistence."[4] Pennsylvania created a special administrative body in 1705 to manage poor relief. One or more of the "solid, substantial" residents of each township were appointed to be Overseers of the Poor for the

[2] Tanja Bueltmann, *Clubbing Together: Ethnicity, Civility and Formal Sociability in the Scottish Diaspora to 1930* (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2014), 102.
[3] Library Company of Pennsylvania. http://librarycompany.org/.
[4] "The 'Great Law' – December 7, 1682," *Our Documentary Heritage*, Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, September 22, 2017, http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/documents/1681-1776/great-law.html.

ensuing year. The Overseers determined how much to levy for poor relief in their jurisdiction, collected the poor tax, and distributed the charity.[5]

Philadelphia's welfare program provided both Outdoor and Indoor Relief. As previously noted, paupers who received the basic requirements of life in the form of cash or goods while remaining at home were in an Outdoor Relief program, while those sent to the almshouse (poorhouse) received Indoor Relief. The Philadelphia City Almshouse was built in 1732 to provide accommodation for forty or fifty people in dire need. However, tax revenue was inadequate to deal with the rising tide of indigents who swamped the Philadelphia City Almshouse or needed Outdoor Relief. In answer, a private/public partnership built a larger almshouse where all those requiring assistance could be housed. The inmates, as many almshouse/poorhouse residents continued to be called well into the 20th century, were put to work in an effort to reform the so-called indolent and break the cycle of poverty (the term "inmate" is contrasted with the term "prisoner", with the latter referring to those in a house of correction).

The Philadelphia Almshouse and House of Employment, commonly known as the Bettering House (Figure 2), was built in 1766-1767 – the largest building in the American colonies at that time. City fathers soon discovered that institutionalization failed to reduce poverty or the costs of poor relief. The system of Outdoor Relief was reinstated, which helped prevent overcrowding in the Bettering House.[6]

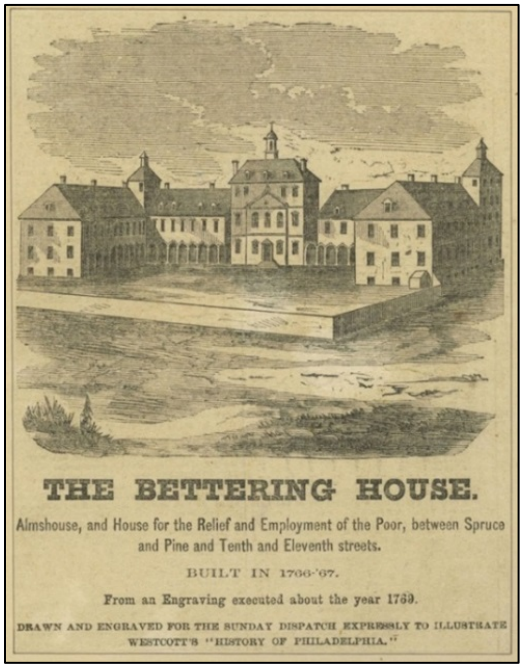


Figure 2. The Bettering House, Philadelphia, PA (1767). [7]

[5] William Clinton Heffner, *History of Poor Relief Legislation in Pennsylvania, 1682-1913* (Cleona, PA: Holzapfel Publishing Co., 1913), 45-46.
[6] Karin Wulf, "Gender and the Political Economy of Poor Relief in Colonial Philadelphia," In *Down And Out in Early America*, edited by Billy G. Smith (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004), 163-188; Mara Kaktins, "Almshouses (Poorhouses)," *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*, August 23, 2017, http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/almshouses-poorhouses.
[7] Free Library of Philadelphia. https://libwww.freelibrary.org/digital/item/pdcp00640.

Society at large and the Overseers of the Poor made distinctions between the "deserving poor" (who were poor through no fault of their own, due to illness, accident, age, or a temporary loss of work) and the "undeserving poor" (who were poor because of laziness or personal problems such as insobriety). Overseers had the authority to place a pauper with someone in the community who would be paid for his upkeep. Alternately, the Overseers might "auction off" the pauper to the lowest bidder willing to feed and house him. These last two methods of poor relief were commonly applied to the elderly and chronically ill. The disabled and the orphaned were also boarded out or auctioned off and expected to work for their keep.[8]

The first province-wide poorhouse legislation was passed by the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1771. It enabled Overseers of the Poor to acquire houses in which the infirm could be sheltered and the able-bodied put to work. It was not until 1798, however, that Lancaster County and Chester County built the first county poorhouses in Pennsylvania by a special act of the state legislature.[9]

County Poorhouse System

In the 1820s, the Guardians of the Poor, as the Overseers of the Poor were then called in Philadelphia, sent a delegation to Baltimore, New York, Providence, Boston and Salem to investigate how other cities were dealing with their indigent citizens. The delegation found that Philadelphia expended a great deal more in Outdoor Relief than any other city. In their opinion most of the public aid went to people whose own behavior were the root cause for their poverty. Philadelphia had the added burden of a large immigrant population applying for assistance. The delegation submitted their findings in 1827 along with recommendations that would have far-reaching consequences: reduce the numbers of people receiving Outdoor Relief; provide only the most basic necessities; institutionalize the majority of the poor in almshouses; and make them work as a condition of their support.[10]

A new poor law for Philadelphia was enacted in 1828. It authorized the Guardians of the Poor to sell the Bettering House and build a new and much larger almshouse in West Philadelphia, the Blockley Almshouse, which opened in 1835 (Figure 3). The Blockley complex included a poorhouse, insane asylum, infirmary and orphanage. Inmates in the poorhouse had to pay for their upkeep with their labor according to their physical abilities.[11]

[8] Wagner, 7-8.
[9] Benjamin Joseph Kebaner, *Public Poor Relief in America, 1790-1860* (New York, NY: Arno Press, 1976), 84-85.
[10] Thomas Rogers, et al., *Report Of The Committee Appointed By The Board Of Guardians Of The Poor Of The City And Districts Of Philadelphia, To Visit The Cities Of Baltimore, New York, Providence, Boston, And Salem* (Philadelphia, PA: The Board, 1827), 21-30.
[11] "An Act for the relief and employment of the poor of the city of Philadelphia, the district of Southwark, and the townships of the Northern Liberties and Penn. Passed 6th March, 1828," *The Register of Pennsylvania.* Volume I, January to July 1828, edited by Samuel Hazard, (Philadelphia, PA: W. F. Geddes, printer, 1828).

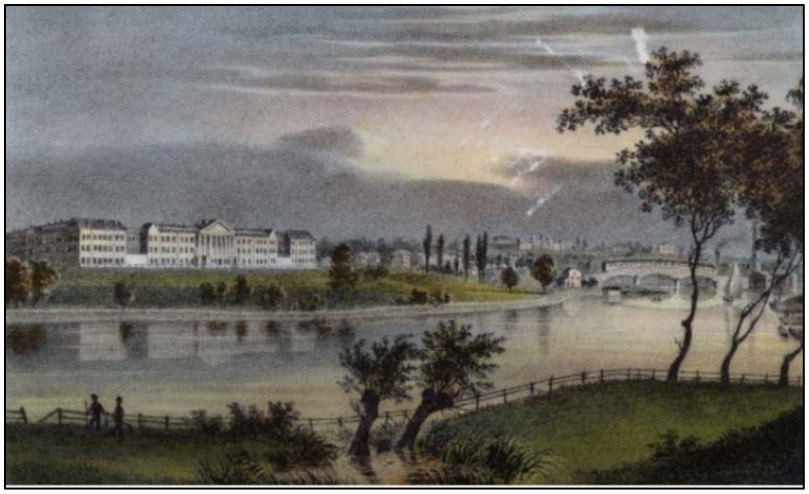


Figure 3. The Blockley Almshouse, Philadelphia (1835). [12]

Nineteenth century welfare policy was based on the core belief that economic failure was due to moral failure and that intemperance, a major cause of poverty, resulted from moral deviancy.[13] Critics honed in on the practice of Outdoor Relief, believing being "on the dole" destroyed the incentive to work and made the poor idle and wasteful. In the hard times following the financial panics of 1819 and 1837, more Americans than ever before sank into poverty (the Panic of 1819 was the first major peacetime financial crisis in the United States, which led to a general collapse of the economy through 1821; the Panic of 1837 was a financial crisis that touched off a major recession that lasted until the mid-1840s). Reformers pressed for the establishment of county institutions following the Philadelphia model to house the elderly, destitute, chronically ill, disabled and mentally ill.

The Pennsylvania State Legislature passed the first state-wide poor law in 1836. It codified many of the common practices utilized by local Overseers. For example, in return for aid, men were compelled to do road work or were boarded out as farm laborers. Apprenticeships were arranged for orphaned children or minors with parents too poor to maintain them. The law clarified who was responsible for providing aid to paupers and mandated that the Overseers publish their annual accounts in local newspapers.[14]

Institutionalization became the standard public response to the problem of poverty, but officials enacted the program with a wide variety of skill, sympathy and diligence. The larger the institution, the more urban the setting, the more pressing the problem of poor relief, then the greater the likelihood that conditions would be unsatisfactory. Inmates did not necessarily fare well in smaller township or borough poorhouses. Often the poorhouse was located in remote and inaccessible parts of the county.[15]

---

[12] Library Company of Pennsylvania. http://librarycompany.org/

[13] David J. Rothman, *The Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic* (New Brunswick, NJ: Aldine Transaction, rev. ed. 1971), 161-163.

[14] Benjamin Parke and Ovid F. Johnson, *A Digest of the Revised Code and Acts Passed by the Legislature between the 7th day of April 1830, and the 16th day of June 1836, Forming With Purdon's Digest of 1830, A Complete Digest of the Laws of Pennsylvania, To the Present Time.* (Philadelphia, PA: James Kay Jr. & Brother, 1837), 675-683.

[15] Rothman, 202; Emil Frankel, *Poor Relief in Pennsylvania: a State-Wide Survey* (Harrisburg, PA: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dept. of Welfare, 1925), 9.

The institution of the poorhouse and poor farm played their most dominant role in the nation's social fabric between 1830 and 1940. In Pennsylvania, most county poorhouses were attached to a farm and promoted self-sufficiency. Administrators assumed that working on a farm would produce beneficial physical and moral effects on inmates, by removing them from urban temptations.[16] Reformers believed sending someone to a county institution was preferable to earlier policies that had included auctioning off a person to the lowest bidder or shuffling the poor, aged and infirmed off to other towns.[17]

Most nineteenth century observers painted similarly depressing portraits of poorhouses. Although an occasional county or unusual superintendent might run a good poorhouse, most remained dreary, lifeless, and degrading.[18] The typical poorhouse was managed by a politically-appointed superintendent without any previous experience and no authority to make improvements without the consent of county commissioners. Ideally, he (the majority of superintendents were men) would be skilled at farming, bookkeeping, health care and social work. It helped to have a wife who functioned as the poorhouse matron, in charge of the female inmates and domestic staff.[19]

Like many other states, Pennsylvania had a State Welfare Board that made annual inspections of all poorhouses. State officials transmitted their findings to the local authorities but could only make recommendations. Pennsylvania was somewhat unique in having agencies such as the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Public Health that could force local authorities to take action where fire risk or bad sanitary conditions were found by State inspectors.[20]

On the whole, management and control of poorhouses was vested in local governments, and State authorities and the general public knew little about them. In consequence, American poorhouses ran the gamut from those that were well-run economic institutions giving sympathetic care to the inmates to mismanaged wasteful facilities guilty of neglect, indifference or cruelty.[21]

The idea of the poorhouse had fallen out of favor with social welfare experts by the late nineteenth century, at least for groups such as the elderly and disabled.[22] For most people in need, poorhouses were not a permanent or even long-term residence; rather a temporary refuge during times of personal crisis or economic distress. They provided shelter for the poor during the cold winter months or a refuge for unmarried pregnant women or a repository for orphans,

[16] Monique Bourque, "The Peculiar Characteristic of Christian Communities: The County Almshouses of the Delaware Valley, 1790-1860," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture,* 6 Shaping Communities (1997): 60-73. Vernacular Architecture Forum, March 23, 2017, http://www.jsor.org/stable/3514363.
[17] Michael B. Katz, "Poorhouses and the Origins of the Public Old Age Home," in *The Millbank Memorial Fund Quarterly, Health and Society,* 62, no. 1 (Winter 1984):110-140. Wiley on behalf of the Millbank Memorial Fund. Accessed March 23, 2017, http://www.jstor.org/stable/3349894.
[18] Ibid., 125.
[19] Ed Sweeny, *Poorhouse Sweeny* (New York, NY: Boni & Liveright, 1927), 18
[20] Estelle M. Stewart, *The Cost of American Almshouses: Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, No. 386* (Washington, DC: GPO, 1925), 3.
[21] Ibid.
[22] Wagner, *The Poorhouse*, 200.

the sick, the disabled, and the elderly. About half of all the inmates stayed less than three years, a number that included those who died there.[23]

During the nineteenth century, a considerable number of inmates worked on the poor farms, helping the poorhouse to become more self-sufficient. The inmates defrayed the cost of their maintenance with their labor. In 1875, the Beaver County Home cost $8,200 (the equivalent of $198,330 in 2020 dollars) to operate annually in addition to the $1,270 ($30,700 in 2020 dollars) that the County had provided for Outdoor Relief.[24] But by 1923, only 10 percent of the 8,000 or so inmates living in Pennsylvania poorhouses were able-bodied enough to work on the farm. Poor farms struggled to make ends meet, relying upon the labor provided by a small group of able-bodied poorhouse inmates who often took the opportunity in summer to find paid work. By 1925, Pennsylvania's poorhouse facilities occupied 17,300 acres of land, of which 10,390 acres were under cultivation.[25]

In 1917 the Pennsylvania State legislature created the Old-Age Pension Commission to investigate the development of a pension system for the state's elderly residents. It quickly became clear that the state had a large problem: 43 percent of its population had no means of supporting themselves in old age other than continuing to earn a living. In order to understand the situation faced by the state's elderly population, personal interviews were conducted with residents of fraternal and charity homes in the cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Reading and more than 3,000 inmates in Pennsylvania's eighty-two poorhouses.[26]

A picture begins to emerge of the typical poorhouse resident in Pennsylvania at the time of World War I. The Commission found that three-quarters of the inmates were aged, i.e., over the age of 50, with most falling between 65 and 85. There were a disproportionate number of males, about two to one. The majority of inmates were single or widowed, had no living children, or had relatives incapable of supporting them. Nearly half of Pennsylvania's poorhouse inmates were foreign born, predominantly from Ireland, Germany, England or the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Many were naturalized citizens. The lack of a social net was perhaps more keenly felt by immigrants who had left family and friends back in the old country decades earlier. About 77 percent of all aged poorhouse inmates in Pennsylvania were characterized at the time in terms of the following categories: crippled, maimed or deformed; deaf or blind; feeble-minded; rheumatic; chronically ill; tubercular; epileptic; or in general poor health.[27]

The Commission reported that Pennsylvania's care for their poor citizens was a chaotic system regulated by over eleven hundred acts passed by the state legislature. In some cases, as with Beaver County, the county commissioners had authority in matters pertaining to the poor, while

[23] Walter I. Trattner, *From Poor Law to Welfare State: A History of Social Welfare in America.* 6th ed. (New York, NY: The Free Press, 1999), 60-61; Ibid., 18.
[24] Relative Inflated Worth, https://www.measuringworth.com, January 2020.
[25] Katz, 122; Emil Frankel, *Poor Relief in Pennsylvania: a State-Wide Survey* (Harrisburg, PA: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Dept. of Welfare, 1925), 8-9.
[26] Pennsylvania Old Age Pension Commission, *Report of the Pennsylvania Commission on Old Age Pensions* (Harrisburg, PA: State Printer, March 1919),7-10, 15, 35; N.B. Forty-five of the eighty-two almshouses were county institutions, the remaining thirty-seven were run by local poorhouse districts. Eight counties had no almshouses at all.
[27] Ibid., 12, 16, 20, 23-27.

in others a special board was elected. These officials were empowered to provide lands and buildings to care for the poor in their district and to provide care for the poor who still lived at home. No uniformity existed concerning the types of plans for poorhouses; their management and accounting; taxation for support; inspection; segregation of sexes and conditions of inmates; or admissions and discharges. The Commission's two-year investigation uncovered poor record keeping and widespread mismanagement of poorhouses by officials who had little idea of how to care for the aged. State supervision was nearly nonexistent.[28] Other investigations soon followed. All agreed that the county poorhouse with its attached farm had "outlived its usefulness" as a social remedy for the indigent, elderly and disabled. Instead of the poorhouse fading away from the American landscape however, it became a central element in poor relief efforts during the Great Depression.[29] A number of factors, primarily the Social Security Act of 1935, ultimately led to a gradual decline of the poorhouse.

Decline of the Poorhouse

Before the 1930s, support for the elderly or disabled was a matter for the family or local and state agencies rather than a federal concern (except for veteran's pensions). The gradual decline of the poorhouse in the United States resulted from several factors:

> Most historians, social scientists, and other experts agree on the economic, social welfare, and political changes that led to the decline of the poorhouse. Put simply, the historical consensus has concluded that increased political power by working-class and poor people, combined with the political and social impact of the Great Depression and the consequent New Deal reforms, gradually ended the poorhouse. The great event in this history is the Social Security Act of 1935, which – through enactment of old age pensions, widows and survivors insurance, unemployment insurance, and federal welfare programs (Aid to Dependent Children, Aid to the Blind, Aid to the Disabled, Old Age Assistance) – gradually replaced much of local relief and finally provided outdoor aid to those who were poor. [30]

The Social Security Act of 1935 did, however, exclude large groups of people, such as agricultural workers, and many elderly people were ineligible due to insufficient years of contributory payments. Under the 1935 law, Social Security limited retirement benefits to the primary worker. In 1939, survivors' benefits and benefits for the retiree's spouse and children were added. Disabled people, who typically made up a large proportion of a poorhouse population, were not covered by Social Security until 1956.[31]

[28] Ibid., 12.
[29] Hugh Carter, "Analysis of Poor Relief Fluctuations in Pennsylvania Counties Since 1875 and Comparison with Economic Series," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 24, no. 165, Supplement: Proceedings of the American Statistical Association (March 1929): 191-194. Taylor & Francis, Ltd. on behalf of the American Statistical Association. Accessed March 23, 2017, http://www.jstor.org/stable/2227039; Stewart, 2.
[30] Wagner, 132.
[31] Social Security Administration. https://www.ssa.gov/history/law.html.

3.0 Beaver County Home: 1853-1914

Beaver County, which formed in March 1800 from parts of Allegheny and Washington Counties, had elected Overseers of the Poor in each township by 1809. The suggestion to build a poorhouse in Beaver County first arose in an 1831 debate at the county courthouse. Nothing came of that debate until the proposal was put to a vote in 1844. The result of the 1844 vote was a sound defeat of the proposal, with 1,533 (39%) voting *For* and 2,366 (61%) voting *Against*. Those voting against the measure were thought to reside largely in the portion of Beaver County detached in 1849 to create Lawrence County. Beaver County voters were subsequently more amenable during the general election of 1851, when the referendum for a county poorhouse passed with 1,855 (52%) voting *For* and 1,738 (48%) voting *Against*.[32] The Pennsylvania state legislature gave Beaver County authority to purchase land for a poorhouse and farm to sustain the inmates.

In 1852, the Directors of the Poor and House of Employment for the County of Beaver purchased approximately 88.2 acres in Moon Township along the south bank of the Ohio River from farmer Jacob Stone and his wife Eliza for $3,371.73¾.[33] The extended Stone family had emigrated from Germany in the early 1700s, with the former surname being Stein. Jacob's father, Adam Stone, had purchased land along the Ohio River, stretching from the village of Bellowsville to Raccoon Creek.[34] The acreage was approximately 29 miles downstream of Pittsburgh and west of Phillipsburg (present-day Monaca). The first County Home (Figure 4) was a 16-x-32-foot single-story frame building constructed in 1853 on a flat area near the bank of the Ohio River and an intersecting stream subsequently named Poorhouse Run. The County Home initially had about 10-15 inmates.[35] The system of Outdoor Relief for the poor did not end when Beaver County erected its first poorhouse, as County residents continued to receive both Indoor and Outdoor Relief. Severe droughts in the early 1850s had a major impact on area farming and the local agriculture industry, and therefore poverty in the county.[36]

[32] Jacob Fraise Richard and Major Thomas Henry, *History of Beaver County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia: A. Warner, 1888), 132.
[33] Beaver County Deed Book 32:196
[34] Jamie Hoskinson, interview by Julie Throckmorton, Beaver Falls, PA, November 27, 2016, transcript, 2; Melissa Haney, interview by Julie Throckmorton, Industry, PA, November 27, 2016, transcript, 1.
[35] Jeff Snedden, interview by Julie Throckmorton, Aliquippa, PA, November 19, 2016, transcript, 3.
[36] Ibid., 1.

Figure 4. Original Beaver County Home (ca. 1853). [37]

The Beaver County Home and Poor Farm's first steward was Henry Engle. He was a retired man in his 60s living with his son in Industry Township, on the opposite side of the Ohio River, when he took the job. The first resident of the Beaver County Home was John Murphy, who was then 21 years old. Murphy was severely physically disabled. It was reported that his keen mind and cheerful disposition were a positive influence on the others around him. John Murphy lived at the Beaver County Home until his death in 1888.[38]

Engle only stayed two years before being replaced by Anthony Douthett, a farmer from Darlington Township, whose administration of the Beaver County Home lasted for four years. James Brittain arrived with his wife, Eliza, and four children to run the County Home in 1858. Like his predecessors, he was hired for his abilities to manage the farm rather than his administrative credentials. In 1860 the Poor Farm contained approximately 60 acres of cropland and the remainder in unimproved land, i.e., pastures and orchards. Brittain harvested wheat, rye, feed corn, oats, hay, peas and beans, orchard fruit and hops. The Poor Farm grew an exceptionally large crop of Irish potatoes, 635 bushels, which must have formed the basis of many of their meals. Their five dairy cows produced a great deal of butter (1,200 pounds).[39]

The original 1853 County Home structure was torn down and replaced in 1859 by a larger (32x48 feet) two-story frame building. As later described in 1870 (see below), the kitchen and dining room were located on the ground floor of the 1859 structure, with bathrooms for each sex and six bedrooms above. The building was heated with stoves and grates. In 1860 James Brittain was able to purchase the adjoining farm of Michael Kerr to substantially increase the productivity of the Poor Farm. Brittain sold the approximately 53.7 acre property to the Directors of the Poor and House of Employment in December 1862.[40] Right around the time of the financial Panic of 1873, Beaver County purchased approximately 5.6 acres adjoining the

[37] Beaver County Centennial, 1800-1900. June 19-20-21-22, Beaver PA., 54.
[38] Joseph H. Bausman, *History of Beaver County Pennsylvania and Its Centennial Celebration* (New York: Knickerbocker Press, 1904), 210n3; 1880 United States Federal Census, Moon, Beaver, Pennsylvania, ED193:22.
[39] 1860 United States Federal Census, Moon, Beaver, Pennsylvania, Agricultural Schedule, 35-36 (penned).
[40] Beaver County Deed Book 43:596; 42:439; 41:133.

Poor Farm to the south from the estate of David Stone, bringing the property to its maximum size of nearly 147.5 acres.[41]

When the Poor Farm was opened in 1853, its 88.2 acres qualified it as a slightly below average farm for both Moon Township and Beaver County, where the average acreages in 1850 were 99 and 110 acres, respectively. The increase in acreage over the next thirty years, however, made it 22 percent larger than the average Beaver County farm in 1880 and 44 percent larger than the average Moon Township farm in that year. Perhaps owing to its larger size, the farm had well above average production for a Moon Township farm, enabling it to be largely self-sufficient.[42] Typically, farmers in southwestern Pennsylvania practiced a diversified agricultural economy with an emphasis on raising stock. The soils, terrain, climate, and vegetation of Beaver County were especially well suited to sheep, which was primarily raised for its wool. The poor farm's mission was to sustain the inmates rather than search out markets for its products.[43] The 1860 census recorded 49 inmates – 24 men and 25 women. Of these, only 10 of the men and nine of the women were simply paupers, with no physical or mental disability being listed. The age of the inmates also varied widely, with the youngest being six months and the oldest 84 years.[44]

A new (third) Beaver County Home was built in 1870 (Figures 5 and 6). It was a 44-x-100-foot 2-story brick building that cost $18,000 to construct and had a capacity for 175 inmates. The existing 1859 building was retained and used for the kitchen and dining room. Outbuildings and washhouses were added in 1885.[45]

Figure 5. Third Beaver County Home (ca. 1870).[46]

[41] Beaver County Deed Book 69:12.
[42] 1850 and 1880 United States Federal Census, Moon, Beaver, Pennsylvania, Agricultural Schedules.
[43] Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, *Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, c. 1700-1960, Southwestern Pennsylvania Diversified Agriculture and Sheep Raising, c. 1840-1960* (Harrisburg, PA: PHMC, 2013), November 2013, http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bhp/AQL/context/Southwestern_Pennsylvania.pdf.
[44] 1850 United States Federal Census, Ohioville, Beaver, Pennsylvania, 150 (stamped); 1850 United States Federal Census, Moon, Beaver, Pennsylvania, 435-436 (stamped).
[45] Bausman, 133.
[46] Asylum Projects. http://asylumprojects.org/.

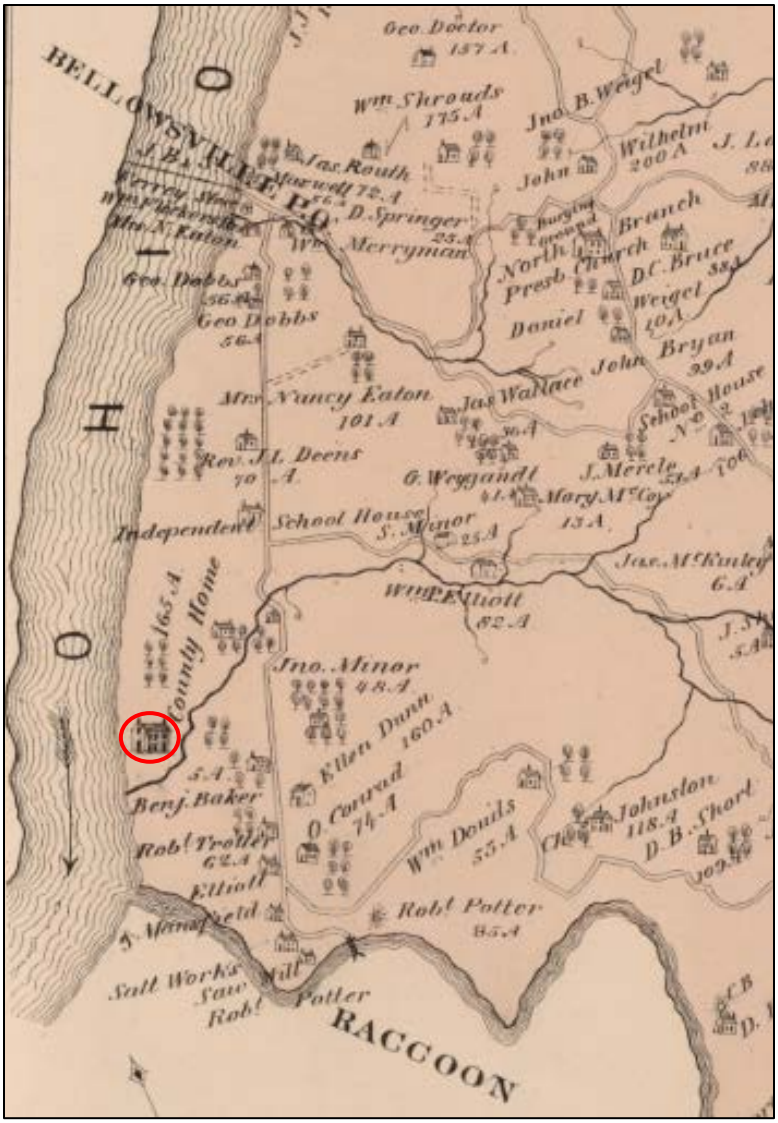


Figure 6. Location of Beaver County Home (1876).[47]

The Pennsylvania Board of Public Charities, established in 1869, was the only State agency having jurisdiction over almshouses. The Board had a mandate to visit and inspect the condition of each county prison and almshouse once every two years. Representatives of the Board visited the Beaver County Home and Poor Farm for the first time on October 18, 1870.

The Board described the County Home as a new two-story brick building with a basement and attic. The previous (1859) building formed a two-story frame wing on the new structure. The kitchen and dining room were located on the ground floor of that wing, with bathrooms for each sex and six bedrooms above. The old building was heated with stoves and grates, while a modern air furnace was planned for the new building.[48]

[47] Moon Township, Beaver County, PA. *Caldwell's Illustrated Historical Centennial Atlas*, 1876.
[48] Pennsylvania. Board of Public Charities, *First Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg, PA, State Printer, 1871), xi-xii, 241.

At the time of the Pennsylvania Board of Public Charities' visit, the Beaver County Home had 45 inmates – 18 male and 27 female, including two children under the age of 16. Two of the inmates were categorized as "insane", another 21 as "idiotic". Four inmates were blind and four were deaf mutes. Seventeen former inmates judged to be insane had been sent to state institutions.[49] The drop in the number of men in the Beaver County Home can perhaps be explained by the lingering effect of the Civil War and the overall good economy.

William Shroads was the steward of the Beaver County Home from 1863-1877. He shared a 2½-story brick residence on the poorhouse grounds with his wife, Margaret, their two youngest children, a servant and a farmhand. Margaret Shroads became the matron in charge of the female inmates in the County Home. William Shroads was 56 years old and one of Potter township's most prominent citizens when he took over the reins from James Brittain in 1863. Shroads had a successful farm that he put under the management of his son while he managed the Beaver County Home and Poor Farm. Besides farming, Shroads had a long career as an auctioneer, was active in local politics – serving as a county commissioner, county coroner, and justice of the peace – and was an elder of the North Branch Presbyterian Church. He received an annual salary of $550 as steward, but within three years it had increased to $850.[50] The able-bodied residents of the poorhouse were expected to earn their keep by helping on the farm and with cooking, cleaning and laundry chores. The state inspectors reported that the Beaver County Home had a 160 acre farm with 75 acres under cultivation.[51] Existing records indicate that the state inspectors overestimated the size of the farm; Shroads had reported to federal census takers that the poor farm had a total of approximately 130 acres.

As noted in the 1870 census, a variety of cereal grains were grown on the poor farm, most used as feed for the increased number of mixed livestock. The quantity of potatoes was still quite large at 600 bushels and the dairy herd of seven cows produced 875 pounds of butter.[52]

Likely as a result of the depression in the 1870s, the population of the Beaver County Home nearly doubled between 1870 and 1880, when 82 inmates were recorded in the federal census. The year 1880 is notable for being the last time the gender ratio of the inmate population was recorded as being approximately equal (with 42 men and 40 women enumerated) and for having the lowest average ages for both men and women (approximately 45.5 and 39.5 years, respectively). In response to the growing inmate population, more outbuildings and wash houses were constructed in about 1885.[53]

After fourteen years as steward, William Shroads was replaced by another local farmer in 1877. Stephen Minor was a descendant of Adam Stone, on whose original farm the Beaver County

[49] Ibid., 241.
[50] Ibid., 241; U.S. Department of Labor, "Wages in the United States in Europe, 1870-1898," *Bulletin of the Department of Labor*, no. 18 (September 1898), 670, 673; N.B. $550 was similar to what a blacksmith or carpenter earned in a year; Pennsylvania. Board of Public Charities, *Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania*, (Harrisburg, PA: The State), 19.
[51] Pennsylvania Board of Public Charites, *First Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania*, (Harrisburg, PA: The State), 241.
[52] 1870 United States Federal Census, Moon, Beaver, Pennsylvania, Agricultural Schedule, 5-6 (penned).
[53] 1880 United States Federal Census, Moon, Beaver, Pennsylvania, ED 193:22-23 (penned); Richard and Thomas, 133.

Home and Poor Farm had been established. Stephen Minor was 44 years old when he moved his wife, Elizabeth, and three adult children into the steward's house at the County Home. His household also included a farmhand and a domestic servant. To meet the swelling poorhouse population, Minor expanded the dairy herd to twelve cows and had a larger herd of beef cattle. Sheep were no longer present on the farm, but pigs remained an important food source. Poultry was noted for the first time on the 1880 census and, as might be expected, the barnyard had a large flock of 150 chickens that laid approximately 12,000 eggs that year.[54]

Soon after becoming the Beaver County Home's steward, Stephen Minor was visited by an inspector from the State Board of Public Charities. The inspector described the Beaver County Home as "one of the larger and better class institutions of the kind." He noted that men and women were kept segregated as were the paupers from the mentally ill and the sick. The home had fifty inmates, ten of whom worked on the farm and sixteen females who helped with the housework.[55]

In September 1879, a state inspector noted that the inmate population was 77 people, 21 of whom were children. Twenty-four males and 17 females assisted in the work of the house and farm.[56]

J.W. Jack was the steward of the Beaver County Home from 1885-1888; J.H. Ewing from 1888-1892; and George Engle starting in 1892. The situation at the County Home had deteriorated since the stewardship of Stephen Minor ended in 1885. The buildings were described as old and lacking in modern improvements. The average number of inmates was 90 and it was difficult to keep the place in order. Lack of space in the Beaver County Home had swelled the rolls of poor and disabled receiving Outdoor Relief. The farm grew wheat for the inmate's bread and feed for the horses, cows, bull, calves and hogs. The farm's produce serves as a reliable indicator of the inmates' diet, including sweet corn, Irish and sweet potatoes, tomatoes, onions, celery, cabbage, beans, carrots, beets, turnips, apples, and pumpkins.[57]

By 1900, the Beaver County Home's population had fallen slightly to 72 individuals, but it was now composed predominantly of males, who made up about 74 percent of the inmate population. Interestingly, a newspaperman reported the following year that the County Home had only 45 inmates. While this may reflect a precipitous drop in the County Home's residents, perhaps the press only had contact with a portion of the inmates. The Beaver County Home's population rose again over the first decade of the twentieth century, reaching 124 in 1910.[58] The 1910 inmate population was likely impacted by the financial Panic of 1907, which affected area

[54] 1880 United States Federal Census, Moon, Beaver, Pennsylvania, ED 193:22(penned); 1880 United States Federal Census, Moon, Beaver, Pennsylvania, Agricultural Schedule, ED 193:14 (penned).
[55] Pennsylvania. *Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania*. (Harrisburg, PA: The State,1878), 43.
[56] Pennsylvania. *Tenth Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania.* (Harrisburg, PA: The State, 1880), 62-63.
[57] The Association. *The Twenty-First Annual Session of the Association of the Directors of the Poor and Charities of the State of Pennsylvania*, (Pittsburgh, PA: The Association, 1895), 138-139.
[58] 1900 United States Federal Census, Moon, Beaver, Pennsylvania, ED 35:9A-9B (penned); "Visited the County Home," *Beaver Times*, November 2, 1901:1; 1910 United States Federal Census, Moon , Beaver, Pennsylvania, ED 37:7A-8A (penned).

industry such as the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation, which halted construction of their Aliquippa Works until 1909, thereby putting thousands of laborers out of work.[59]

The most famous inmate of the Beaver County Homer was likely Emil Bott, an accomplished landscape painter.[60] One of Pittsburgh's principal artists in the mid-1800s, Bott was also a Civil War veteran. Bott reportedly resided in the Beaver County Home from October 1905 until his death in February 1908.

In 1912, the Beaver County Home and Poor Farm became part of the new territory of Potter Township, upon its formation from parts of Moon and Raccoon Townships. By December 1913, the State Board of Commissioners of Public Charities had determined that the Beaver County Home was in "very bad condition" and that a new site should be selected given its proximity to the Ohio River (Figure 7) and "flood conditions."[61]

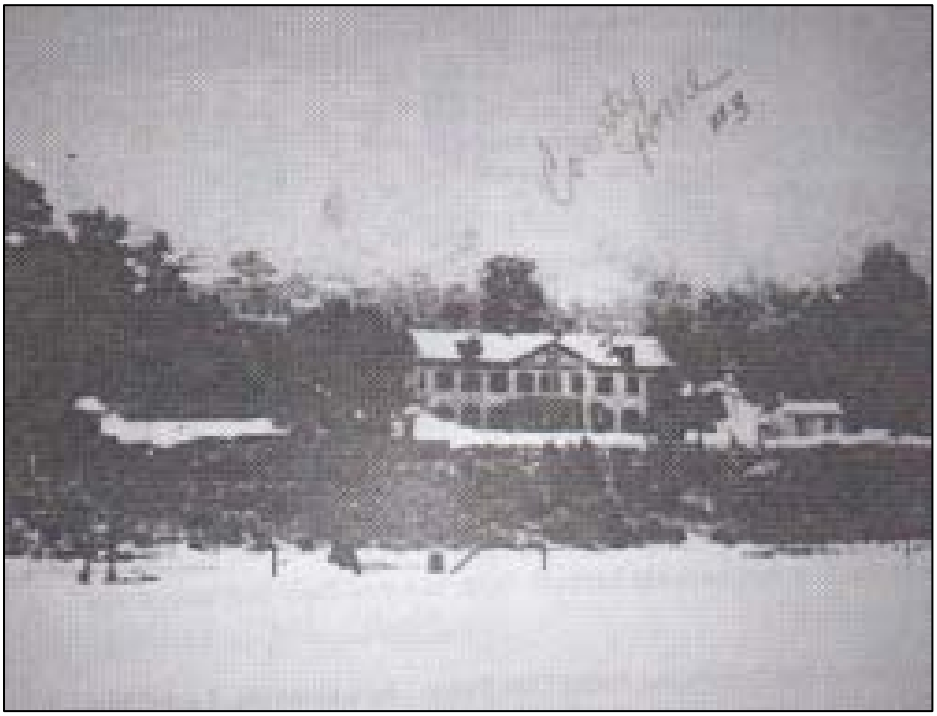


Figure 7. Third Beaver County Home (ca. 1900).The Ohio River is in the foreground.[62]

[59] Snedden Interview, 17; David H. Wollman and Donald R. Inman, *Portraits in Steel: An Illustrated History of Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation* (Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1999), 63.
[60] Snedden Interview, 15.
[61] *Forty-fourth Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities* (Harrisburg, PA: The State, 1913), 63.
[62] Richard G. Temple, *The Beaver County Poorhouse, Potter Township, 1853-1959* (Aliquippa, PA: 2013), 4.

4.0 Beaver County Home: 1914-1959

In June 1914, a county grand jury recommended that the Beaver County Commissioners, as Overseers of the Poor, construct a new poorhouse in another location since the existing site was no longer deemed suitable. In July 1914, Commissioners Charles H. Stone, Edwin Johnson, and John Black petitioned the Beaver County courts to order a special county-wide vote on the subject. In addition to the Beaver County Home being located in a flood-prone area, the commissioners indicated that the farm and adjacent areas would be "more valuable for manufacturing sites." Also, the Pennsylvania Railroad had procured a 100-ft wide right-of-way through the farm which, if the railroad were built, would render the farm an "undesirable place for taking care of the poor." The commissioners further argued that the Potter Township farm was "not situated near the center of the populous portions of the county" and that, many times during the winter months, the Beaver County Home and Poor Farm had been "totally inaccessible" from the valley towns due to the condition of the Ohio River and impassable roads.[63] Beaver County voters turned down the proposal in the November 3, 1914 special election, with 2,312 (42%) favoring and 3,203 (58%) opposing the plan.[64]

As a result of the vote, the existing Poor Farm was retained, and the architecture firm of Carlisle & Sharrer of Pittsburgh was contracted to develop plans for a new (fourth) Beaver County Home. Carnegie Mellon University Architecture Archives notes Edward J. Carlisle, presumably the more prominent member of the partnership, as having practiced under the firm names Edward J. Carlisle & Co. and Carlisle & Sharrer (with Harry P. Sharrer). The archive notes that Carlisle was most active from ca. 1895 to ca. 1930, with the majority of his/their contracts being municipal and institutional clients. Carlisle's 1942 obituary notes designs for the Beaver Falls High School, Braddock High School, Duquesne High School, as well as the Beaver County Court House, Beaver Falls Municipal Building, Duquesne City Building, the Tuberculosis Hospital at Monaca, and the Beaver County Sanatorium.[65]

The new County Home would be built further away from the "flats" along the Ohio River and Poorhouse Run, on a high bluff to reduce the risk of flooding, and with a commanding view of the Ohio River.

The fourth Beaver County Home, with a capacity of approximately 100 persons, was constructed at a cost of between $140,000 and $160,000 and opened in 1916.[66] The structure was a two-and-one-half story Neoclassical-style brick building flanked by two wings on either side (Figure 8). The new facility faced northwest, towards the Ohio River, and presented an impressive two-story entrance portico, symmetrically flanked by an orderly arrangement of wings, to passersby on and across the river. The new County Home was designed to reflect the well-ordered system of rules and regulations that guided day-to-day life at the institution. Separate wings segregated the residents by gender, with the northern wing for men and the southern wing for women. A central core housed the administrative functions and communal dining facilities.

[63] "Election Notice," *Beaver Falls Tribune*, October 3, 1914, 8a & 8b.
[64] "Voters Selected Potter Twp. As County Home Site," *Beaver Valley Times*, September 25, 1957, 10.
[65] "Edward J. Carlisle," *Builders Bulletin* (September 5, 1942): 1.
[66] "Old Institution Inadequate," *The News Tribune*, March 13, 1959.

Figure 8. Fourth Beaver County Home (1921).[67] The northern (men's) wing is to the left and the southern (women's) wing is to the right.

[67] Photograph by J.A.J. Cole of Beaver, PA (Source: Arnold B. McMahon, *Beaver County Album III: A Collection of Historical Photographs of Beaver County, PA*, 1987).

The 1916 structure fell within the mainstream of institutional design of the period. Whereas the formal design and layout of the building reflected Beaux Arts principals, the foremost influence for the design of the almshouse can be found in the so-called sanitary code, a systematic approach to disease prevention in the pre-antiseptic era. The sanitary code called for institutions such as infirmaries and almshouses to be built, when possible, outside of congested urban areas on high ground in a salubrious situation that would allow for adequate drainage. It was also important that buildings be open to volumes of natural light and air and be easily ventilated. To accomplish this, these social institutions were divided into a series of distinct pavilions or wards separated by function (i.e. men's dormitory, women's dormitory, day wards). The wards would be sufficiently distanced from one another to allow adequate natural light to reach every exterior elevation. As part of this design the wards were connected by one-story corridors, also well-lit by natural light. A manicured landscape and gardens would be found ringing the institutions.

The 1916 design, as interpreted from the original floor plans (Appendix A) consisted of a primary central administrative building flanked by the men's dormitory to the north and the women's dormitory to the south. The central administrative core contained the superintendent's office, library, and administrative staff dining room, to the north of the central passageway that led to each wing. The almshouse kitchen and men's and women's dining rooms, separated by a seven-foot-high divider, were located south of the central passageway. Each dormitory consisted of a large dormitory room, a handful of smaller individual rooms, a locker room (for belongings), a linen room, and a day ward for reading and quiet socializing. The day wards were located off of the front porches and each contained two fireplaces. Communal lavatories were located at the back of each dormitory and were separated from the main block by a short passageway.

The basement level housed various operational functions. In addition to general storage, the basement included the Receiving Room for new inmates (below the superintendent's office), Laundry, Bakery, Boiler Room, Cold Storage Room, and Dairy Room. The Receiving Room included a shower to allow new inmates to be thoroughly cleansed before admittance to the dormitories. A fumigating closet was likewise located in the basement to fumigate inmate's clothing and prevent lice outbreaks. In addition to the operational rooms, a Smoking Room was located in the basement of the Men's Dormitory, to allow for smoking and gaming. No such facility was located in the Women's Dormitory. The basement also contained the County Home's morgue. Inmates that passed away were housed here and prepped for burial. Lastly, although not specified on the original 1916 floor plans, the basement later housed an iron double-cell jail, for the temporary housing of unruly inmates (see Appendix B).

On the second floor, the superintendent and administrative staff were housed in bedrooms located above the main entrance. The second floor of the administrative wing also housed the chapel and the infirmary. The chapel would have hosted Sunday services and perhaps been used for special events. Quite likely, local clergy were invited to conduct the services and attend to the religious needs of the inmates. The County Home's infirmary consisted of dedicated men's and women's wards, a nurse's room, a "diet" kitchen (a kitchen dedicated to the infirmed on restrictive diets), and an "operating" room (presumably the visiting doctor's examination room). The men's and women's wards each led to open air porches, which were considered vital at the time, to allow the patients plenty of fresh air.

In 1922, a Mr. William G. Theurer from the State Department of Welfare came to inspect the Beaver County Home and its 84 inmates. Mr. Theurer found the County Home to be clean and comfortable. At that time, it was under the superintendence of 61-year-old Sarah Elizabeth Springer, an unmarried nurse. Elizabeth Springer had grown up on a farm about a mile from the poorhouse. Miss Springer had become the County Home's Matron and Superintendent in 1912 following a series of six short-term stewards. Her staff included a physician, a clerk, an attendant, a domestic servant, a cook, a baker, a fireman, and two farmers. Approximately fifty acres of the County Poor Farm was rented out to a farmer. The remaining acres of farmland supplied fresh food to the inmates. A typical day's menu consisted of breakfast at 7am – eggs, bread, butter and coffee; dinner at noon – beef, potatoes, beans, bread and coffee; and supper at 6pm – fried potatoes, stewed tomatoes, bread, butter and tea.[68]

During Elizabeth Springer's tenure as County Home superintendent, three children had been abandoned and she had become their unofficial foster parent. The presence of the children in the County Home raised concerns with state officials because the law prohibited children between the ages of three and sixteen from remaining in a poorhouse for more than sixty days. Unable to come to an arrangement with authorities regarding her foster children, Elizabeth Springer resigned as the County Home superintendent and took one of them to live with her.[69]

A recurring problem that reportedly caused a great deal of anxiety to Elizabeth Springer was the number or persons who were abandoned at the entrance to the Beaver County Home, frequently by relatives no longer willing to care for family members.

> The investigations are handled similarly to Outdoor Relief. If aged persons are abused because they are not wanted, they are removed to the [County] Home and relatives persuaded to pay if possible or forced if able to pay and refuse.
>
> An effort is made to keep aged persons in their home town with Outdoor Relief being given if necessary, since it is very hard to separate old people from all their friends and surroundings to which they have been accustomed. Sometimes Church Homes are persuaded to take them.[70]

Admission to the Beaver County Home was subsequently prohibited without a written notice or telephone call from the Welfare Department or County Commissioners. After the population fell

[68] W. G. Theurer, "Report on a visit to the Beaver County Home," June 27, 1922, p.1,4,8,23; Reports on County Homes, Beaver County, 1922-1925, Bureau of Community Work, DEFO/DD/352.1, Dept. of Public Welfare, RG23, Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg, PA; 1920 United States Federal Census, Washington, PA, ED 221: 6A, William Theurer; 1910 United States Federal Census, Moon, Beaver, Pennsylvania, ED 85:12A, Elizabeth S. Springer; "Ex-County Home Head Dies Here," *Daily Times*, February 6, 1936:1.
[69] Martha J. Megee, "Report of Visit of Social Service Consultant to Beaver County Home, June 19, 1925," [1]; 1930 United States Federal Census, Potter, Beaver, Pennsylvania, ED 4-41:9A, Sarah E. Springer.
[70] Association of Directors of the Poor and Charities and Corrections Pa., *Proceedings of the Fiftieth Meeting of the Association of Directors of the Poor and Charities and Corrections of the State of Pennsylvania*,1925, 95.

to 75 inmates in 1920, the Beaver County Home's population soared during the Great Depression, rising to 148 in 1930 and 182 in 1940.[71]

Bill Megill grew up in the nearby village of Bellowsville and as a boy in the 1920s delivered daily newspapers to the Beaver County Home. Bill Megill described his strongest childhood memories of the friends that he made at the County Home, as later recalled by his son Bruce:

> He told me the worst part of his newspaper job was when he would stop at a friend's door only to find an empty room. The bed would be neatly made, and someone would tell Dad that his friend had passed on. In a place like that, it happened all too frequently. In a day or so a new face would be waiting for him and his papers. He said the best part of his job was at Christmas time when the entire place was fully decorated. In the middle part of the building, on the second floor, there was a gathering room where Christmas parties were held. Dad was always invited and he said everyone was always in a holiday spirit.[72]

In 1929, Sherman Moore became the superintendent and his wife, Marion "Mary" Marshall Moore, became the matron. Sherman Moore was a successful farmer and staunch Republican active in local politics, both of which likely contributed to his appointment as superintendent.[73] Mary Moore was a "stickler for cleanliness," and family lore tells of her first visit to the woman's wing of the County Home:

> The first thing she noticed was several of the women residents plucking lice from their dresses, throwing them on the floor and stepping on them. She went through the kitchen and pantries and found wormy flour and insect-infested raisins and prunes. The home's bill for carbolic soap and other cleaning supplies immediately rose dramatically and everything and everybody was disinfected and scrubbed.[74]

While the County Home provided a refuge for an increasing population of inmates during the 1930s, the Moores' jobs as superintendent and matron also aided them during the Great Depression with a steady income and fairly comfortable living conditions. The Moores' resigned from their positions in 1935 when Mary's health deteriorated due to a heart condition.[75]

There was apparently little interaction between County Home residents and the general public, as the County Home was in a secluded location that served to keep it "out of sight, out of mind" for most people in the County.[76] For some, there was also a certain stigma associated with residents of the poorhouse.[77] Older gentlemen thought to be residing in the County Home were observed walking a nearby road, reportedly to visit a local tavern and then returning later for supper.[78]

---

[71] 1920 United States Federal Census, Potter, Beaver, Pennsylvania, ED 63:10A-10B (penned); 1930 United States Federal Census, Potter, Beaver, Pennsylvania, ED 4-86:3A-3B (penned); 1940 United States Federal Census, Potter, Beaver, Pennsylvania, ED 4-118:4A-6A (penned).
[72] "The Poor Farm," Zinc Corporation of America (ZCA), October 1993.
[73] Sam Moore, interview by Julie Throckmorton, Beaver Falls, PA, December 11, 2016, transcript, 1.
[74] Sam Moore, "My Mom and Dad met at the Poor House", *Farm and Dairy*, May 5, 2016. https://www.farmanddairy.com/
[75] Moore Interview, 2.
[76] Snedden Interview, 19.
[77] Bill Elliott, interview by Julie Throckmorton, Beaver, PA, December 3, 2016, transcript, 23.
[78] JoAnn Bishop, interview by Julie Throckmorton, Monaca, PA, November 26, 2016, transcript, 4.

Those that were found to be drunk might be locked in one of the County Home jail cells until they were sober.[79]

Photographs of the Beaver County Home and Poor Farm staff and residents from the late 1920s or early 1930s are presented in Figures 9-16.

Figure 9. County Home Staff (ca. late 1920s or early 1930s). The man and woman at the far left are unidentified. Next to them, from left, are: Jim Springer, farming superintendent; a nurse, unidentified; Mrs. Young, a cook, whose first name is unknown; Mrs. Hunt, a seamstress, whose first name is unknown; Marion "Mary" Marshall Moore, matron; and Sherman Moore, superintendent.[80]

[79] "The Poor Farm," ZCA, 1993.
[80] "Local Historian Documents County's Former Poorhouse." *The Times*, March 1, 2014. http://www.timesonline.com/. This photo and following photos courtesy of Charles Townsend Collection.

Figure 10. Farming superintendent, Jim Springer, with plow horses.[81]

Figure 11. Seamstress and matron (ca. late 1920s or early 1930s). Mrs. Hunt (left), seamstress, made new dresses for women upon their arrival as well as at Christmas and Easter. Marion "Mary" Marshall Moore (right), matron, oversaw the welfare of female residents.[82]

[81] Ibid.
[82] Ibid.

Figure 12. County Home nurse, Stella Listen, and two elderly residents (ca. late 1920s or early 1930s).[83]

Figure 13. Residents performing carpentry (ca. late 1920s or early 1930s).[84]

[83] Ibid.

Figure 14. Men relaxing (ca. late 1920s or early 1930s).[85]

Figure 15. Women residents with Marion "Mary" Marshall Moore at left (ca. late 1920s or early 1930s).[86]

[84] Ibid.
[85] Ibid.
[86] Ibid.

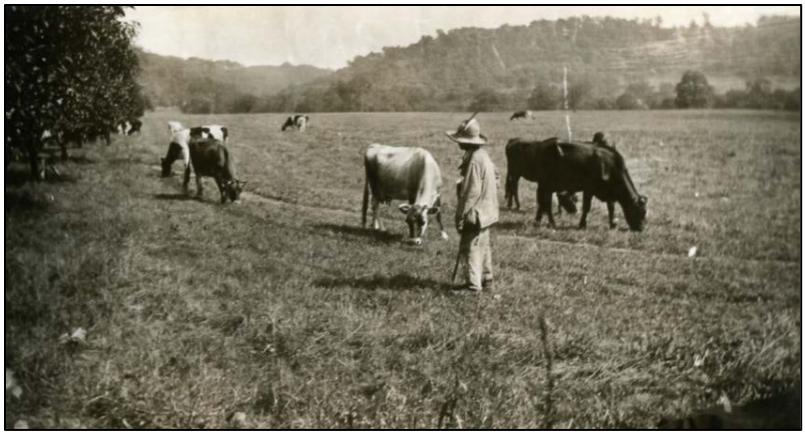


Figure 16. Resident tending to cows grazing on the farm.[87]

An inspection of the Beaver County Home in September 1937 indicated a total population of 198 inmates (30 women and 168 men), and a capacity of about 150. James Blair was the superintendent. Blair had served in the army as a captain in the engineering corps, and most of his business experience had been construction work "handling men similar in type to the men inmates." His wife, who had some nursing experience, was the matron. Three cooks were employed, one for the employees and two for the residents. All of the employees were given one day off a week. The men's dormitories were described by the inspector as "badly overcrowded." Before any applicant was admitted to the County Home, they were examined by a Dr. Cornelius. Dr. John A. Mitchell, a "young doctor," visited the home 3 times per week and more often when needed. [88] See Figure 17 for an aerial view of the property in May 1939.

[87] Ibid.
[88] Helen B. Shearer, "Beaver County Home, Monaca, Pennsylvania, 9/8/37." [Inspection report], 1-3.

Figure 17. Aerial view of the Beaver County Home, May 24, 1939. The Ohio River is visible in the upper left.[89]

[89] Penn Pilot historic aerial photography collection, Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access Website.

Although a portion of the Beaver County Home had been used as an infirmary, in 1940 a separate hospital with an approximate 100-bed capacity was added to the County Home at a cost of approximately $230,000 (Figure 18). The architects, as was the case with the 1914 structure, were Carlisle and Scharrer according to a plaque in the building.[90] The building was of brick and steel structure, of a Colonial Revival type, and designed so that "every room has outside exposure." There were two large solariums and two outside porches. The second floor was devoted to housing of nurses and other personnel. A number of wards were present on the first floor as well as a pharmacy, laboratory, and kitchens. The basement contained a chapel with a seating capacity of 175 as well as space devoted to recreation and occupational therapy. The federal Public Works Administration contributed $87,639 in funding.[91] Frank D. Hart, a former county commissioner, was the superintendent and Elmer Johnston was in charge of running the county farm.[92] The hospital had been described as "one of the most modern and complete of its kind in the state."[93] In 1940, the overall facility became known as the Beaver County Home and Hospital.

Figure 18. Former Beaver County Home and Hospital (ca. 2000s).[94] The 1940 hospital/infirmary addition is to the left and the 1916 structure is to the right.

On January 1, 1948 William H. Bickerstaff started his duties as superintendent of the County Home. As of August 1950, others serving with Bickerstaff included Margaret Cockerham, supervisor of the hospital, and Myrtle Riggs, matron in the home.[95] William Bickerstaff and Margaret Cockerham married in 1952.[96]

[90] "Old Institution Inadequate," *The News Tribune*, March 13, 1959.
[91] "Beaver County's New Hospital to Open Wednesday," *Aliquippa Gazette*, April 12, 1940, 1, 6.
[92] "Beaver County Home is Now Fully Equipped Institution," *The Daily Times*, May 25, 1940, 9.
[93] "Voters Rejected First Proposal for County Home," *Beaver Valley Times*, August 11, 1950, 10.
[94] Bing Maps. https://www.bing.com/maps/aerial.
[95] "Voters Rejected First Proposal for County Home," *Beaver Valley Times*, August 11, 1950, 10.
[96] Marriage License Applications, *New Castle News*, October 3, 1952, 13.

By the late 1950s, the Beaver County Home and Hospital focused more on the old and infirm than the poor. Due to the overcrowded and deteriorated condition of the County Home, Beaver County Commissioners Gordon Camp, George L. Werner, and Sam M. McCune began to plan for construction of a new facility elsewhere. Gordon Camp's brother, Henry C. Camp was the last superintendent of the Beaver County Home.[97]

Lorena Adkins, a former employee at the Beaver County Home, described what the Beaver County Home was like during the latter years:

> It was hard work, and the pay was low. All the food was grown there. They had gigantic gardens, and everything was canned for the winter. We had cows, pigs, fresh milk, butter, buttermilk and eggs. We had hundreds of chickens. There was guy who did all of the butchering in the fall. [My] Brother would go out to the smokehouse and bring in whatever meat the cook needed. The complex also featured quarters for the superintendent and his family, several jail cells for residents who misbehaved and a morgue.[98]

In addition to overcrowding and the deteriorated conditions of the Beaver County Home and Hospital, another consideration that added to its detriment was its close proximity to adjacent industrial sites. In 1930, the St. Joseph Lead Company had purchased a 263-acre farm to the east of the Beaver County Home and Poor Farm, in the area known as Bellowsville, for construction of a zinc smelter. During the early 1940s, a large portion of the Beaver County Poor Farm was sold for the construction of a plant by Koppers United Company, which produced raw materials for synthetic rubber in support of World War II. Concerns were ultimately voiced regarding the close proximity of the Beaver County Home and Hospital to the St. Joseph and Koppers facilities since many of the aged residents suffered from sinus infections, asthma, and bronchial disorders possibly exacerbated by activities on the adjacent industrial sites.[99]

In 1955 the H.R. Allen farm in Brighton Township was purchased by the county as the site for the new institution.[100] Also in 1955, the county commissioners sold the remaining Poor Farm and County Home buildings to the St. Joseph Lead Company for $750,000, while retaining the right to continue to occupy the property for an annual rental of $1/year until the new facility in Brighton Township could be constructed.[101]

As an interim solution to overcrowding, infirm residents of the County Home were moved in 1956 to a former county tuberculosis sanitarium in Center Township (during which time the facility was called the Beaver County Home Annex)[102], now the administrative building for Penn State-Beaver. The remaining 220 residents in the Beaver County Home and Hospital were subsequently relocated to the newly built Beaver County Geriatric Center in 1959. Residents still housed in the former county tuberculosis sanatorium moved to the Brighton Township facility

[97] Jim Camp, interview by Julie Throckmorton, Rochester, PA, November 19, 2016, transcript, 2.
[98] Bob Bauder, "Poor No More," *The Times*, October 29, 2003.
[99] "Old Institution Inadequate," *The News Tribune*, March 13, 1959:1
[100] "New Area Realization of Dream," *The Times*, March 13, 1959, 1.
[101] "Voters Selected Potter Twp. as County Home Site," *Beaver Valley Times*, September 25, 1957, 10.
[102] Snedden Interview, 22.

when the east wing to the geriatric center opened in 1964. The name of the Brighton Township facility was later changed to the Beaver Valley Geriatric Center, and then changed again to Friendship Ridge to better reflect its use as a "multipurpose facility for elderly and disabled county residents." [103]

By 1964, the St. Joseph Lead Company's zinc smelter had renovated the former hospital section of the Beaver County Home and Hospital for use as its main offices and laboratory space. Those offices and laboratory space later fell into disuse. The zinc smelter itself closed in 2014. With the removal of the overall facility by the final owner, Horsehead Corporation, in 2014-2015, the physical reminder of the Beaver County Home and Hospital was gone. Horsehead Corporation sold the property in 2015 to Shell for the construction of a petrochemical complex.

Appendix B presents the historic architectural survey/building inventory of the Beaver County Home conducted prior to its removal. Appendix C presents oral history interview summaries and transcripts (on CD).

[103] Bauder, "Poor No More," *The Times*, October 29, 2003, A14.

5.0 References

Archival Repositories and Electronic Databases

"Ancestry.com" [subscription database]. Ancestry.com. https://www.ancestry.com/.

Asylum Projects. http://asylumprojects.org/.

The Beaver County Genealogy and History Center. Beaver, Pennsylvania.

The Beaver County Historical Research and Landmarks Foundation. Captain William Vicary Mansion, Freedom, Pennsylvania.

Charles Townsend Collection. Personal photography collection.

"Chronicling America, Historic American Newspapers." Library of Congress. http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/.

The Detre Library at the Senator John Heinz History Center. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

"Google Newspaper Archives." https://news.google.com/newspapers.

"HathiTrust Digital Library." HathiTrust. https://www.hathitrust.org/.

"HeinOnline." [subscription database of legal history and government documents]. https://home.heinonline.org/.

"Jstor." [subscription digital library]. https://www.jstor.org/.

The National Archives at Philadelphia. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

"Newspapers.com – Historical Newspapers from 1700s – 2000s" [subscription database]. Ancestry.com. https://www.newspapers.com/.

Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access. Penn Pilot historic aerial photographs. https://www.pasda.psu/edu.

The Pennsylvania State Archives. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Newspaper Articles

Anderson, Bill. "Voters Selected Potter Twp. As County Home Site." *Beaver Valley Times* (Beaver, PA), September 25, 1957:10.

Bauder, Bob. "Poor No More." *Beaver County Times* (Beaver, PA), October 29, 2003:A14.

"Beaver County Home Is Now Fully Equipped Institution." *Daily Times* (Beaver & Rochester, PA), May 25, 1940: 24.

"Beaver County's New Hospital to Open Wednesday," *Aliquippa Gazette* (Aliquippa, PA), April 12, 1940:1, 6.

"Election Notice." *Beaver Falls Tribune* (Beaver Falls, PA), October 3, 1914:8.

"Ex-County Home Head Dies Here." *Daily Times* (Beaver & Rochester, PA), February 6, 1936.

"History of Beaver County Poor Farm." *Beaver Valley Times* (Beaver, PA), September 25, 1957:10.

"Local Historian Documents County's Former Poorhouse." *The Times* ([Beaver, PA?], March 1, 2014.

Marriage License Applications. *New Castle News* (New Castle, PA), October 3, 1952.

"New Area Revitalization of Dream." *The Times* ([Beaver, PA?]), March 13, 1959.

"Old Institution Inadequate." *The News Tribune* (Beaver Falls, PA), March 13, 1959:1.

"Visited the County Home." *Beaver Times* (Beaver, PA), November 2, 1901:1.

"Voters Rejected First Proposal for County Home." *Beaver Valley Times* (Beaver, PA), August 11, 1950.

"Voters Selected Potter Township as County Home Site." *Beaver Valley Times* (Beaver, PA), September 25, 1957.

Books, Journal Articles, and Other Sources

1850 United States Federal Census. Population schedule manuscripts. "U.S. Federal Census Collection." http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen.

1850 United States Federal Census. Agricultural schedule manuscripts. "Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission [PHMC] Agricultural History Project." http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/agriculture/census/index.html.

1860 United States Federal Census. Agricultural schedule manuscripts. Available on microfilm at the Pennsylvania State Library, Harrisburg.

1870 United States Federal Census. Agriculture Schedule. Available on microfilm at the Pennsylvania State Library, Harrisburg.

1880 United States Federal Census. Population schedule manuscripts. "U.S. Federal Census Collection." http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen.

1880 United States Federal Census. Agricultural schedule manuscripts. "Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission [PHMC] Agricultural History Project." http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/agriculture/census/index.html.

1900 United States Federal Census. Population schedule manuscripts. "U.S. Federal Census Collection." http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen.

1910 United States Federal Census. Population schedule manuscripts. "U.S. Federal Census Collection." http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen.

1920 United States Federal Census. Population schedule manuscripts. "U.S. Federal Census Collection." http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen.

1930 United States Federal Census. Population schedule manuscripts. "U.S. Federal Census Collection." http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen.

1940 United States Federal Census. Population schedule manuscripts. "U.S. Federal Census Collection." http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/usfedcen.

Association of Directors of the Poor and Charities of the State of Pennsylvania. *The Twenty-First Annual Session of the Association of the Directors of the Poor and Charities of the State of Pennsylvania*. Pittsburgh: The Association, 1895.

Bausman, J. H. *History of Beaver County Pennsylvania and its Centennial Celebration*. New York: The Knickerbocker Press, 1904.

Beaver County Deed Books. On file at the Beaver County Recorder of Deeds, Beaver County Courthouse, Beaver, Pennsylvania.

Bourque, Monique. "The Peculiar Characteristic of Christian Communities: The County Almshouses of the Delaware Valley, 1790-1860." *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture 6* (1997): 60-73.

Bueltmann, Tanja. *Clubbing Together: Ethnicity, Civility and Formal Sociability in the Scottish Diaspora to 1930.* Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2014.

Carter, Hugh. "Analysis of Poor Relief Fluctuations in Pennsylvania Counties Since 1875 and Comparison with Economic Series." *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 24, no. 165 (1929): 191-194.

Dix, Dorothea. *Memorial soliciting a state hospital for the insane: submitted to the legislature of Pennsylvania, February 3, 1945*. Harrisburg: J. M. G. Lescure, State Printer, 1845.

"Edward J. Carlisle." *Builders Bulletin* (Pittsburgh, PA: September 5, 1942).

Frankel, Emil. *Poor Relief in Pennsylvania: a State-Wide Survey*. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Dept. of Welfare. Bulletin 21. Harrisburg, 1925.

Hazard, Samuel, ed. *The Register of Pennsylvania*. Volume 1. Philadelphia, William F. Geddes, 1828.

Heffner, William Clinton. *History of Poor Relief Legislation in Pennsylvania, 1682-1913*. Cleona, Pennsylvania: Holzapfel Publishing Co., 1913.

Johnson, Alexander. *The Almshouse, Construction and Management*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1911.

Kaktins, Mara. "Almshouses (Poorhouses)." *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*. August 23, 2017. http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/archive/almshouses-poorhouses.

Katz, Michael B. "Poorhouses and the Origins of the Public Old Age Home." *The Millbank Memorial Fund Quarterly, Health and Society* 62, no. 1 (Winter 1984): 110-140.

Kebaner, Benjamin Joseph. *Public Poor Relief in America, 1790-1860*. New York: Arno Press, 1976.

Megee, Martha J. "Report of Visit of Social Service Consultant to Beaver County Home. June 19, 1925. Reports on County Homes, 1922-1925. Correspondence. Bureau of Community Work, DEFO/DD/352.1, Dept. of Public Welfare, RG 23. Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg.

Moore, Sam. "My Mom and Dad Met at the Poor House." *Farm and Dairy* (May 5, 2016).

Parke, Benjamin and Ovid F. Johnson. *A Digest of the revised code and by the between the 7th day of April 1830 and the 16th day of June 1836: forming with Purdon's Digest of 1830, a complete digest of the laws of Pennsylvania to the present time*. Philadelphia: James Kay Jr. & Brother, 1837.

Pennsylvania. Board of Public Charities. *First Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg: Benjamin Singerly, State Printer, 1871.

Pennsylvania. Board of Public Charities. *Third Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg: Benjamin Singerly, State Printer, 1873.

Pennsylvania. Board of Public Charities. *Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg: Benjamin Singerly, State Printer, 1874.

Pennsylvania. Board of Public Charities. *Eighth Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg: Benjamin Singerly, State Printer, 1878.

Pennsylvania. Board of Public Charities. *Tenth Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg: Benjamin Singerly, State Printer, 1880.

Pennsylvania. Board of Public Charities. *Forty-Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners of Public Charities of the State of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg: Benjamin Singerly, State Printer, 1913.

Pennsylvania General Assembly. *Laws of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Passed at the Session of 1851*. No. 185, 260, Session Laws Library, http://heinonline.org, January 25, 2017.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission [PHMC]. "Southwestern Pennsylvania Diversified Agricultural and Sheep Raising, c. 1840-1960." *Historic Agricultural Resources of Pennsylvania, c. 1700-1960*. Pennsylvania Agricultural History Project. November 2013, http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/bhp/AQL/context/Southwestern_Pennsylvania.pdf.

Pennsylvania and James H. Maurer. *Report of the Pennsylvania Commission on Old Age Pensions*. Harrisburg: J.L.L. Kuhn, Printer to the Commonwealth, March 1919.

"Relative Inflated Worth." *Measuring Worth*. January 2020, http://www.measuringworth.com.

Reports on County Homes. Correspondence. Bureau of Community Work, DEFO/DD/352.1. Dept. of Public Welfare, RG 23. Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg.

Richard, Jacob Fraise and Major Thomas Henry. *History of Beaver County, Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: A. Warner, 1888.

Rogers, Thomas, et al. *Report of the Committee Appointed By the Board of Guardians of the Poor of the City and Districts of Philadelphia, to Visit the Cities of Baltimore, New York, Providence, Boston and Salem*. Philadelphia: The Board, 1827.

Rothman, David J. *The Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic*. Boston: Little Brown, 1971.

Shearer, Helen B., "Beaver County Home, Monaca, Pennsylvania, 9/8/37," Reports on County Poor Relief, 1932-1939. Bureau of Community Work, DEFO/DD/353.1. Dept. of Public Welfare, RG 23. Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg.

Stewart, Estelle M. *The Cost of American Almshouses: Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, No. 386.* Washington: GPO, June 1925.

Sweeny, Ed. *Poorhouse Sweeny*. New York: Boni & Liveright, 1927.

Temple, Richard G. *The Beaver County Poorhouse, Potter Township, 1853-1959*. Aliquippa, PA, 2013.

"The 'Great Law' – December 7, 1682." *Our Documentary Heritage.* Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission [PHMC], September 22, 2017, http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/documents/1681-1776/great-law.html.

"The Poor Farm." Zinc Corporation of America, Brochure, October 1993.

Theurer, W. G. "Report on a visit to the Beaver County Home, June 27, 1922." Reports on County Homes, 1922-1925. Correspondence. Bureau of Community Work, DEFO/DD/352.1, Dept. of Public Welfare, RG 23. Pennsylvania State Archives, Harrisburg.

Trattner, Walter I. *From Poor Law to Welfare State: A History of Social Welfare in America*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1999.

United States. Bureau of Labor. "Wages in the United States and Europe, 1870-1898." *Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor, No. 18, Volume III* (September 1898): 5-33.

Wagner, David. *The Poorhouse: America's Forgotten Institution*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2005.

Wollman, David H. and Donald R. Inman. Portraits in Steel: An Illustrated History of Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation. Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 1999.

Wulf, Karin. "Gender and the Political Economy of Poor Relief in Colonial Pennsylvania." In *Down and Out in Early America*, edited by Billy G. Smith, 163-188. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004.

Oral History Interviews

Bishop, JoAnn. Interview by Julie Throckmorton. Video recording and transcript. Monaca, PA, November 26, 2016.

Camp, James Gordon III. Interview by Julie Throckmorton. Video recording and transcript. Rochester, PA, November 19, 2016.

Elliott, William Paul Elliott, Jr. Interview by Julie Throckmorton. Video recording and transcript. Beaver, PA, December 3, 2016.

Haney, Melissa. Interview by Julie Throckmorton. Video recording and transcript. Industry, PA, November 27, 2106.

Hoskinson, Jamie. Interview by Julie Throckmorton. Video recording and transcript. Beaver Falls, PA, November 27, 2016.

Moore, Sam. Interview by Julie Throckmorton. Video recording and transcript. Beaver Falls, PA, December 11, 2016.

Snedden, Jeff. Interview by Julie Throckmorton. Video recording and transcript. Aliquippa, PA, November 19, 2016.

Appendix A

Architectural Plans (1916)

Historic Photograph

1921 photo of Beaver County Home taken by J.A.J. Cole of Beaver, PA (Source: Arnold B. McMahon, *Beaver County Album III; A Collection of Historical Photographs of Beaver County, PA*, 1987).

Architect's Plans, 1916 Building

BEAVER ~ COUNTY ~ HOME

CARLISLE & HARBER. ARCHITECTS.
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

WOMEN'S ~ BUILDING.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.
REAR ELEVATION.

MEN'S ~ BUILDING.

MEN'S ~ BUILDING.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.
FRONT ELEVATION.

WOMEN'S ~ BUILDING

08-79-79-00
BEAVER COUNTY HOME
BUILDING ELEVATIONS
REVISED - JAN. 27, 1915.
MARCH 5, 1914. E1

E00007

BEAVER ~ COUNTY ~ HOME.

CARLISLE & HARRER. ARCHITECTS.
SCALE $\frac{1}{8}$" = 1'-0"

RIGHT ~ SIDE ~ ELEVATION.

LEFT ~ SIDE ~ ELEVATION.

ADMINISTRATION ~ BUILDING.

08-79-79-00
BEAVER COUNTY HOME
BUILDING ELEVATIONS.

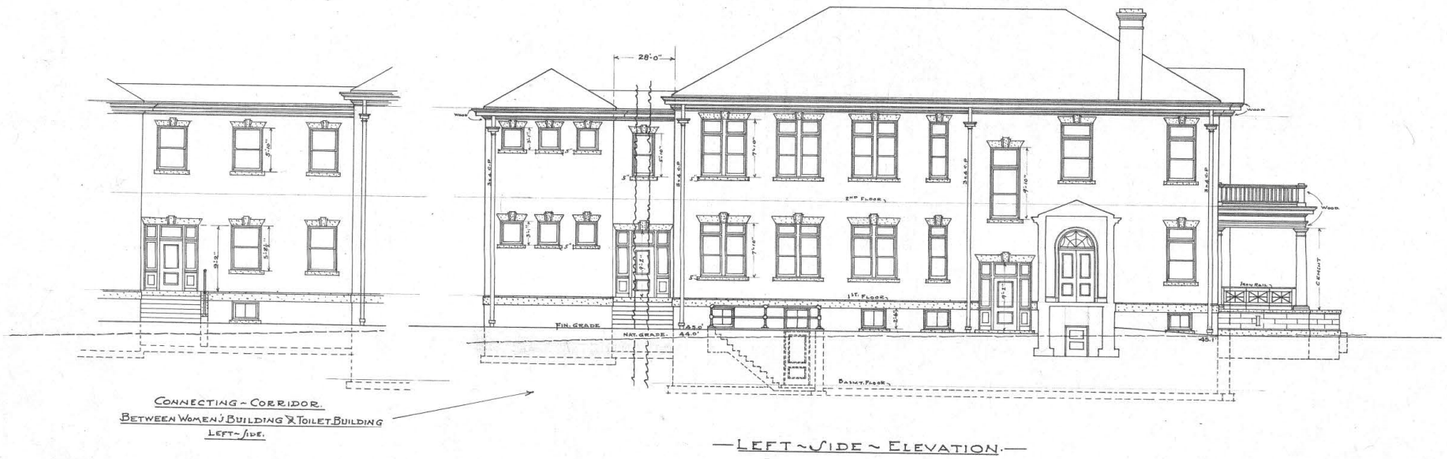
REVISED - JAN. 27, 1915.
MARCH 5. 1914. E2

E00008

BEAVER ~ COUNTY ~ HOME.

CARLISLE & WHARRER · ARCHITECTS.
SCALE $\frac{1}{8}$" = 1'-0"

— RIGHT ~ SIDE ~ ELEVATION —



— LEFT ~ SIDE ~ ELEVATION. —

WOMEN'S ~ BUILDING.

08-79-79-00
BEAVER COUNTY HOME
BUILDING - ELEVATIONS

REVISED. JAN. 27, 1915.

E3

MARCH 3. 1914.

B00009

BEAVER ~ COUNTY ~ HOME.

CARLISLE & WHARRER. ARCHITECTS
SCALE $\frac{1}{8}$" = 1'-0"

—LEFT ~ SIDE ~ ELEVATION.—

—RIGHT ~ SIDE ~ ELEVATION.—

—MENS ~ BUILDING.—

08-79-79-00
BEAVER COUNTY HOME
BUILDING - ELEVATIONS
E4

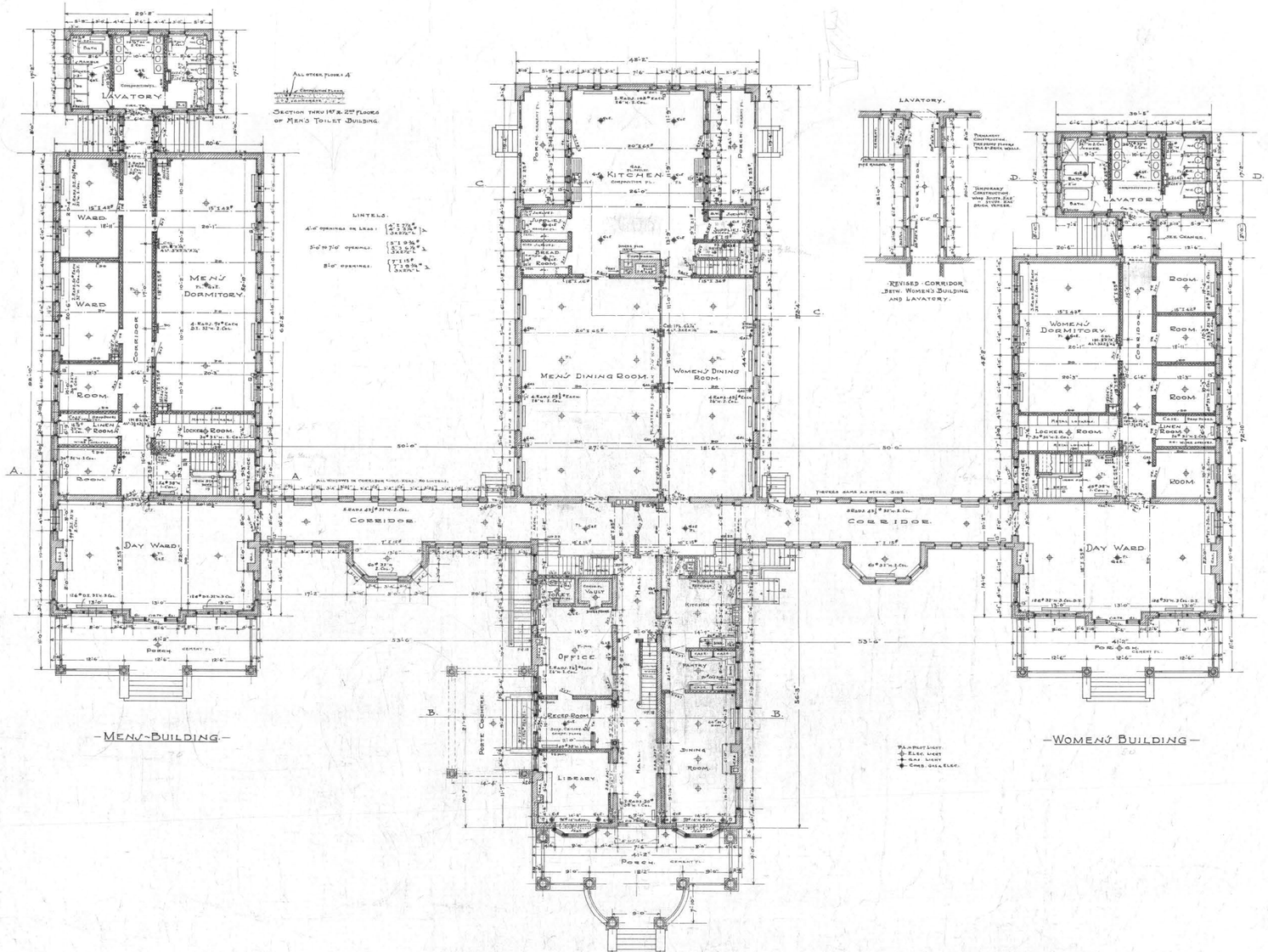
REVISED- JAN. 27, 1915.
MARCH 5. 1914.

E 00010

BEAVER ~ COUNTY ~ HOME

CARLISLE & WHARRER ARCHITECTS

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



—MEN'S BUILDING—

—ADMINISTRATION BUILDING—

—WOMEN'S BUILDING—

—FIRST ~ FLOOR ~ PLANS—

08-79-79-00

BEAVER COUNTY HOME

BUILDING - FIRST FLOOR PLAN

REVISED-JAN. 27, 1915.

MARCH 5 1914.

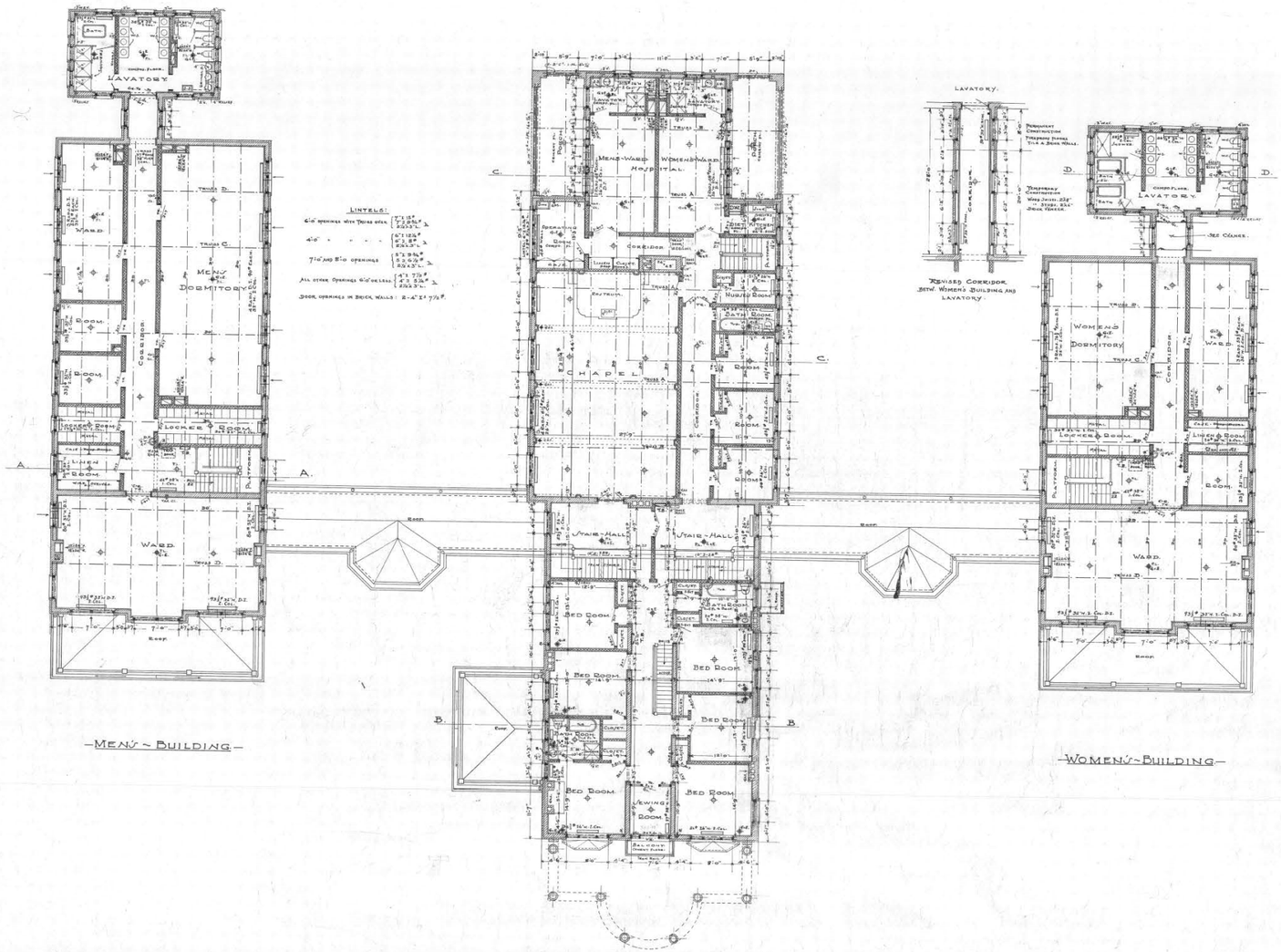
MARCH 30 1940

P4

-BEAVER ~ COUNTY ~ HOME-

CARLISLE & WHARTON. ARCHITECTS.

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



-MEN'S ~ BUILDING-

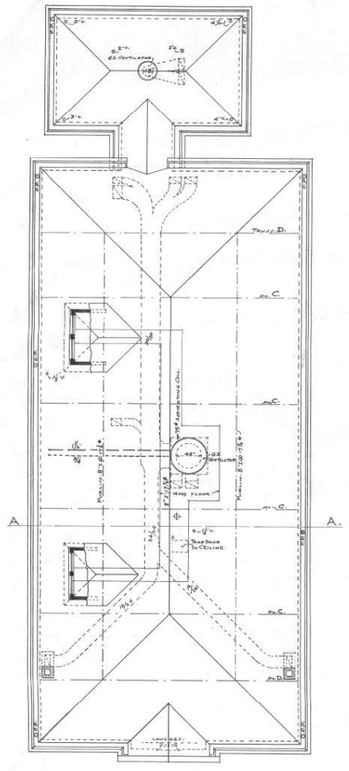
-ADMINISTRATION~BUILDING-

-WOMEN'S~BUILDING-

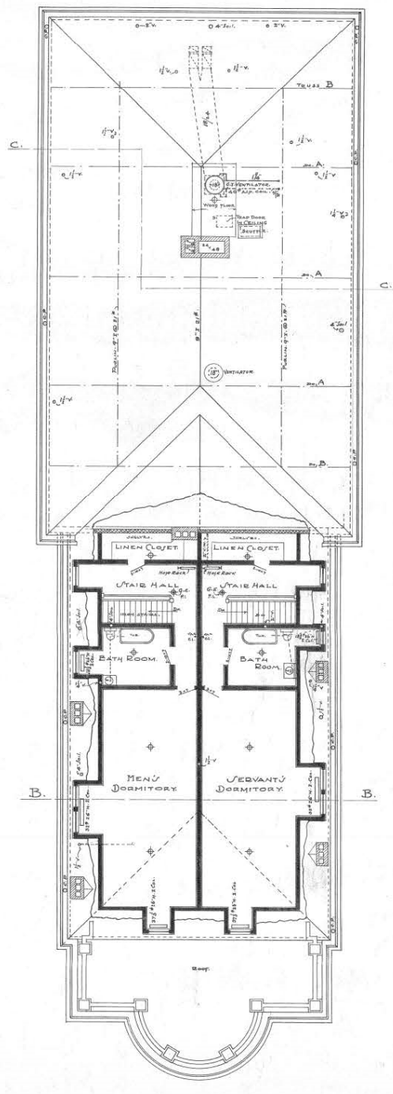
-SECOND ~ FLOOR ~ PLAN-

08-79-79-00
BEAVER COUNTY HOME
BUILDING - 2ND FLOOR PLAN
REVISED. - JAN. 27, 1915.
MARCH. 5. 1914. P5
E00005

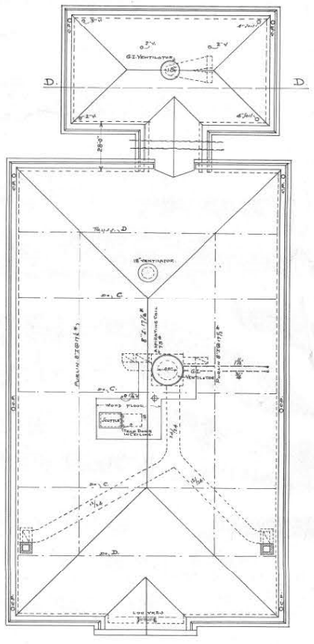
CARLISLE & HARBER ARCHITECTS.
SCALE 1/8" = 1-0"



—ROOF ~ PLAN—
—MENS ~ BUILDING.—



—ROOF ~ PLAN.—
—ADMINISTRATION ~ BUILDING.—

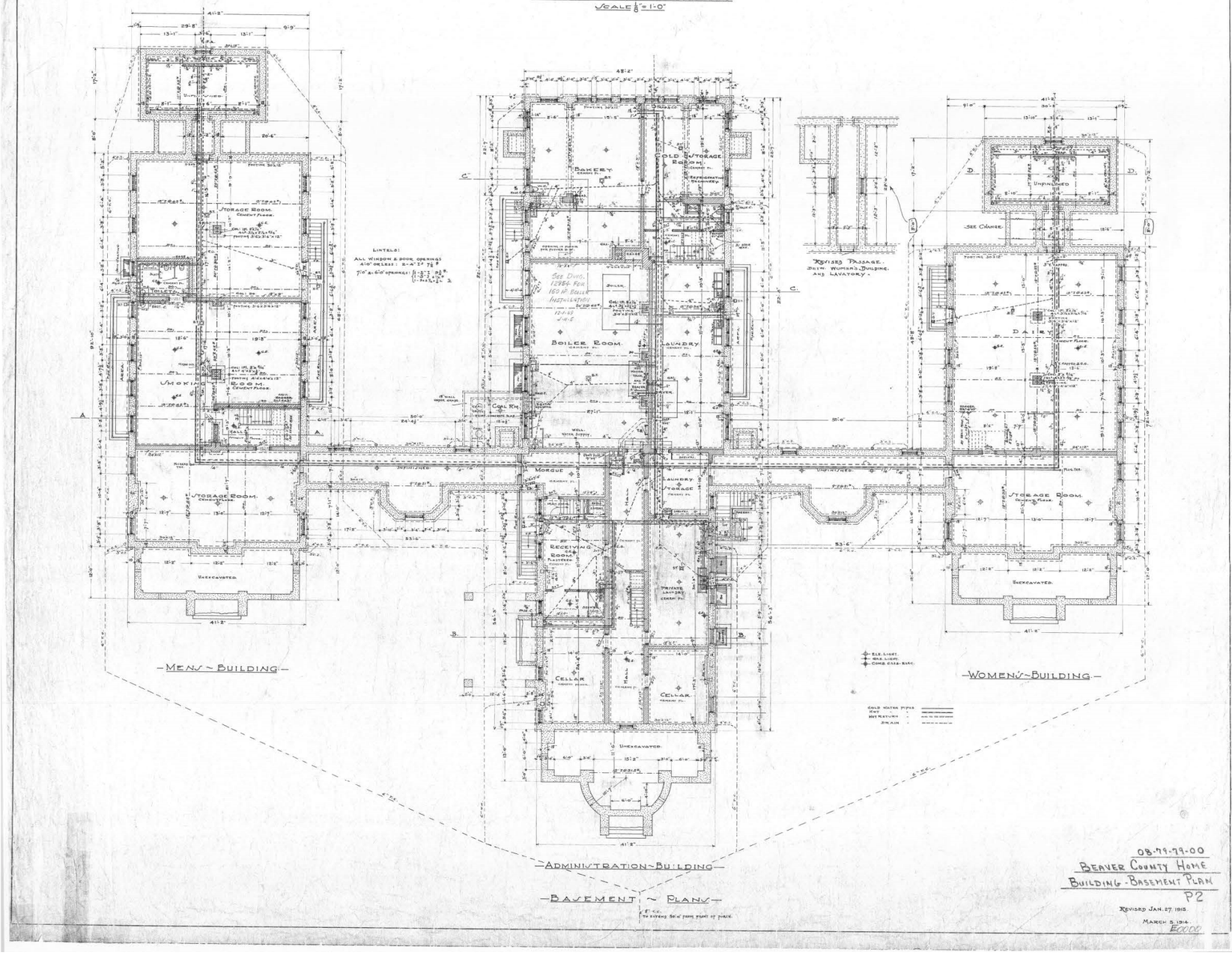


—ROOF ~ PLAN.—
—WOMENS ~ BUILDING.—

08-79-79-00
BEAVER COUNTY HOME
BUILDING - ROOF PLAN
REVISED JAN. 27, 1915.

-BEAVER ~ COUNTY ~ HOME-

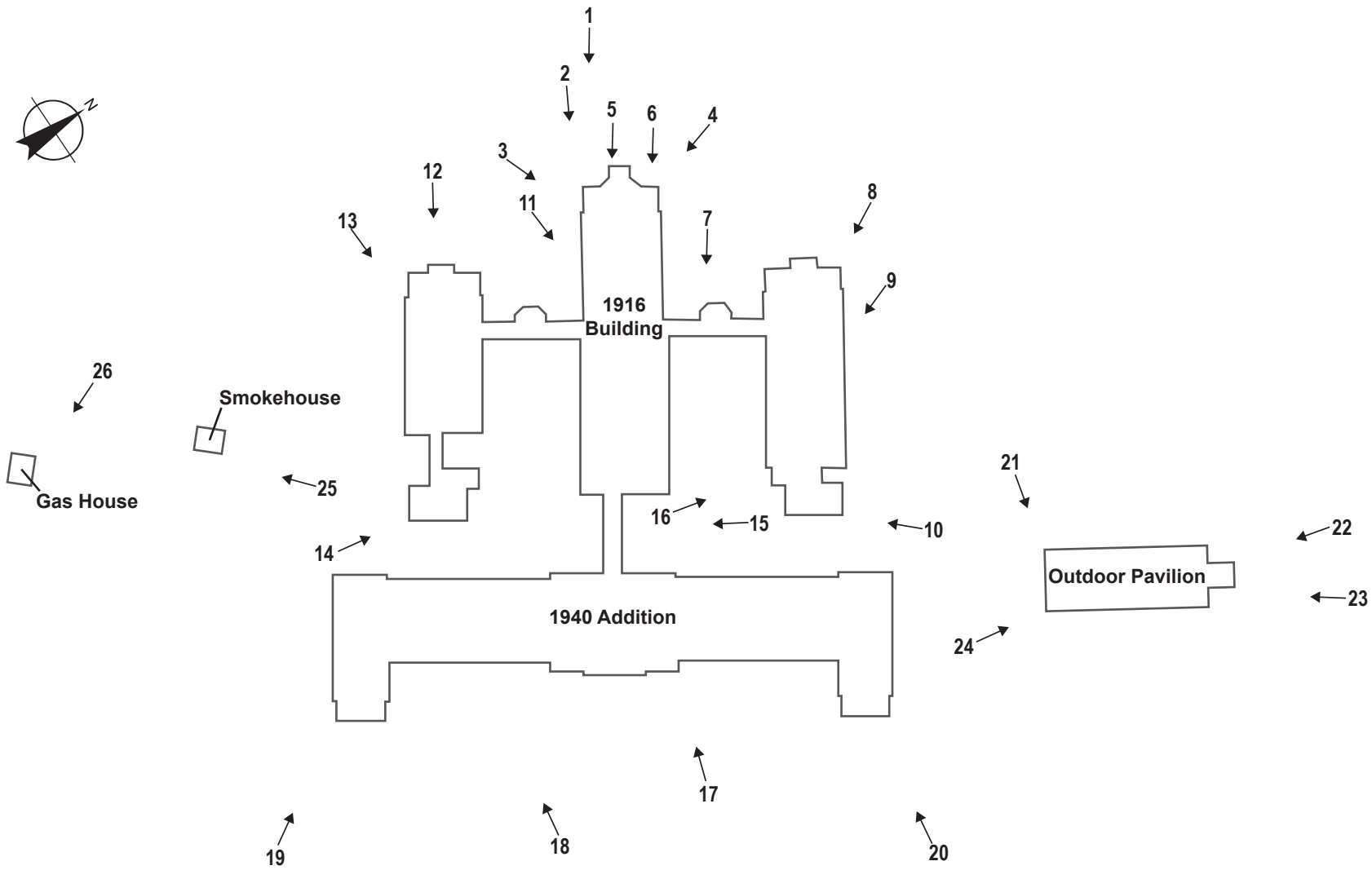
CARLISLE & HARBER - ARCHITECTS
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



08-79-79-00
BEAVER COUNTY HOME
BUILDING - BASEMENT PLAN
P2
REVISED JAN. 27, 1913.
MARCH 5, 1914.
E0000

Appendix B

Historic Architectural Survey/Building Inventory (2014)



*Photos 27-38 are of
the interior of the 1916 Building

AECOM

Beaver County Home Photo Key (2014)

Photo List, Beaver County Home (2014)

Photo #	Photo Subject/ Description	Camera Facing
1	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, overall view	SE
2	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, front portico	SE
3	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, front portico	NE
4	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, central building and front portico	S
5	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, front entrance	SE
6	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, portico columns detail	E
7	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, enclosed corridor section	SE
8	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, east wing	S
9	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, east wing	SE
10	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, east wing	W
11	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, central building	E
12	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, west wing	SE
13	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, west wing	E
14	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, west wing	N
15	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, courtyard facades of central building	W
16	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, courtyard façade of east wing	N
17	Beaver County Home, 1940 addition, central section	NW
18	Beaver County Home, 1940 addition, western half	NW
19	Beaver County Home, 1940 addition, western half	N
20	Beaver County Home, 1940 addition, eastern half	NW
21	Beaver County Home, outdoor pavilion	E
22	Beaver County Home, outdoor pavilion	SW
23	Beaver County Home, outdoor pavilion	W
24	Beaver County Home, outdoor pavilion	N
25	Beaver County Home, smokehouse	W
26	Beaver County Home, gashouse	S
27	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, main entryway	NW
28	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, main entrance vestibule	NW
29	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, fireplace in former library	NE
30	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, bay window in former library	NW
31	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, vault in former main office	SE
32	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, window in former dining room	SW
33	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, portable jail cell in basement of central building	SW
34	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, interior of portable jail cell	SW
35	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, dormitory room in east wing	S
36	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, stairwell in east wing	NE
37	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, stairwell in east wing	SW
38	Beaver County Home, 1916 building, interior, standard hanging light fixture	SE

Photographs

1. Beaver County Home. View southeast of front façade.

2. Beaver County Home. View southeast of front portico.

Photographs

3. Beaver County Home. View northeast of front portico.

4. Beaver County Home. View south of central building and front portico.

Photographs

5. Beaver County Home. View southeast of front entrance.

6. Beaver County Home. View east of column captials on the entrance portico.

Photographs

7. Beaver County Home. View southeast of enclosed corridor section.

8. Beaver County Home. View south of front façade of east wing.

Photographs

9. Beaver County Home. View southeast of side façade of east wing.

10. Beaver County Home. View west of rear façade of east wing.

Photographs

11. Beaver County Home. View east of side façade of central building.

12. Beaver County Home. View southeast of front façade of west wing.

Photographs

13. Beaver County Home. View east of side façade of west wing.

14. Beaver County Home. View north of side façade of west wing.

Photographs

15. Beaver County Home. View west of courtyard facades of central building.

16. Beaver County Home. View north of courtyard façade of east wing.

Photographs

17. Beaver County Home. View northwest of entranceway of 1940 addition.

18. Beaver County Home. View northwest of western half of 1940 addition.

Photographs

19. Beaver County Home. View north of 1940 addition.

20. Beaver County Home. View northwest of eastern half of 1940 addition.

Photographs

21. Beaver County Home. View east of outdoor pavilion.

22. Beaver County Home. View southwest of outdoor pavilion.

Photographs

23. Beaver County Home. View west of outdoor pavilion.

24. Beaver County Home. View north of outdoor pavilion.

Photographs

25. Beaver County Home. View west of smokehouse.

26. Beaver County Home. View south of gashouse.

Photographs

27. Beaver County Home. View of main entryway.

28. Beaver County Home. View of main entrance vestibule.

Photographs

29. Beaver County Home. View of fireplace in former library.

30. Beaver County Home. View of bay window in former library.

Photographs

31. Beaver County Home. View of vault in former main office.

32. Beaver County Home. View of window in former dining room.

Photographs

33. Beaver County Home. View of portable jail cell in basement of central building.

34. Beaver County Home. View of interior of portable jail cell.

Photographs

35. Beaver County Home. View of dormitory room in east wing.

36. Beaver County Home. View of stairwell in east wing.

Photographs

37. Beaver County Home. View of stairwell in east wing.

38. Beaver County Home. View of standard hanging light fixture.

Appendix C

Oral History Interview Summaries and Transcripts (on CD)

Interviews
2016

Joann Bishop

Jim Camp and Jeff Snedden

William Paul Elliott, Jr.

Melissa Haney and Jamie Hoskinson

Sam Moore

Joann Bishop
Interview @ November 26, 2016

JOANN BISHOP
Summary

JoAnn Bishop's interview took place on November 26, 2016 at her residence at 592 Frankfort Road in Monaca, PA. Ms. Bishop grew up and now lives very close to the site of the new Shell petrochemical facility, so she talked about all of the changes to the landscape that have happened since she was thirteen years old (this was when her family moved to Beaver County from Cumberland, MD). She also discussed how road names in that area have changed throughout the years and the businesses that used to be there.

JoAnn told a story about the Poor Home: when she would ride the bus to school as a teenager, she would see older gentlemen walking the roads, and then would see the same gentlemen walking back at the end of the day. She was told that these men would walk from the Poor Home to the local bar, spend the day there, and then walk back to the Poor Home to get there in time for supper. JoAnn also talked briefly about the farm that used to be at the Poor Home. JoAnn did not know anyone who had ever lived or worked at the Poor Home, and she never went back on the property. She stressed that, as a local resident, she felt that the Poor Home and the surrounding community were very separate from each other, socially and geographically.

JoAnn talked quite a bit about St. Joe's zinc plant because her mother-in-law worked there for a long time as a cook and her husband worked there as a mechanical engineer. She discussed a farm run by St. Joe's, Christmas parties, picnics in the summertime, trips to Idora Park in OH for the employees, bowling leagues, and softball teams. She also talked about how her family was affected when St. Joe's closed.

JoAnn discussed the book that she self-published, *Open the Door to the History of Potter Township*, which covered the history of the area and its civic and social organizations.

JOANN BISHOP
INTERVIEW - 11/26/2016

SPEAKERS: JULIE THROCKMORTON (INTERVIEWER)
JOANN BISHOP
UNKNOWN SPEAKER

INTERVIEWER: It is November 26, 2016, and JoAnn would you mind giving us your full name and then also spelling it?

JOANN BISHOP: JoAnn Bishop, and it is J-O capital A-N-N B-I-S-H-O-P.

INTERVIEWER: Great. And could you please give us your full address?

JOANN BISHOP: [redacted], Monaca, Pennsylvania 15061.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you. So I wanted to talk to you just a little bit about the Poor House, Lock Six, and the area in general, and I guess we could start with the area in general and when you first came here to the area.

JOANN BISHOP: I feel like I came in a covered wagon whenever you see all the changes that have been made. I was 13 whenever we came to Beaver County and, um, it is amazing because the place where we lived is no longer there. And when we [married we] moved up here [on Mowry Road], we had a trailer. I used to have a swimming pool in the back and my trailer was the same size as my swimming pool, and I had three children in that 35-foot trailer. It's no wonder I'm crazy. Huh. You may not want to put that in. [Laughter] Anyway, um, when we came to this spot, there were no, no houses around here at all. It was a wonderful place to raise children because they could not go to the mall unless you took them. They could not, uh, go hang around, you know, with and it wasn't that they were isolated because they were involved in ball and scouts and all of those kinds of activities, but it was just that I had more control as to where they're, where they went. And I liked that. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: When you were 13, what was the reason why your family moved?

JOANN BISHOP: Job. My father had, uh, had worked on the, the roads in Cumberland with my grandfather at one time, and then he worked in a steel mill in Weirton, West Virginia [Atlantic Richfield] and then we came here. He was an electrician. So he worked at, well, let me see. When we came here, it was probably called Koppers and then it was ARCO Polymers and then it was, now it's NOVA. It's had many names.

INTERVIEWER: And how did he learn about that job?

JOANN BISHOP: You know what, I'm really not sure because as a teenager I don't think you're real concerned about where they work just that they do.

INTERVIEWER: And as far as when you came to the area, where was it, uh, that you stayed in first? Where was the, um, the area where you first moved?

(0:02:56)

JOANN BISHOP: Well down by what is NOVA now, there was a, a housing project down there. And my dad had stayed at a, um, a house over in Beaver, a rooming house in Beaver, and we were living in Cumberland, Maryland with my grandparents because people didn't want to rent to families. I mean if you had children they didn't, they didn't want to rent to families. So there was really nowhere that we could come up to be with my father. So we stayed down there and he worked up here. So finally he convinced my mother, you know, that we could move into that housing project and then we could, you know, get a house. So we lived there probably I'm going to say maybe four years because I had graduated and I went into nursing school and they were still there. They were the very last people in that housing project because the house that they built is over on [Mowry Road], when you come up my road, instead of turning right to go to my driveway, you would turn left to go on Mowry Road. Their house is down that way. And it was one of those Murphy law houses. Anything that could happen did. Like in the wintertime, the cement froze. So my dad had to dig it all out and redo it. I mean it was just like one thing after the other. So by the time I was in nursing school. So I didn't have to go through all of the, the trauma. But the electric was shut off down at the, the apartment that we lived in. I mean they were like white trash, squatters. [Laughter] So finally the house was the, the basement was completed enough that we could move into there. So then that's what we did until my dad was able to get the, you know, the upstairs built and the rest is kind of like history.

INTERVIEWER: And was the housing project something that the town had built or something that the industry?

JOANN BISHOP: No, the industry had built. It was for the workers.

INTERVIEWER: Did you like living there?

JOANN BISHOP: Well, yes and no. Because you had a lot of friends, but there was too much togetherness. I mean it was, I didn't really know what claustrophobia was then, but I think that I had some of it because there, there was, you were just too close to your neighbors. That's why I liked it when we moved up here because we didn't have any neighbors. Not that I'm antisocial, but I just like my space and a little bit of privacy.

INTERVIEWER: What did the area look like at that time, as compared to now?

JOANN BISHOP: Oh, very desolate. It wasn't built up at all, and Potter Township wasn't built up very much either. In fact, when my parents built the house over on Mowry Road, hmm, I have no idea right now how many houses were over there, but not very many. And then by the time I got out of nursing school, then I got married and then I moved away. So then by the time I came back, it was amazing to see how many new

homes had been built in the area. And like I said, whenever I came over here, none of this, none of this was around here. We had, um, uh, beef and across the street and they used to get out every once in a while and come over in our yard. And Weaton's clear at the end of the driveway, they had horses and every once in a while their horses would get out and did you ever have a feeling that somebody was watching you and look up there were horses looking in our bedroom windows. And then later on, we had horses here too. So it was a nice place for the kids to grow up. They could ride out here and you didn't have to worry about cars. You didn't have to worry about people honking horns and, and those kinds of things.

(0:06:55)

INTERVIEWER: And you said that you had beef. Can you tell me a little bit about why there were farms around here?

JOANN BISHOP: Well, St. Joe had their own farm and their own, their, they grew everything for their cafeteria. And all of their meat, uh, the beef was across the street and then the pigs were down by Raccoon Creek and then they had, um, down in that general area they had their, their farms with their vegetables and, you know, different things like that. Now, I'm sure they did buy some things, but for the most part I think it was pretty self-sustaining. And my mother-in-law worked there for a long, long time with the girls. She always called them the girls.

INTERVIEWER: What was her job?

JOANN BISHOP: Well, she was just a cook. But she was a good cook. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: Did she like working there?

JOANN BISHOP: Yes, she did. I don't remember exactly how long, but I would venture to say that she was there probably 20 or 30 years.

INTERVIEWER: It's interesting. We have talked to people who worked there. So many worked there for such a long period of time.

JOANN BISHOP: Oh, yeah. Well, when we first came to the area, it was, how do I want to put this? It was a very, it was a, uh, more like a family kind of thing. They had all kinds of activities. They had Christmas parties. They had picnics in the summertime and you did a lot of things and it was like you knew. I mean everybody kind of knew everybody else. I mean, you're not going to know everybody that worked down at the mill. And they had bowling alleys down there and they would have, um, just different activities where you could learn and meet the people. And then I hate to say it because I, I do believe in unions, but I think whenever the union got involved down there then a lot of things they disappeared and it became more of a business. Not that it wasn't a business before, but it just seemed like, uh, more of a family kind of business at first. At least, that was my impression.

(0:09:09)

INTERVIEWER: Did you go to events there?

JOANN BISHOP: Oh, yeah. Christmas parties and dances. They would have dances down there, you know, like New Year's Eve and different holidays. Um. In the summertime, St. Joe would even, even, um, oh what was it? Idora Park out in Ohio [for the employees]. And then there used to be a park down in Chester, West Virginia and I can't remember now the name of it. Rock Springs. Huh. And we would go down there. So they, they would rent the places out and then the employees could go free, you know, for the whole day. So it was, it was always kind of nice.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. I bet when that went by the wayside that that was very difficult for people because they felt that connection with the company and then all of those people.

JOANN BISHOP: Well, I have some of that information in, in the, the article that I wrote in that book, um, talking about the different events that, that we had. But it, it was. It was, it was very, very different. Very, very different.

INTERVIEWER: You had told me before when we were talking about your experience with the Poor Home.

JOANN BISHOP: [Laughter] Well, when I came up here into this, Beaver County, I was a teenager. So when we would get on the bus to go to school cause I went to school in Monaca, you would see the older gentleman walking the roads and, and at first I wasn't really, I didn't pay any attention to them because as a teenager what did I really care? You know. So come to find out that they would go down to the local bar and they would spend the whole day down there and then usually by the time I came home from school you might see the same gentleman walking back to the Poor Home probably to get, get there in time for supper. But as far as going back there, I had no need to go back to see, you know. In fact, I don't even know if we would've been allowed. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Did you know anybody who ever lived there or stayed there at the Poor Home?

JOANN BISHOP: No. Huh-uh.

INTERVIEWER: No.

JOANN BISHOP: Huh-uh.

INTERVIEWER: What was the road, was it Route 18? Was it actually called Poor House Road?

(0:11:32)

JOANN BISHOP: The road from the Poor House would cross Route 18 and then it would go clear up to in Center Township and I think that that road was, the name was changed to Pleasant Drive in probably, oh, I don't know whether I'm certain or sure about it or not but probably in about 1944 or '45, somewhere around there. It wasn't the Poor House Road anymore. It was Pleasant Drive. But there, it was a good. Because the house was on the riverbank and it was, it was a pretty good distance, you know, to Route 18 for the, the older gentleman to be walking along there. I was always afraid somebody was going to get hit because the road wasn't very wide and people drove like crazy then as well as they do now. So but I don't know. I don't know of any fatalities that had ever happened there.

INTERVIEWER: So did the road go directly to the Poor House or did it go beyond there too? In other words, would people go on that road just to go to the Poor House or were there other reasons why people would? Were there other businesses off of it or homes?

JOANN BISHOP: Well, up around the bend there was, um, a gas station. It was Scottie's gas station. Scottie Allen. Don't ask me why I remember that name? I don't know. Um. Because that's how the road, Route 18 at that time, it would, it wasn't directly in front of the Poor House because there was a good distance probably like if you would come in my driveway and then go back part way to where Weatons' used to live it would be that, that kind of a distance to get to the Poor House from Route 18. But Route 18 used to kind of wind up around, um, and there was a big house there. They called it the clubhouse. And if dignitaries from wherever came in to, uh, talk about the plant or to view the plant or whatever that's where they stayed in this big house. And then that road, well that was before the mall. So I, I can't even imagine right now where the road would have been in those days as compared to where it is now.

INTERVIEWER: So the Pleasant Drive, the Poor House Road that became Pleasant Drive that we know, that we would've known then doesn't exist now?

JOANN BISHOP: Pleasant Drive does. Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, it does?

JOANN BISHOP: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

JOANN BISHOP: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Where is that in relation to here?

(0:14:12)

JOANN BISHOP: Um. On the new highway, probably about the second light. As you go up around 18, there's, there's a light down here and then you go up around the bend a little bit and there's a light up there and then it would go off to your right. That's Pleasant Drive now, and that road ends up in Center Township.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. And why change, I'm not sure if you know this through your research, but why change the name of the road from Poor Home to Pleasant?

JOANN BISHOP: I have no idea.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

JOANN BISHOP: No idea.

INTERVIEWER: And so the men would just walk back and forth on that road.

JOANN BISHOP: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: And you'd see them a lot, doing that a lot.

JOANN BISHOP: Uh-hmm. Almost every day.

INTERVIEWER: Did, did you…

JOANN BISHOP: But I don't know whether they had anything else to do. Now I know that they had in, in the research that I did, they talk about their garden that they had back there and how the different people had to help with the garden, but I don't, I don't know if there was activities available for them or not.

INTERVIEWER: Did you ever see any women?

JOANN BISHOP: No. No.

INTERVIEWER: So that's interesting. So the length of time that you lived here you really didn't really see or, if you did see you didn't know, the people who were living in the Poor Home?

JOANN BISHOP: No. Chances are I wouldn't have. You know. If, if, like I said, the only time I, I noticed them was when you would see the men, you know, walking to the bar.

INTERVIEWER: You were talking a little bit about the farm for St. Joe's. Do you know anything about the farm for the Poor Home? Was it right on the property?

(0:15:54)

JOANN BISHOP: It was on the property down at the Poor Home. Yeah. And I really don't know a whole lot about that, but from research again that, that farm helped sustain, you know, the needs of the house.

INTERVIEWER: Uh-hmm.

JOANN BISHOP: And the people that were there.

INTERVIEWER: We did an interview last week and somebody had said that they have been doing some research on Poor Homes and they weren't always so nice. I don't know if you had heard anything or in your research done anything about what our Poor Home was like and how it served?

JOANN BISHOP: Well, I really don't know anything for certain. Um. You know. You hear all kinds of things and one of the things that used to bother me as, as I mentioned was about hearing that they had a jail in the bottom. I can't imagine what these elderly men would have done that would've been so horrendous that they would've had to have been in jail. But I never, never saw any documentation, you know, as far as anything that, that caused them to be in that situation. So I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: Did you ever hear any stories that people told of about the Poor Home or any stories about people who had lived there or worked there?

JOANN BISHOP: I'm going to say probably not really because as a teenager, again, that didn't seem to be important to me. I mean if it wasn't something that involved my daily, you know, life I didn't, I didn't really pay any attention to the people that were there or what they were doing and that probably doesn't sound very nice. But as a young person, you don't.

INTERVIEWER: No, I completely understand that. What's interesting to me is the separation between because the community obviously was so close to the Poor House, but that it could exist…

JOANN BISHOP: Yeah, but it, it was like it was its own entity. I didn't seem like it was a part of the community. I can't remember. I can't remember any community involvement. You know, like now, organizations go to Friendship Bridge and do things, you know, and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, but I don't remember, I don't remember anything. And my, my boy, my brothers were always involved in, in scouting and my own sons, but I don't ever remember going down to the Poor House for anything.

(0:18:49)

INTERVIEWER: I wonder if that was intentional.

JOANN BISHOP: I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: Uh-hmm. And you said that you went to nursing school.

JOANN BISHOP: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: So I also think that's interesting that you were in nursing school and then of course they had a medical facility there, but there was no sort of…

JOANN BISHOP: No. I don't know anything about it. Huh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: Where did you go to nursing school?

JOANN BISHOP: Providence Hospital in Beaver Falls, and it, it's now a nursing home and I may end up there. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: Is that Providence? Is it called Providence Point now?

JOANN BISHOP: No. It's just Providence Hospital.

INTERVIEWER: It's just Providence Hospital.

JOANN BISHOP: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: In your research too that, I had said in the phone conversation that we might talk a little bit about Lock Six, although obviously that closed so long ago.

JOANN BISHOP: I, other than the research I did and I contacted a lady at, uh, over in Industry at the post office. She's the one that gave me most of the information. I had really no idea that it had even existed, and it's interesting to me. I would like to know how they built it because I can't imagine how you got wood underneath the water to stay there. [Laughter] Um. It talks about, uh, the size and, and all of that. But I would like to have somebody, you know, really tell me or show me how, how they were able to do that cause that seems like that was quite a feat.

INTERVIEWER: And from what I understand too because we had a conversation a couple of weeks back with the Army Corp of Engineers, some of that wood is still there. Some of that structure is still…

(0:20:33)

JOANN BISHOP: Really.

INTERVIEWER: There…

JOANN BISHOP: Oh my!

INTERVIEWER: And we were shocked to hear that. But yes. Yeah.

JOANN BISHOP: You would think that it would have rotted away by this time.

INTERVIEWER: It is surprising. Do you ever remember seeing the physical structures that were still standing?

JOANN BISHOP: No.

INTERVIEWER: And did you know of the men who had bought the place to turn it into a restaurant?

JOANN BISHOP: No.

INTERVIEWER: I saw that…

JOANN BISHOP: I, I only. I frequented the place after it became a restaurant, but, um, and at one time it was really kind of interesting because they were trying make it like a museum also and you could go upstairs and, and look. They had a few pictures and things, but I'm not sure why it was never able to, um, I don't know, have more business than it did because it just seemed like it, it couldn't thrive no matter who had it. It just didn't seem like it was able to, to thrive very well. And you would've, I don't know. On that, maybe it was the location I guess. I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. I wonder. I know that friends of mine used to go there quite often. The area where the restaurant was, was it the lockmaster's home or where? Do you know what the…

JOANN BISHOP: Well, I understood it to be and there was a house next door that somehow was connected. But I, I really can't remember what was supposed to have been in that, that other house. Whether. I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: Were there, um…

(0:22:21)

JOANN BISHOP: But it was never, it was never opened as far as, as far as I know. The other house. I mean it was boarded up and it has remained that way.

INTERVIEWER: What year did you come here to Potter Township?

JOANN BISHOP: Oh, my goodness sakes. Sixty-nine years ago. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: Okay. But you didn't really hear people talk about Lock Six that they had worked there or that it had closed?

JOANN BISHOP: No. Uh-hmm. No. I didn't, I didn't know anything about it until I started doing the research for that, the book. I, uh, I was completely amazed. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: Can we talk a little bit actually about the book and how you got interested in doing the history and what led you to that and actually we should also say the name of the book that you wrote.

JOANN BISHOP: Well that was kind of a fluke. Uh. We were getting ready for our, our, um, Potter Township birthday and a gentleman that had been one of our supervisors said, "You know, JoAnn, I think that would be a good job for you." And I said, "But I'm an import. I was not born and raised here." "Well, that's okay. I'm sure you could do that." Well, I wasn't sure even where to start, but once I started I found it to be very, very interesting. And I just hope that I've done justice to what information that, that I was able to, to get to put into that so-call book. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: And the name of it?

JOANN BISHOP: Oh, I don't know. What is it? [Laughter] Oh, they both have the, have the same name.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

JOANN BISHOP: [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: *Open the Door to the History of Potter Township*.

JOANN BISHOP: Potter Township.

INTERVIEWER: And can you talk just a little bit about what is in the book and where you did your research?

JOANN BISHOP: Well I tried to cover everything. I tried to cover the schools. Uh. I tried to cover, um, well we didn't have any medical facilities around here and one time we had a church, and at one time, I think we had three bars. And I know my, my daughter-in-law's father used to tease me all the time about not having any churches, but having three bars. And I guess, and then the schools. And I guess once I got, I had to make a list of what I thought should be talked about or what was important. I mean like the, the, uh, schools and, you know, the different business. Well, we didn't have a lot of business around here other than what's down on Route 18. But once I got started then it just seemed like one thing went to another. But I went to the Carnegie Library and did a lot of research there. Um. Then Brenda Applegate over at the Vicary House and like I said, I went over and I, up at the Beaver Falls Library that was, that was a good place to go because you could kind of go from one, one thing to the other like I was talking about. Uh. The police department. Well, our police department that we had here, huh, we weren't able to sustain it ourselves with the tax structure that we had. I mean it was, it was really, um, it was going to cost a lot. So that's why we now have our police

department and Center's together, but we used to have our own. And we have our own volunteer fire department. Um. I guess maybe just like I said, just starting at, at one of those and primarily it was starting with the school because I was working in the school at that time and, and I had worked out of the Potter School at one time. So I guess that was where my focus started, and it just kept climbing from there. It, it was amazing. It was amazing. [Laughter]

(0:26:36)

INTERVIEWER: How many additions have there been now? How many updates?

JOANN BISHOP: Oh. That's the second one and I don't think I'll do any more. I keep. I have notes and what I ought to do is take those notes and write in one of these books, you know, like when the things have been closed. Like when my brother's bar was torn down and, um, the houses that, that were along Route 18 that, that came down. I, I have, uh, little pieces of paper and I stick them up in my cupboard because that's where all of this stuff is and I should get them out and put them in the book so that whenever they were torn down it would be kind of a closure, you know, for that. But I haven't done that yet.

INTERVIEWER: Where was your brother's bar?

JOANN BISHOP: Well, it's hard to tell where it, where it used to be now because I, I, the bearings, I can't hardly tell you what was where anymore, but it was down on Route 18. And it seems to me that if I kind of look at it, it was like when you go up around the first bend, where the first light is and the security gate is on the left-hand side, well it was in that area somewhere.

INTERVIEWER: And what was the name of his bar?

JOANN BISHOP: The Midway [he also had a partner in the business].

INTERVIEWER: Was his one of the three bars in town?

(0:27:51)

JOANN BISHOP: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. What were the other two?

JOANN BISHOP: Well, the one was called the Red Rooster and then, uh, Kobuta Hotel. And the Kobuta Hotel, from what I understand, was built, um, because of the, uh, let me see the name was for, um. Oh, my golly. Now I forget now what, how they came up with Kobuta, but anyhow it was, it was a combination of two, two names, anyway.

INTERVIEWER: It, it was Koppers and…

JOANN BISHOP: Butadiene.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

JOANN BISHOP: Yeah. There you go. Thank you.

INTERVIEWER: And which was the bar that the people from the Poor House would've gone?

JOANN BISHOP: The one that my brother ended up owning. But at that time it was not, uh, by the time my brother owned it, it was many, many years, you know, after the fact. And it, it was, it was a place where you could take, you take, you could take your family to go down there and eat. But there was a time whenever you wouldn't have done that.

INTERVIEWER: Got it.

JOANN BISHOP: Because from what I understand, there was a time whenever it was called a bikers' bar and it wasn't a very, it didn't have a very good reputation and neither did the Red Rooster. The Red Rooster was, well in fact, they're in the process of tearing that building down right now that used to be the Red Rooster. And it was another rowdy spot. [Laughter] From what I understand. I had never, well, I, I was too young then anyhow to even go in there, but I, I don't. I have never been in either one of them.

INTERVIEWER: I think that's something that's interesting that I've realized that people who don't live around here don't necessarily understand that some bars were places that you actually took your family too and that you went in and ate and we still have that, but…

JOANN BISHOP: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: But I guess what I'm trying to say is the local bars and then there were others that you knew just by word of mouth you…

(0:29:52)

JOANN BISHOP: No. You didn't go in. Well from what I understand the Kobuta Hotel used to be a place where families could go in and eat. I don't know that I, huh, I know that I never ate in there. I can't even, I can't, I can't really remember being in there. I may have been in there, but I don't, I don't really remember.

INTERVIEWER: You were saying about the fire department and the police. Now, would they service the entire area? If there were issues at the plant, would they also be there too or did the plant have its own security?

JOANN BISHOP: No. The plant had its own security and they had their own fire departments too. Um. I don't know that, that our fire department ever had to, to go into the plant to do anything or vice versa. You know. The plant, I don't think that the plant ever came out to, to do anything with, you know, with the surrounding area.

INTERVIEWER: But if anything happened in the community or maybe even at the Poor Home that they would be involved with, with…

JOANN BISHOP: Well, from, from what I would understand, it would be, you would, they would either call Raccoon Fire Department or Center Fire Department to come down and help. I don't think the plants did. You know. I don't think their fire department got involved with the community.

INTERVIEWER: And you said you had worked as a school nurse in the Potter Township School.

JOANN BISHOP: Right.

INTERVIEWER: How long did you do that?

JOANN BISHOP: Oh. I was there probably only about five or seven years. Um. The school was small. We only had, oh, probably at the most 200 or 250 students from grade K to 8. I can remember when my son was in eighth grade I think there were only seven kids in his class. It was really, um, I guess you could almost classify it like a, um, a one-room school building because each, each room didn't have very many students in it. And we used to have students from, um, before Southside School was built. You know. The kids from down in, in, uh, Hookstown and, um, oh, let's see, Chester, West Virginia used to come up here for a while.

INTERVIEWER: So they'd bus them that far…

JOANN BISHOP: Yeah and even Center Township kids came down here for a while. And then it just wasn't feasible to keep it open anymore because there weren't, weren't enough children there. So then they merged with Center and then that, then the next thing you know Center merged with Monaca. So it's kind of gone around in a big circle.

(0:32:43)

INTERVIEWER: Now as far as the school district being created in the first place, there must have been enough kids. Were those the kids of people who worked around here?

JOANN BISHOP: Right.

INTERVIEWER: Or the workers?

JOANN BISHOP: Right. At one time, there was a school, well I think there was maybe four rooms and the first school that was down, uh, it was in, in the little community of, of what we called Kobuta homes. The, the, um, the project. And it was, it was primarily there was a little store down there [and Post Office], and it was primarily just a community for the people that worked at Koppers. And then, um, then as this area started growing, well then the next thing then they started building the school out here. But I don't think, I don't think there were ever more than maybe 300 kids out there of our own. I mean it was a nice concept, but I, I can't imagine that it would ever really thrive for very long because there just weren't enough kids here. And then of course as they grew up and went to high school, they either had to go to Aliquippa or Monaca. Um. And in some case, I went to Rochester. My dad, um, the first year I went to Monaca. He didn't like the fact that you could be exempt from exams at the end of the year. So if you had a certain grade point average you didn't have to take the exams. Well he didn't think that was necessary. You needed to take the test. So he sent me to Rochester. So all of our, my, there's five of us in my family and we all went to Rochester except the youngest brother and he, he went to Monaca. Of course, we still tease him about being the baby and being able to go to Monaca. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: How did you feel about that when your dad…

JOANN BISHOP: It didn't matter. Because once you started school you got, you had your friends and it was fine.

INTERVIEWER: And when you were 13 and you first started going to school here, where did you go?

JOANN BISHOP: Monaca.

INTERVIEWER: Was it a junior high at the time?

JOANN BISHOP: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Was it called Monaca Junior High?

(0:35:03)

JOANN BISHOP: Yes and it's not even there anymore. It's where the fountain, the fountain is in Monaca.

INTERVIEWER: Oh, yes.

JOANN BISHOP: That's where the junior high used to be.

INTERVIEWER: How long was your, well I guess it wasn't a very long bus ride there.

JOANN BISHOP: Uh, about 20 minutes, a half an hour maybe. Cause of the rickety old busses and the rickety old roads. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: I remember. I saw too in your book about that they used to do an outdoor program at the Potter Township Schools.

JOANN BISHOP: We had a recreation program that we used to do in the summertime and they would have [activities], um, well I did arts and crafts. And they would have, uh, what, football teams and baseball teams. Cause my boys were always involved in that and my girls too. Um. And of course scouts, 4-H, you know, those kinds of things you had out here.

INTERVIEWER: Uh-hmm.

JOANN BISHOP: Like I said, it was a nice community for, to raise children.

INTERVIEWER: And I'm wondering too. I know I'm coming back to this and it's fine if you don't know, but the students, the young people who would've been in the Poor Home, what schools do you think they would have gone to?

JOANN BISHOP: No, they were all old people.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

JOANN BISHOP: No young, no young people there. Huh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

JOANN BISHOP: They, they were considered the indigent.

INTERVIEWER: Got it. So there were no, there wouldn't have been any people…

JOANN BISHOP: No families. Huh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm.

(0:36:40)

JOANN BISHOP: Huh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: Do you remember when the Poor Home closed? Do you remember when it moved to the …

JOANN BISHOP: The geriatric center. It's probably in my book, but right off hand I can't, uh, I can't remember. My long term, short term memory is kicking into place anymore. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: As a nurse, did you ever do anything with the facilities that then became the geriatric center or the medical center?

JOANN BISHOP: No. Huh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: And, um.

JOANN BISHOP: Now, I basically worked at, at Providence and then the Aliquippa Hospital whenever it was in existence.

INTERVIEWER: Uh-hmm. I remember that hospital as well.

JOANN BISHOP: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: Can you tell me a little bit about the Hostetter Home?

JOANN BISHOP: Only that I wish I would've been around at that time because it seems like it must've been a beautiful, beautiful mansion and from the research that I have done it must've been a, um, flowing with activities all the time. It just seemed like it was a, oh, I don't know, a party house so to speak. It's, it, it just kind of seemed to be that that's where the people went to have their parties or to just have a good time. It almost seemed like a resort kind of a, uh, situation, and I'm not sure that that's at all what it was, but as I was, was doing research on that I, I just kinda wish that I would've been available at that time. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: Are there still Hostetters who live in the area?

JOANN BISHOP: Well there are, but I, in fact my, my sister-in-law was married to a Hostetter, but they had no, he had, my, my brother-in-law had no, um, ideas or even remembrances of, of whether they were related to any of the, the people that had, had been at that facility. And, uh, the Hostetters that do the auctions I don't know whether they were related or not.

(0:39:09)

INTERVIEWER: It's a fairly unique name. So I would think there might be some connection, but…

JOANN BISHOP: I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: Uh.

JOANN BISHOP: I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: That home. Was it built by a family?

JOANN BISHOP: From what I understand it was. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And it was a mansion?

JOANN BISHOP: Yeah. It must've been very unique. In fact, the book *The Winding Staircase* was supposed to have written, been written either because of that house or it had some connection with the house.

INTERVIEWER: And where would've that mansion have been in relation to here?

JOANN BISHOP: Well from what I understand, it would've been in the area of St. Joe that we used to call, um, well let me see. Probably where they, they, they made the, the dust powder. I don't know. I think I have a map in the book, um, that might give you a little bit more…

INTERVIEWER: I think I remember seeing that.

JOANN BISHOP: Of a direct location, but it's, the way the topography of the ground has move around it's hard to tell.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

JOANN BISHOP: Where anything might have been. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: And do you remember or do you know when that came down?

JOANN BISHOP: No. I may have it documented in the book, but I, I don't remember.

INTERVIEWER: I can look that up too. I thought that was really interesting in the book because I didn't have any memories at all of that home or anybody talking about it.

(0:40:49)

JOANN BISHOP: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: But of course I recognized the name.

JOANN BISHOP: Well, that's like I, I have information there about this Doctor Frank Braden. Now, he was another one that I did a lot of research with, and I can't really remember how I came upon his name except, yes, I do. At a time, there was right before if you're leaving my house and you're going back towards Monaca on the right hand side there is Raccoon Creek Road. Well, that corner apparently used to be a graveyard. And the people that live in the house there the last people that lived there, um, my oldest son and their son, Jim, were friends. Well here they would, um, plant a garden in that area and apparently the tombstones were all, you know, had gone underneath the ground and

so they had retrieved, oh, I don't know, about four different tombstones and they had them in their garage. Now, I can't really remember how that came into being, uh, an item that the paper was writing about. But nevertheless this Doctor Frank Braden at that time lived in Coraopolis and there was an article about him in the paper saying that those tombstones were from his family. Well then I went to see him. I took my mother and I took, um, a gentleman that used to live over on Mowry Road that had been here all his life and I figured the questions that I did not know to ask him that they would know to ask him because they had lived a lot longer than I had. It was the most interesting day I think I had ever had because this man was a wealth of information. At that time, he was in his eighties, his last eighties, and he was still making house calls. He only worked a half a day, but I can't imagine working. I mean I'm 82. I can't imagine working outside the house now. [Laughter] But he was a historian and in his living room he had bookcases all the way around and they were just filled. Whenever I, I introduced myself and, and told him why I was there and what I was hoping to, to learn from him, he knew exactly what area in his, his bookcase to go and get that [whatever he thought was useful]. Since then, unfortunately, Doctor Braden has passed away and I always wondered what in the world happened to all that information that he had. I hope that it was put in a good safe place or, or, um, a good library or some place because he, he was, he was a wealth of information.

INTERVIEWER: I wonder if he donated it to Vicary…

JOANN BISHOP: I would hope. I would hope.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Wow.

JOANN BISHOP: Because that amazed me. You know. Whenever I, I can't even remember what the first part of the conversation would've been, you know, but he did. He went right into his living room and was able to find exactly what I wanted and that, I thought, huh, with all this, all these books in here how would he even remember where Potter Township was. [Laughter]

(0:44:08)

INTERVIEWER: Right.

JOANN BISHOP: But he did. And I don't even know what areas, you know, he, he had information on. But it was amazing. It was amazing.

INTERVIEWER: Now, we had talked too a little bit at the beginning about St. Joe's and their social events, going to the Christmas parties. Would you have gone because…

JOANN BISHOP: My husband worked there.

INTERVIEWER: Oh. This is what I didn't know.

JOANN BISHOP: Yeah. My husband worked there and I have a brother that lives next door. He's the one that used to own the bar and he worked there for a short time and my other brother worked there for a short time. But a lot of the family, a lot of the family [worked there]. Cause you figure that and Kobuta or Koppers was the only industry that we had at that time and BASF came in later and AES came in later. Now, AES is gone. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: How long did your husband work there?

JOANN BISHOP: Oh my golly. From the time, well he, he'll be 83, but, um, at that time when you were finished high school you could go into an apprentice program, you know, at the mill, and he did. He went into, um, mechanical engineering and then ended up going to Geneva to get his degree. So he worked there probably, oh my golly. I'm going to say probably 30 years, 25, 30 years. A long time anyway.

INTERVIEWER: Did they pay for him to go to college?

JOANN BISHOP: They would, if, if you attained a certain grade they would pay, you know, a certain, I forget now how [Coughs]. Excuse me. How it was, uh, planned out. But you had to earn a certain grade before they would pay. I'm going to say maybe 30% or something like that. But they did help a lot. Because we had four little ones and I was, I was working but, um, with him working and going to school it, I mean, that was, that was another expense that you really didn't plan on.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. And what was his job? What were his jobs?

JOANN BISHOP: Well, he was a mechanical engineer.

INTERVIEWER: And that was all the way through even when he went in near the beginning?

(0:46:39)

JOANN BISHOP: Well when he went in it was just an, an apprenticeship to learn, you know, to learn about the mechanical engineering aspect and then he went on to get his degree.

INTERVIEWER: Did he work shift work?

JOANN BISHOP: No. No.

INTERVIEWER: Did you, um…

JOANN BISHOP: I did. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: I know you were saying about the social events, what you said about the picnics and Christmas, did they do any sort of sporting teams?

JOANN BISHOP: Yeah. They had bowling leagues and they had softball teams. Um. That probably was it. I don't remember that they had, I don't think in that time they did, you know, they played pool and, and the things that are, are kind of social events now, but that's, I can only remember the, the baseball and the bowling because, no, that, I, no, that's all they had I think was the bowling and the, and the baseball.

INTERVIEWER: And for a lot of their events were you able to take your kids too?

JOANN BISHOP: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: That's interesting to me because having grown up in Ambridge, I was in elementary school when American Bridge closed. So it's hard for me to imagine that all of my peers, all of my friends, their dads working in the same place that my dad did.

JOANN BISHOP: Uh-hmm. Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: That's a concept that's foreign to me and I think maybe I was the first generation around here to feel that way because the industry closed when I was so young.

JOANN BISHOP: Well you figure in Potter Township, the people either worked at Koppers or they worked at St. Joe. Now my dad worked at Koppers. He was an electrician there and my one brother worked there. So but that was, that was the only places of employment. So didn't have a whole lot of choice.

(0:48:46)

INTERVIEWER: And did your husband retire from St. Joe's?

JOANN BISHOP: Um. Well in a sense he was retired because they were closing. The mill was, uh, when the union came in, then there was a lot of problems. And the mill had, had kind of shut down for a while and whenever they were shut down we still had to live, and as a nurse I didn't make enough money to sustain our family. So he finished his degree and then he got a job, uh, ended up getting a job in South Carolina. And, um, I really don't remember how long the mill was, was down, St. Joe was down. But by the time it, by the time it was able to revive itself things weren't the same because a lot of the people had gotten other jobs and so it was, it was kind of hard. It was kind of hard for the mill to get, get a grasp on itself again. And I, I really honestly don't think that it ever got back to the way it had been before.

INTERVIEWER: Now, did you move then to…

JOANN BISHOP: For a short time, I was down there and then due to a lot of other problems, well, then I came back.

INTERVIEWER: And your kids, what was that like for them? Did they think that they were going to be able to rely on St. Joe's being there and that they would go into that or was there a push towards them doing something different?

JOANN BISHOP: Well, probably. Probably that's, that's what, you know, you would think because it was in your backyard, so to speak. Um. My oldest son whenever he graduated though he went, he joined the Navy. And my other son, then he worked at St. Joe for, for a long time. And then whenever St. Joe finally, uh, did close its doors, well by that time my oldest son was out of the Navy and was working as a, a postman in Rochester and so then whenever St. Joe went down, uh, my second son then was able to get a job with the post office too, but he works in Sewickley.

INTERVIEWER: And so what happened then with the next generation as far as you know…

JOANN BISHOP: Well, my one grandson, um, there was just a small part of St. Joe that was still going and they would make zinc powder for batteries and things like that and, and my, well, I guess really three of my grandsons worked in that area for a while. And then as it became, I guess less popular or there, they didn't have as many clients or customers or whatever, well then two of the boys went on to college and decided to try something else. And then the third, one he was there until they closed and then whenever they closed, he had the option of, of, um, going to school. So he did. He went to school for computer science.

(0:52:18)

INTERVIEWER: Has it been sad for you to see those changes or has or is just progress?

JOANN BISHOP: I think it was kind of sad because what used to be a very thriving community doesn't seem to be that way anymore. Um. Cause when you think like our school is closed and our mills are closed and, um, I don't know. I mean I realize that we have to have progress and I'm really glad that, that Shell did buy the property so that hopefully, you know, the county will be able to get back to work because I think it's sad everywhere. Our little, our little communities. I mean look at Rochester and Monaca and Aliquippa. It's so sad to see how rundown all of these communities are. When you think of Rochester as being the hub of Beaver County and what's there now? It really is. It's sad. So it would be good if, if, if it could all be revitalized and people get back to work.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think about Shell coming in and also what do you hear people around here when they talk? How do they feel? Does it mean progress and jobs or is it alarming to see how the landscape is changing or a little bit of both?

JOANN BISHOP: Probably a little bit of both. Um. I was amused. [Laughter] My sense of humor sometimes is kind of different, but I was amused at how, like I said, how they

moved. It seemed to me as though they were moving earth from the point and putting it over here and then after a while they were taking it here and putting it [Laughter] someplace else. And I used to, huh, I used to chuckle because it was almost whenever, whenever I would go to work or whenever I would go shopping to see what was going on that day. And then a lot of it we didn't know what was going on. So it was always like a surprise. [Laughter] Okay. Let's see. Let's see what's going on today.

INTERVIEWER: Does it seem like people in the community are excited about…

JOANN BISHOP: Well I think there's a lot of mixed emotions because of all of the controversy you hear. I mean, you hear about air pollution. You hear about water pollution and, and that makes people nervous and I can certainly understand that. Now, we don't have. In fact, I don't know that there's anyone around here that has wells anymore. Uh. We get our water from Aliquippa Water Authority. And I think that was…

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: I need a timeout.

[Inaudible]

INTERVIEWER: You were saying mixed emotions . . .

JOANN BISHOP: Well, you know, with the media these days, you hear, um, the business about earthquakes, you know, is caused by the fracking of the water and, and you just hear about so many disastrous kind of activities that go on that I think it, it doesn't make me afraid, but maybe a little anxious, you know, as to what's going to happen. But then on the other hand, I think that those people that are building the plant and running the plant are supposed to be very intelligent and I would think that they would have the wherewithal to make sure that those things were in place, you know, so that we didn't have a lot of air pollution and plus the government. You know the government has all kinds of clamps on that. And that our water wouldn't be polluted. But like I said, I don't know. I don't know. Now, I know clear down at the bar, my brother didn't have city water. He had a well. But I don't know that there's anybody up in this area that still has a well. So I wouldn't have a tendency to worry that much about the water being contaminated because of where it originates.

(0:56:43)

INTERVIEWER: Do you think that the Shell plant might bring people to the area?

JOANN BISHOP: I certainly hope so. When I think of all the hotels that have been built around here, what would they do if people [Laughter] [Inaudible]. And then they were talking about, um, when the tanks where we, it used to be called the tank farm down by Raccoon Creek. And of course that was, that's a whole other subject, but whenever they took the, the big tanks out of the ground and they were surveying the residents to see what should be put there. A lot of people talked about putting a campground in there and that was even before the talk I believe of Shell coming. But now I think that would be a

good idea because a lot of people probably would bring their families, you know, if they had a motorhome or…

INTERVIEWER: Tell me about the tanks and what period of time was this?

JOANN BISHOP: Well that's in the book also, but it…

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

JOANN BISHOP: It was during the war. They, they had fuel in those tanks and, and they had them I forget how far underground. And you know what I probably lived here for 20 years before I even knew any of that. And they had buildings there that were like camouflaged so that it looked like a farmland. So that if any, anyone tried to bomb our area, they wouldn't really know what was underneath of there.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

JOANN BISHOP: And the reason that the fuel was there was because we had access to not only the river but to the trains, and so they felt that that was a good, good place to store all this fuel. And I didn't know that.

INTERVIEWER: I didn't know that either.

(0:58:29)

JOANN BISHOP: No. But I have, I have a whole, uh, no. It's not mine. But I have information concerning that whole area down there that was written by the, I believe, the Army Corp of Engineers maybe.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

JOANN BISHOP: But that was another interesting thing. So I went down there and whenever they were trying to clean it up. You know my head and my body don't work together and my head says, "Oh, sure, JoAnn, you can go down and help clean up." But my body says, "Now wait a minute. [Laughter] You're too old for this." [Laughter] But it was interesting. It was interesting. And whenever they finally had the big tanks out and they were leveling off the ground, they had like, um, an open house kind of thing and the people that were in charge, um, were there and they, they could give you the history, you know, of what, what all had gone on and what was supposed to go on and it was, it was interesting. But I, I, it's funny that I never heard about that before and why didn't they talk about that in school?

INTERVIEWER: Right.

JOANN BISHOP: I don't know.

INTERVIEWER: I've often wondered why, while I went all those years through school, living in Beaver County, and never knew we had a Poor Home. I never knew. And I didn't learn about Lock Six either until I was an adult.

JOANN BISHOP: No. I never knew about Lock Six until I was doing, you know, the research and then I, I didn't even know, well there wasn't any place on this side of the river. So I went on that side of the river to try and find out then. That's where I found it on that side of the river.

INTERVIEWER: I think was about it unless there was anything else that you would like to share.

JOANN BISHOP: Huh-hmm. No. As I said before, it was a, a great place to raise children. My kids could roam all over the woods and you didn't have to worry. The only time you had to worry about them was during hunting season and then you kept 'em in the house. [Laughter] And I worried about when we had horses I worried about them because I thought sometimes those stories you hear about hunters. You know. They shoot at anything. And I was afraid. We had four horses over there and I was afraid one of those was going to end up dead, but they didn't. They didn't. But it was. It was a nice place to raise the kids.

INTERVIEWER: Well thank you so much.

(1:01:14)

JOANN BISHOP: You're very welcome.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you.

(END)

Jim Camp and Jeff Snedden
Interview @ November 19, 2016

JIM CAMP AND JEFF SNEDDEN
Summary

The interview with James Gordon Camp III (Jim) and Jeffrey Snedden (Jeff) took place on November 19, 2016, at the Captain William Vicary House (home of the Beaver County Historical Research and Landmarks Foundation) in Freedom, Pennsylvania. Jeff Snedden is a local writer, researcher, and historian for the Beaver County Times. He provides information on the Poor Home and its historical context relating to Western Pennsylvania. Jim Camp's long line of family relations provides knowledge and insight to the closing of the Poor Home and facilities that would supersede it.

Jeff Snedden discusses pre-Civil War era in the area and the local push as early as the 1820s for a Poor Home. Due to a lack of funding the referendum did not pass until 1851. The interview shares details about who originally owned the land, who was employed at the Poor House, the types of jobs they had, details about the building, the farm on the property, transportation in the area (by ferry and railroad), other Poor Homes in the region, the ethnicity/nationality of locals, the different types of local industry, the role of religion and faith, and what years the Poor Home had the most inmates (early 1910s). Jeff also talks about Emil Bott, a landscape painter who was an alcoholic and became destitute, and became an inmate at the Poor Home.

By the 1940s the Poor Home was crowded and the building was falling into disrepair. Jeff and Jim Camp explain how the County began appointing commissioners to oversee the construction of a new facility. Camp speaks of the benevolence of his family with regards to the Poor House, specifically telling the story about the transfer of patients to the new facility. He also recites his grandfather's remarks at the opening of the new facility, the Beaver County Home and Hospital.

Jeff and Jim also talk briefly about Lock No. 6 on the Ohio River (located across the river from the Poor Home), as well as other dams in Beaver County. They discuss river conditions and scenarios before the installation of the locks and dams, in particular the low water heights.

JIM CAMP & JEFF SNEDDEN
INTERVIEW - 11/19/2016

SPEAKERS: JULIE THROCKMORTON (INTERVIEWER)
JIM CAMP
JEFF SNEDDEN

JULIE THROCKMORTON: So if you wouldn't mind starting by providing your full name, address, age, and date of birth.

JIM CAMP: Um. James Gordon Camp, III. Common spelling James, G-O-R-D-O-N, Camp C-A-M-P. I'm 65, retired. I live at [redacted] in Rochester, Pennsylvania.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Jeffrey Snedden. Uh. I'm 39 years old. Uh. I'm a historian and a writer for the Beaver County Times. Uh. I live in Hopewell Township. Uh. [redacted], Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. Um. And what else…That's it right.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's it. Right. And just getting started a little bit on the background of the Poor Home itself. Do you know who created the Poor Home or if there was a local push for it or a state?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yes. There, uh, there was a local push for a Poor House for the county, uh, in the 1820s. Uh. 1831 was the first time that it showed up on, uh, a county referendum. Uh. It did not pass. Ten years later, it showed up once again and did not pass. Ten years after that, so now we're almost thirty years after the initial push, uh, in 1851 it passed by a very slim margin.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And what were some of the reasons why it wouldn't have passed?

JEFF SNEDDEN: I'm sure it would've been funding would have been the main, uh, at that point in time Beaver County was mainly an agricultural, uh, community. So, um, and the, the tax revenue, uh, for the county wasn't near the infrastructure for it. It wasn't near what it is today. So any chunk of money that they would've taken out, uh, for a project this size would've really hindered the ability to do a lot of other stuff.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: All right. Do you think, from what you've read at that point in time, there was a great need to have a Poor Home?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Absolutely. Uh. That was around the same time, uh, the mid, mid-nineteenth century, uh, were all the local counties in our area, our region of Western Pennsylvania, uh, were also creating poor houses. Um. Poverty had become in the pre-Civil War era, uh, poverty had become pretty, pretty bleak in some areas. Um. There was, uh, some major droughts that happened, uh, during the, the early 1850s. That really hit the farming and agriculture industry hard and, uh, the rest of the county where you would consider population centers, at that time, which would've been Beaver Falls, New

Brighton, Rochester, uh, would've been the main population centers and Beaver of course, uh, but the rest of the area all around that, uh, where today is now our, our townships, uh, those were all just rural, uh, and poverty was very, very tough. So…

0:03:09

JIM CAMP: But business was in the canal towns.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yes. Yeah.

JIM CAMP: Towns along the river.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. Yeah. The river, the river industries. That was still in the, in the time when the river industries were the, uh, the big industry so to speak.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Uh-hmm. We had talked about this before, but how was our Poor Home funded? Would it have been through, through tax revenue? Is that how it would've been funded?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. It was funded. All the expenses were born of the county. Uh. The county picked up the tab for everything. I do believe they had like a donation, uh, system too, but the majority of the expenses were, were straight from the county.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And who were the staff members and their qualifications? How did you get a job there? How were you hired?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Uh. I believe that mainly they just hired, people were hired that had qualifications. I don't believe there was any, uh, like an internal system or, or anything countywide for, for hiring people. Uh. It seems as if over the course of time certain families got involved with the Poor House, and then as you know generations passed the same family would be involved in operating it, and then as you got further along towards the twentieth century, uh, and there started to be more of, uh, a structure to county government, uh, it seems like there, they started actually appointing, you know, director of the Poor House and positions of that nature.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And that actually ties in with your family, correct? Is that how your family became connected?

JIM CAMP: Yes. Yes. Uh. Five generations of commissioners, uh, go back to George Shroads, whose wife was one of the administrators down there. Not that patronage existed in those days, but his wife was, uh, the nursing superintendent at the Poor Home. Uh. It continues on through, uh, my grandfather, Gordon, J. Gordon Camp was the county commissioner chairman and the chairman of the institution district, which created the new County Hospital, Home and Hospital. His brother was the last superintendent of the County Poor Home in Potter, and he was the first administrator of the new facility.

0: 05:44

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Got it.

JIM CAMP: In 1959, that one.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And the, and the new facility was that the geriatrics? What did…

JIM CAMP: Yes. It was originally known as the County Home and Hospital. Institution District of Beaver County is the agency that, that did that. I believe that was like a municipal, uh, authority.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yes.

JIM CAMP: It still, it still exists today.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you know what the pay was like for workers going all the way back and then also as it, as time went forward?

JEFF SNEDDEN: The initial, uh, paid employee was the, the Director of the Poor House. Uh. In 1851, the very first, I'm sorry, 1853, the very first year that the, the Poor House was opened, uh, the, the Director of the Poor House was paid a salary of five-hundred dollars a year. Uh. That was the only paid employee that we have record of. Uh. Unfortunately, we don't have the salary records and stuff of that nature for the Poor House. Uh. So, that's the only one that we know for sure and that's because it was actually, uh, one of the salaries. Since it was a public salary, it was listed in the newspapers.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Got it. Did, did they also have volunteers?

JEFF SNEDDEN: I believe they did, uh, but, you know, mainly the, the Poor House itself, um, you got to figure early on like that it was small. Uh. It was a very simple frame building. Uh. The larger Poor House, uh, which the, the one that most people see photos of today wasn't built until the twentieth century. But the second Poor House was the one that served the county for nearly half a century, uh, beginning in 1859 that was the larger one. The original Poor House though was a very small frame structure. Uh. It had ten to fifteen residents at first. So they only had a couple employees. Um. But they also had farms. They had livestock. Uh. They, everything that they needed to run that institution they had on site. Uh. So the people who lived there, in the Poor House, the residents of the Poor House actually worked. They, they, they worked on the farms and they worked with the livestock and they worked on the land and, uh, so volunteer labor wasn't really a concern.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Got it.

0:08:11

JIM CAMP: We're a benevolent society and we were more so in those days, but I'm sure the local people and farmers came and helped out the folks at the Poor House. That's just the way, that's our nature.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Was there an expectation that people, if you stayed there, you were expected to work on the farm?

JEFF SNEDDEN: From what I've read, it was expected that if you lived there and you were able-bodied you were expected to chip in.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And you had mentioned the structure; what was the general layout? What was the need to construct more buildings onto the Poor Home, and then what did it look like as time went on?

JEFF SNEDDEN: In 1859, uh, the Poor Home that they had initially built was overcrowded. Uh. And it was getting more crowded every year. So the county needed to build a new building and they had the land. Uh. They had a hundred and thirty acres of land that was originally purchased, uh, in 1853 for that project. So they had the land to build on. So they built the second Poor House. It opened in 1859. Uh. Again, it was a frame building. It wasn't. Uh. We're not talking a brick structure here, but it was much bigger. It was, uh, I guess roughly the size of, uh, I mean a little bigger than this building about two, two large farmhouses side by side. Uh. And then they, they added onto that throughout the rest of the nineteenth century. They added on, you know, wings and what not, but then in I believe it was 1917 was the first time that they talked about building a nice permanent big structure. The Poor House that we had down there was built in 1919, right?

JIM CAMP: Uh-hmm.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. 1919. Uh. So the Poor House that everyone sees photos of now, uh, that look really nice and large and had the two large wings coming off of the side that was built in 1917 and opened in 1919. Uh. And it had everything that, um, that a hospital would need. Uh. You know, it had all the, all the bells and whistles. But up until that time, it was a very simple. Uh. It was a simple thing. It didn't have medical facilities or anything of that nature. It was just a home. It was a place that people could go if they had nowhere else to go.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Got it. And at the time when your family was there, what were the staffing qualifications? Were they expected to have nurses and doctors there or people who had some sort of training in how to deal with people with mental illness or?

0:11:14

JIM CAMP: I don't think it was that big. I don't know. I wouldn't think it was. It was probably husband and wife taking care of these people for a fixed amount, an annual salary.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Got it. And did the families actually live right there too, at all times?

JIM CAMP: I would think so. My uncle Henry C. Camp had a, had an apartment in the, uh, new hospital. He, he never left the site. He was there. So I would think that it was traditional.

JEFF SNEDDEN: The people that operated it. Yeah. It, they, it was, uh, there was a, a caretaker, um, like a home, apartment. Uh. I guess today we'd consider it like a condo. Um. The caretaker and his family lived on site, uh, and that's, that article that I gave you that's what that talks about.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Wonderful. Thank you. And was that part of the pay? In other words, the salary that you got would be on top of?

JIM CAMP: Uh-hmm.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Of that.

JIM CAMP: That would be considered compensation. In these days, it would be taxable income.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Uh-hmm.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: The records that were kept. We talked a little about that we knew what some people were paid and, and not others and in some, some of my reading about Poor Homes not just here, but in general, it's very difficult to find records. And then sometimes there were two sets of records. One that was made for the public and then one that was what may have actually happened at the Poor Home and I didn't know if you knew anything about how the records were kept or where they were kept.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Records for the Poor House were kept at the Poor House. Um. I am going to take an educated guess that some of those records, the important records, are probably over at Brighton Manor. Right?

JIM CAMP: Um. That would be a good guess.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. I would imagine they probably have…

0:13:24

JIM CAMP: Or at the, uh, Wampum facilities…

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah, or at the caves.

JIM CAMP: Or a storage facility where the old records are kept.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. There's, uh, most of the county records that are pre-1930s and most of the paper stuff even from the thirties, forties, fifties, sixties, seventies are out in the caves at Wampum. Uh. That's where the, the county stores its, uh, excess, uh, stuff that needs to keep out of harm's way. Um. But every year, uh, at the beginning of the fiscal year, the county would, uh, publish in the newspapers, the local newspapers, uh, all of the expenses, the public expenses. And you would always have the Poor House listed in there with the, they would always have the director salary and they would always have one other, one other number for labor. Uh. So we didn't really have an itemized account of, you know, what everybody was making, but we can make educated guesses for how much money was being dedicated to the Poor House totally.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Got it. What do you think were some of the other records that were kept on site that weren't made public that they might've had?

JIM CAMP: They may have, uh, deaths and burials. Were there burials there?

JEFF SNEDDEN: We have, yep…

JIM CAMP: A few burials.

JEFF SNEDDEN: We have, we do have records of deaths and, um, we don't have records of burials, uh, for the Poor House. Uh. We have records of deaths and we do have records of some marriages, um, that are kept over in Beaver. Uh. The records there. They're mixed in with the rest of the county records, uh, for those different categories. Um. Unfortunately, especially pre-1900 when somebody passed away, uh, at the Poor House, if they did have kin, uh, to be notified they were simply taken out and buried. Um. They were not always buried with marked graves and they were not always buried in a, uh, in a manner that would lend itself to organization. Uh. It was just haphazardly. You know. A couple guys would take the corpse out and dig a hole and bury it. Uh. And all of that land where that would've been done is now going to be underneath Shell's new site. So, um, that's all we know about it as far as burials go. Uh. But death records were recorded with the county, which means that if there was a death we have a record of it. Um. If there was a marriage, we have a record of it. And I believe there were some births, uh, at the Poor House. Um. I couldn't give you an idea of how many, but I know there are some records of births at the Poor House.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did you ever know of a situation where somebody came back years later and was wondering if a family member had been at the Poor Home or had been or had died at the Poor Home that was buried there? Or…

0:16:40

JEFF SNEDDEN: Not to my knowledge.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And you had said about births that you believe that there were some births there. This is really getting into the details, but did you know if they had a midwife there?

JIM CAMP: Midwives were pretty common I think.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. They probably…

JIM CAMP: In that era.

JEFF SNEDDEN: They probably would've had a midwife. Um. How this was done. In, in the, in the mid, and this is going more into like the, the sociological aspect of, uh, of society in that era. Um. Midwives, uh, house servants, uh, they were very common especially in the middle class. Um. Everybody had, you know, uh, nannies and stuff of that nature. Um. It would not have been difficult for the Poor House if they had somebody who was pregnant and they knew they were going to be delivering, it would not be difficult for them to put word out that they needed a midwife to the nearby communities. Uh and have one that would, that would show up. Um. You know. We're talking about the very early days. We're talking about, um, you know, uh, pre-Civil War. So the, the entire social climate was different for, for people and, um, every village or every town had their, you know, their women that worked as domestic, uh, you know, in domestic jobs. They'd be hired out by different, by different families. Uh. You know, they would, you know, a family that lived in a house over here would say, "Hey, we need someone to come over and help with laundry." And, you know, so they would go and they, they knew the lady and they'd go and they'd hire her and next week she'd go work for a different family and different family. Um. But as far as they did they have like a gynecology center, no. Yeah. They didn't have, they didn't have the stirrups and the, you know, all that kind of stuff.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's fascinating to me because how much things have changed. Do you think late, as, as time went on in the Poor Home and it became more common for people to go to hospitals, I'm talking in the, in the thirties and forties as where getting towards the end of the Poor Home… Do you know if they would take women off site to a hospital or would they still have the babies right there?

JIM CAMP: I wouldn't know that.

0:19:18

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. I mean I could, I would guess that they did. This is an educated guess. Uh. By the 1930s, you had what four hospitals within, three at least, three hospitals that were within driving distance. Uh. You had a hospital in New

Brighton, you had one at Beaver Falls, and you had one in Rochester. Uh. And, I mean Rochester would've been, you know, they could've went right down Narrows Road along the river into Monaca or across the bridge and boom they were there. So I'd imagine that they probably would have, uh, taken off site. But, uh, again that's something we don't have a record of, so I can't say for sure.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: You brought up transportation. Was there a way for people to, to get to the Poor Home? Did they just walk or was there some means of transportation provided.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Well, um, [Clears throat] In the very early days and all the way up until, uh, the 1940s, there was a ferry that operated, uh, in between the Poor House and the other side of the river, which was the Beaver Vanport side of the river, uh, and that operated from Vanport to Bellowsville, which was a, uh, small village that sat kind of right where the Vanport bridge sits today, uh, on the Monaca side. And, uh, so there was a ferry. Uh. In the 1930s when St. Joe's Lead. In 1929, when St. Joe's Lead was constructed, uh, the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad ran a spur line of their railroad from Monaca down along the river to St. Joe's Lead. Uh. And there was a station there that, uh, was originally the Josephtown, uh, station. So there was railroad access in the 1930s. Prior to that, there would've been railroad access on the opposite of the river, where they could've taken the railroad to Vanport and then taking the ferry across. That was the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad. Uh. That was, uh, that was built in our area in 1861. Uh. And the bridge that goes across the Beaver River, right at the mouth of the Beaver River. That is, uh, the third bridge for that, that railroad. It's now all part of one of the big conglomerates, but it was originally the Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Wow. I didn't realize that spur line. I guess I had always assumed that it just transported materials. I didn't realize that it transported people.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Oh, yeah. Yeah. No they, they had. They transported people. Matter of fact, uh, when Kubota was built, Kubota had a station, uh, on the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad. Uh. There was absolutely passenger traffic on it.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Wow. That's fascinating. I didn't realize. Because in driving around that site, I wondered how did people get there because to me it seems remote, but…

JEFF SNEDDEN: It would've been even more so, uh, back then. I mean you also have to remember that that area, uh, everything on the south side of the, of the river, the Ohio River, uh, wasn't developed as early, as early as on the other side of the river. Um. All the major development happened on the, the Northern side of the Ohio River. Uh. The south side of the river was rural as rural got. Um. You had Raccoon Creek that, that winded its way down. Uh. But the river, uh, you know, that's what drove, that's what drove people to move places, the river. If you had, if you had access to the river, you had access to transportation. You had access to power. Uh. And that was the most important

thing. So, uh, people would come down the river. Uh. And they would stop, you know, they, they would, they would get off at the ferry landing there. Uh. You had some roads.

0:23:11

JIM CAMP: Yeah. The county still, still, uh, maintains on its docket the road down to the Poor House.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Uh-hmm.

JIM CAMP: Uh. That's the Stone Quarry Road in, uh, Monaca and Center Township. And, uh, that was to be kept open and maintained for access to the Poor House, and the county also, not to start getting into bridges in those, in those years maintained and built bridges along Frankfort Road, that was called.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Uh-hmm.

JIM CAMP: Potato Garden Bridge was…[on Frankfort Road]

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yep.

JIM CAMP: One of the bridges that would've been right before you got to the Poor House. So there was a road system back in those days.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's an interesting name. Potato Garden.

JIM CAMP: Well that's all there was down there. Like…

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah.

JIM CAMP: Jeff was saying…

JEFF SNEDDEN: There are a lot of the, a lot of the tracts, um, a lot of the tracts of land down there, all of the tracts of land in those days, in the early days. The early landowners. We're talking late 1700s, early 1800s. Uh. If you bought a piece of land, uh, usually you affixed a name to it. Uh. So you had names like Fish Pot, which is now Fish Pot Hollow. Uh. Um. You know, like the Braden was NAID delight. Uh. You know. There, there was, everyone had names and those names sometimes have stuck. Uh. Like, uh, for instance a little bit further up Raccoon Creek is what's called today Bunker Hill Road. Uh. Well that was from the original landowner, uh, um, in 1802 that named that property Bunker Hill. So, uh, things like that have carried on. Uh. People don't realize it. Uh. But they have. But Potato Garden I imagine was probably one of the early landowner names, uh, and again it was all farms and they grew potatoes. So…

0:25:03

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's fascinating. That's really. And the way that we refer to things that we don't even know the history of anymore.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. And that's one of the very interesting aspects, uh, aspects of history that I like to deal with is, uh, the, those names. Uh. We have a lot of old, very old, very unconventional names of road and communities and neighborhoods and a lot of the times it can be traced back to the very first names that were affixed to that property.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And that is really neat. What was the typical length of stay for somebody and, after a certain time period were people were told, "Okay, you, you need to move on" or could people stay there indefinitely?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Jim.

JIM CAMP: It would be a guess, a conjecture, I would think.

JEFF SNEDDEN: We have a lot of, we have a lot of, um, stories and records of people who when they went there, they lived there and they died there. So…

JIM CAMP: The situation improved for somebody and maybe they could leave. But I wouldn't think…

JEFF SNEDDEN: A lot of people went there and spent the rest of their lives there. Uh. So, you know, but I'm sure there was, you know, differences. You know. Some people may have, you know, either family came into some money or something and they were able to, to leave or maybe they owned a property somewhere and they were able to get there or, or something. But, um, we're talking about, you know, hundreds, maybe thousands of people over the span of, uh, nearly a hundred years. So there's, uh, there's no, no short supply of, you know, tales to be told.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And do think that some people left and then came back and then left and came back?

JIM CAMP: It could happen. Yeah.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. I'd imagine they probably did. Uh. You know, it'd be similar to, um, you know, homeless shelters today. That's the only, that'd be the closest, uh, comparison that I could make to what the Poor House was, but, um, you know, we were talking earlier, uh, about the type of people who were, you know, who lived at the Poor House. Uh. And yes, there was some, you know, if you were mentally ill, uh, and unfortunately, uh, in those days before modern medicine really, uh, you know hit its stride people who were mentally ill were looked upon as, um, baggage. Uh. They were, you know, throwaways. So a lot of times people that were mentally ill would end up at places like the Poor House, and they would spend their entire lives there, uh, because their family simply washed their hands of them. Uh. The people who came there who were, uh, you know, were down on their luck, got, got trapped in poverty I'd imagine a

lot of them probably did leave, uh, you know, to check out other opportunities and then perhaps when they returned and right back in the same boat. But they were lucky to have that, you know. Um. Uh. You know. I, I guess it just goes to show you that, um, you know, Beaver County, we were… Beaver County has been ahead of, uh, socioeconomic trends its entire existence. Uh. You know. Beaver County didn't have slavery past 1802, and even then it was two, two slaves, who ended up being willed the land that they, that they worked on. Uh. You know, we've always been ahead of the curve a little bit. Uh. And a lot of that can be attributed to, uh, groups like the Harmony Society, uh, you know, who were, uh, you know, very, uh, while they were a commune, uh, they affected, the, you know, the ripple effect everything around 'em. Uh. And like Jim said earlier we were, we were a very benevolent society. Uh. So we had that, you know, available for our people.

0:29:19

JULIE THROCKMORTON: How would our Poor Home have compared to other Poor Homes throughout different regions as far as the way that we treated people and the services that we provided?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Um. Okay. So Allegheny County had a, a Poor Home that, uh, was started about thirty years before Beaver County's, but Allegheny also was around for a lot longer than Beaver County was around, and Washington County as well. Uh. They were very similar, uh, and they way that they operated was very similar. Uh. Allegheny County though, you know, you have to also bear in mind that, uh, a lot of poverty during that era was urban. Uh. So if you had cities and Allegheny County had two distinct cities, the city of Pittsburgh and the city of Allegheny City. Uh, and those two cities I'm sure had their share of poverty. So they probably put more resources into their Poor House then say Beaver County did. Um. But every county it seems had a Poor House.

JIM CAMP: More so, Pittsburgh.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah.

JIM CAMP: Then Allegheny City.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. Allegheny City was more of your, your, your, uh, your elites, your, uh, your industrial titans and your Melons and people of that nature, Carnegies.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: I've been to the Poor Home in Greene County, which is now I think the historical society. I could be wrong about that. But it was what were you describing with the early Beaver County Home sounds similar. It was more of, uh…

0:31:03

JIM CAMP: Frame.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yes. And a farm than an institution.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Well Greene County has remained rural, you know. Uh. You know, that's like Waynesburg, right. The Waynesburg area.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Uh-hmm.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. Greene, Greene County has remained rural. Uh. It never had really industry. Um. Beaver County, huh, uh, started in the 1880s and running up until about 1919, uh, Beaver County went from a predominantly agricultural and river, uh, based commerce model to heavy industry. Uh. Especially from 1900 to 1919, uh, we had gigantic steel conglomerates, uh, who arrived and built entire communities. Uh. Aliquippa, Midland, entire communities were built from scratch, uh, and employed fifteen to sixteen-thousand people at each, you know, Crucible Steel, Midland Steel in Midland. Uh. You know, B&W, Babcock and Wilcox in, in Beaver Falls and, uh, out in Copple. Uh. Things changed really fast and because of that the need for a bigger and nicer, uh, facility, uh, you know, 1919 that's what we got. Greene County never had that happen. So they probably kept the original buildings that they had.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And there was something I wanted to follow with what you were saying. I know. Ethnicity. So, you know, originally the ethnic makeup that would've been part of the Poor Home and then how did that changes as the industrial revolution happened or the nationalities of the people?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Well I mean, you, this, this area was mainly Scotch-Irish.

JIM CAMP: German.

JEFF SNEDDEN: German.

JIM CAMP: Scotch-Irish.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Dutch. Uh. You know, and that was the original makeup. Uh. When the influx started of European immigrants was during when industry hit its stride. Um. 1909 to 1919 is really considered our prime years of major immigration into Beaver County. Um.

0:33:28

JIM CAMP: The imported talent.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yes.

JIM CAMP: In the glass industry.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Oh, that's right. Yeah. Yeah, the glass industry brought, uh, you know, H. C. Fry and, uh, Phoenix Glass, um, and even Mayer China, uh, brought people from England, uh, or from France, uh, artisans that, that came to, and that's what gave some of them their, uh, I think like H. C. Fry Glass that was one of their real early, uh, like trademarks was that they had some very, uh, talented glassblowers, but, um, as…

JULIE THROCKMORTON: I'm sorry. Was Fry spelled F-R-Y-E?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yes. F-R-Y.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And where was it located?

JEFF SNEDDEN: That was in North Rochester.

JIM CAMP: Originally it was down on the river.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Well that was the, uh…

JIM CAMP: In Rochester.

JEFF SNEDDEN: The original…

JIM CAMP: Rochester Tumbler.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. Rochester Tumbler was, uh, Henry Fry's first, uh, business. His first, uh, and then it burned down and it went up in what was called North Rochester, which is on the other side of McKinley Run. They built, uh, H. C. Fry Glass Company and it was a major employer until the thirties. Uh. That was… Rochester is, uh, uh, a glass. They, they had a lot of glass and, uh, it wasn't a steel town. It was more of a glass town. [Laughs] Uh. But as getting back to your original question, as those industries needed workers, they came. And the makeup of Beaver County changed. Um. As far as did it change the makeup of the people that lived in the Poor House? I'm sure. I'm sure you had more African-Americans and more, uh, you know, Italians or, or whatever. But, uh, you know, people didn't think along those lines back then. You know, you, you know. I mean, you had your, you know, people had prejudices and stuff of that nature, but you know, it wasn't like anyone was keeping track of how different ethnic groups were being treat or, you know, um, it just was what it was.

0:35:33

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And did you know, when Henry was there, did they do any sort of social events or events around holidays or maybe that would've connected to the church?

JIM CAMP: That's our nature as a society to do those things and, and to, uh, to take care of people in need at that time of year. So I would think that people would travel

down there and put on programs during Advent and Lent, uh, for the indigent who don't have the luxury of going to church.

JEFF SNEDDEN: They had a chapel. They had a chapel at the, at the Poor House. Um. As a matter of fact, I remember, uh, probably about 2002 or 2003 I walked through it and someone actually showed me that there was a chapel. Um. These photos in this book here are a little bit later than that, about ten years later. Uh. But, um, religion was a, uh, a big part of everyone's lives in those days. Uh. Like we were talking about earlier…

JIM CAMP: That's another story.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. Uh. You know. It was people, you know, uh, that was, it was, it wasn't just considered a part of your life. It was the model of your life. People modelled their life around their faith, uh, and so, you didn't, you would not have had a facility like this without some sort of chapel or services. It just wouldn't have existed anywhere.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's in what you were saying before too about the Harmonists and what they were doing affected everyone connects with that too.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Sure. Yeah. We were, uh, we were a faith-based society. I mean people today like to, uh, like to say that America wasn't founded on Judeo-Christian values, but it was, one hundred percent was. Uh. You know, that's not opinion. That's fact. Uh, and that's the way that people lived and, you know, we became a diverse society. Things changed. The people changed along with it, but in those days that's what drove your life. Uh. You know, you, the two things that drove society during the nineteenth century in Beaver County, the harvest and the faith. Kids went to school, uh, even when public school systems started. Kids went to school. Uh. It was based around planting and harvest. After, after the seeds went into the ground, you went to school. When it was time to harvest, school was over because they needed to be home for that. Uh. And faith. Everything was based around making sure that you were living your life according to God's will.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: So do you think people who stayed in the Poor Home would've been required to attend services?

JEFF SNEDDEN: That's a good question.

0:38:43

JIM CAMP: I don't think it would be necessary to require anybody in that period of time.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And getting to the socioeconomic. From other readings that I've had with other Poor Homes, they can be very difficult places, and so you have some of your horror stories of Poor Homes. Not just in our country, but back in Europe.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Uh-hmm.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Was there a distinction made between the deserving and undeserving poor? So, maybe people who had problems with alcohol or had repeated problems, were they treated differently?

JEFF SNEDDEN: I don't believe so. Uh. Alcoholism was a main factor of why a lot of people ended up there. The famous artist Emil Bott, uh, was probably the most famous resident of the Poor House ever. Right? I mean Emil Bott, I mean it's his; he ended up in the Poor House because he was a drunk. He drank himself crazy and, uh, he just never was able to pull out of that. And obviously we didn't have the infrastructure like AA and rehabilitation and stuff like that in those days. Uh. So, um, they had the Poor House that was built in, in the 1900s, 1919 had a, a jail. It had cells for people who were unruly. Uh. If you, you know, if you ended up, uh, you know, getting out of line, they had a way of, you know… So I don't think there was anyone that was undeservingly booted. I think it was more like if you were there and you caused a problem they handled it.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Can you tell me a little bit more about Emil Bott?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Uh. Emil Bott was a, a…

JIM CAMP: Landscape painter.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. He was a landscape painter. Uh. He lived, he, he lived in this area. Uh. He did a lot of painting of Pittsburgh, uh, and Beaver County and even I think he went as far out as like Harrisburg too at one point and did some painting. Um. But unfortunately like all great artists or like most great artists, he did not hit the big time. His work wasn't considered, uh, um, you know, good. It wasn't, it wasn't beloved until he passed, until he died. Uh. He died and then everyone started saying, "Hey, this guy's a pretty good artist." Um. But I don't know the whole story of Emil Bott. Uh. You know, it's…

JIM CAMP: Bob Bauder is the expert on Bott.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yes. Yeah. There's another historian who's a Emil Bott guy. Uh. But a lot of his early landscapes of Beaver County, um, are the way that we know what was where. Uh. He did some of Monaca, uh, from the hill in Monaca looking over towards the Beaver River. Uh. I mean, beautiful artwork. Uh. But unfortunately he, he was an alcoholic and he was destitute and he ended up in the Poor House and that's where he died.

0:42:10

JIM CAMP: Isn't he buried over in the Monaca Cemetery?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yes. Yeah. He's buried in Monaca.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do we know if he did any paintings while he was there at the Poor Home?

JEFF SNEDDEN: I think it was later in his life that he was in… I, he, I think his painting days were over by the time he was in the Poor House. To my knowledge. Uh. I know that his early, most of his work that we know that we have dates for is from the 1840s. So that would've been before there was a Poor House.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And were the people in the Poor House stigmatized? So, not only when they were there, but when they left. Did people look at them differently? Did they have problems getting jobs once they left?

JEFF SNEDDEN: It wasn't like that. Uh. It, you didn't have a record that followed you around like you would now. Um. So would there be a stigma, would they be stigmatized? Um.

JIM CAMP: People who would stig, stigmatize other people may have existed at that time, but it, it's just your makeup.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. But your…

JIM CAMP: You stigmatize people…

JEFF SNEDDEN: But as far as getting a job, uh, you know, I mean getting a job in those days wasn't like it, you know, you didn't have to turn in a resume and a cover letter. So. [Laughs] You know, you just went and said, "Hey, uh, I can chop wood. Do you need someone to chop wood?" "Yes, we'll hire you to chop wood." "Okay, I'll be here tomorrow." So I don't think there was really a stigma, you know, stigmatized, uh, you know, opinion of the people from the Poor House.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: There weren't the same types of background checks that occurred.

0:43:49

JEFF SNEDDEN: No.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: No, either.

JEFF SNEDDEN: No and even into the, even into the 19, you know, 1920s and 30s, I mean that was the, you know, the twenties ended early. The thirties that was the Depression years. Um. Everybody was doing whatever they had to do to survive. Uh. So you would've had, you know, there wouldn't been, uh, nobody would've stigmatized anybody because everyone was in the same boat.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you know what years the Poor Home had the most amount of people at one time?

JEFF SNEDDEN: They were in the early 1910s, 1911, 1912. Uh. In those early years, that was the prime years for all institutions. The early, uh, maybe 1909 to 1915 and 1916. Those were the prime years for all institutions like that. Uh. Dixmont Hospital, uh, during that time was overcrowded by a hundred percent. They, they had twice as many people as they could, you know, keep. Um. All of the institutions in Allegheny County were overflowed. Beaver County, uh, we had, uh, our Poor House actually put notices in newspapers stating that they were full.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Wow.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. Um. And, I think a lot of it may have been because of, you know, we don't, it's not really something we talk about in history books, but in 1907 and 1908.

JIM CAMP: The first Depression.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. The, it was the big, that was the first real Depression that hit hard. I mean it shut down, uh, massive industrial projects for year, a couple of years. J&L, Jones and Laughlin Steel Company was in the process of building their giant mill down here at Aliquippa. Uh. They actually shut it down completely. It put a thousand people out of work like that. Um. So that was probably one of the driving forces of it.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's really interesting because that is something that I had no knowledge of.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. People don't really know about it.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Right. I honestly would've thought that the most amount of people there would've been during the Depression.

0:46:06

JEFF SNEDDEN: I'm sure that it was, uh. I'm sure during the Depression, yeah, there probably was a lot of people there, but during the Depression it was mainly, um, you know…

JIM CAMP: Oh. We had a hero for the second Depression.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Well, I mean, yeah. But, uh, I'm not even getting into that.

JIM CAMP: WPA. There's the Conservation Corp. All those things stick in your mind.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Well, but there, but you have to also realize that the Depression was still, was going on before FDR was in office before the New Deal. Um. And one of the reasons why, you know, it was different was because by the 1920s we had, um, we had resident, people had homes. They had. It wasn't, uh, you know, the early model of society, the, the agrarian model of society where you lived on a farm and had a house and you had crops and you had livestock and you, you know, everyone helped with the farm. That had changed by that point.

JIM CAMP: Yeah. We'd actually recovered.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. We had industry. People, people moved here. We had homes being built all over the place. Suburbia, actually. I mean. You know. Sprawling out from the urban centers. So you had. People had homes. They had, they had a, a base. Uh. So a Poor House wasn't really, you know… And everyone was hurting at that time too. So, you know, people, you know did what they had to do to survive. Uh. But they kept their property. They wanted the, the main part was keeping your home and keeping your property to get through it. And then of course, yeah, by the 1930s, by 1932 the New Deal came along, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, uh, and helped us get a little bit out of the Depression. But the New Deal didn't end the Great Depression. Uh. The Great Depression did not end until the…

JIM CAMP: It got us back into the Depression (the New Deal).

JEFF SNEDDEN: Well it got us. The, the, the Depression, uh, we're not going to get into a political argument so…[Laughter] The main cause of the end of the Great Depression was the restarting of the American war machine. When, when, when the war industry started heating back up [Coughing] in 1938 and 1939, uh, that's when people went back to work. But the New Deal did a lot to get people back on their feet.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Was there a connection between the Poor Home and the WPA? A direct connection or…

JEFF SNEDDEN: No.

0:48:33

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And as far as we had talked about the early Poor Home and you provided for yourself based on what you grew there and what you slaughtered there and what you had there. What about later on? Did anything happen on the Poor

Farm? Any sort of work that then provided for local business? Was anything sold outside of the Poor Home as a way of making revenue?

JEFF SNEDDEN: I believe everything was self-contained. Uh. That what was slaughtered, what was grown, what was, uh, harvested on the property was for the, for the Poor House. Uh. They didn't, um, export goods or anything out to, you know, other businesses.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: I was curious about that just because St. Joe's was so close and I didn't know if there was some sort of connection there.

JEFF SNEDDEN: You know, they, maybe they at one point, maybe St. Joe's had some type of, uh…

JIM CAMP: They did have a farm.

JEFF SNEDDEN: St. Joe's had a farm?

JIM CAMP: Yeah.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. St. Joe's had their own farm! Uh. So they might've done some collaborating on farming.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Was there ever a point in time where our community protested having a Poor Home or did the community see it as a necessity and embrace it?

JEFF SNEDDEN: It was out of sight out of mind for most people. Uh. Unless you lived in one of the small villages that were along that side of the river, it was, you didn't really think about it. Uh. And again going back to the whole concept of benevolent society. Uh. You only had to go down the river a little bit to get to Monaca and you run into the Phillipsburg Soldiers' Orphans' Home, uh, which, uh, I mean, you had several war orphans, hundreds of them. They were living in a facility there. Um. So people took care of people. You know, that was just the way it was. Uh. So I don't think there was any, there, to my knowledge, there was never any protests by anybody. Jim, do you know of any protests? Yeah. I think that, uh, people just accepted it for what it was.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's interesting because, from my readings it wasn't like that everywhere. But I think, you know, what you just pointed to the, the benevolent society and also out of sight out of mind, um…

0:51:19

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Were two major factors of that.

JEFF SNEDDEN: You know, that area that, where the Poor House was at, which is now the, the Shell area. That was originally part of Moon Township. Uh. Moon Township extended all the way down to the Ohio River. Uh. And then slowly but surely it was, pieces of it were taken for Potter and Monaca annexed a huge portion of Moon Township to, I mean, there is no more Moon Township in Beaver County. Um. That was the country. [Laughs] I mean. That was the real country. If you lived in Rochester, you probably spent your entire life without ever going to that area. You had no reason to. So, um, unless you were trying to go do something on Raccoon Creek. I mean, there was really no other reason to go there. So having the Poor House on that property was perfect. Uh. You know, they had plenty of room that they could be a self, a self-contained facility. Uh. And it was far enough away that nobody had to worry about it being in their backyard.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And going back to the original owners of that land who were paid for the land, did they then leave or did they remain on that land, just on a different portion of it?

JEFF SNEDDEN: The, where's the, uh, I need this right here. Is that what I gave you? No. Yeah. The original land for the Poor House, hmm. I have the landowner's name here somewhere. It was bought from two different.

JIM CAMP: It wasn't Stone was it.

JEFF SNEDDEN: No, it was a Dowds. The, it was, part of it was Dowds, uh, and part of it was another family. The name escapes me.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: It's not the Jones. Was it the Jones?

JEFF SNEDDEN: I, I don't know. Honestly, uh, but…

JULIE THROCKMORTON: I don't know that either.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. It was, there was two different families it was bought off of. Uh. And the Dowds still lived on their land. So they lived next to the Poor House or, you know, as next to as you were in those days. You know, a quarter-mile away. Um. Uh. The other side of the property I believe they, they bought all of it. So, um, like I said I have original landowner maps, but I seem to be missing a portion of my map. Um. [Clears throat]

0:53: 52

JIM CAMP: Jeff's got all the details.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. See here's County Home. The Ohio River, County Home, um, Minor. That was it. Minor. M-I-N-O-R. They bought all their property. It was on, they were on the, the west side of Raccoon Creek. Uh. And they bought all that

property. They moved. The original, you can see the County Home was right there on the river and this is going down towards Monaca here, going down towards Bellowsville. This is the ferry.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: What year is that map?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Uh. 1876.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Jim, I wanted to talk a little bit about your family too. I know that you had started to talk earlier on about them. But can you tell me a little bit about your grandfather? His name and…

JIM CAMP: Well, my grandfather was J. Gordon Camp. And he was the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, and he was the Chairman of the Institution District when this all occurred. The move that is to the new facility. His brother was my great-uncle, Henry C. Camp. He was the last superintendent at the Potter site, and he was the first administrator at the new, uh, facility in Brighton Township. Uh. Like we mentioned before, he actually had a, uh, flat up there. He had an apartment. It was a townhouse up on top of the building that's still there. But nobody lives in it anymore, hasn't lived. Since Joe Mulroy was the last one to live there.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you know how Henry got that job or got interested in doing?

JIM CAMP: Well his brother gave it to him. That's, uh, patronage.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Early nepotism.

JIM CAMP: It goes back long, longer than that, but that's, that's how he got it.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Starting a great tradition in Beaver County.

[Laughter]

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And did Henry have an interest though, did he have a history of helping people or did he see it as, this was a job and a way to make a living or both?

JIM CAMP: I was six when this all transferred, when this all occurred here. And Henry died, uh, about '64. I remember him. I don’t remember him well, but our family has always been involved in helping and creating and building industry and that's just our nature as a family.

0:56:40

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Go ahead.

JIM CAMP: His appointment I'm sure was just, you know, I'll give you a job. Granddad wanted to give my father a job, but Dad didn't want it.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: He actually wanted to give your dad that job?

JIM CAMP: Another job.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Oh. Another job. And even though you were very young, do you ever remember visiting your uncle while he was on the job?

JIM CAMP: No.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And can you tell me a little bit about the transition? Why the Poor Home was closed and why the new facility was built.

JIM CAMP: They needed, uh, a bigger facility. This, this started prior to my grandfather's tenure. [Coughing] It was already in the works. When he came on, uh, they were negotiating the last agreements with the different authorities for water and sewer systems and all that and that's when he came on. Um. I didn't make a lot of trips up there. I can't remember him ever taking me there. I remember him taking me to parades cause that's something you would remember at six or seven years old. But I don't remember much about that site. Uh. But he, he smoothed things out. When, whenever the county government or state government or federal government is building something it gets bulked up cause there's not enough people in there that can make things happen. Gordon was the type of person that would make things happen. So he did a lot of that in the different places.

JEFF SNEDDEN: In the 1940s, the Poor House was, uh, it, it was still, there was too many people in it. It was crowded. They knew they needed a new facility. Um. And that's when the plant started. Um. I'm sure like Jim was saying his family had a lot to do with it cause they had, they were the ones who were doing all this in the county. Uh. Uh. The new facility had to be built and it was built up there in Brighton Township. Uh. But in between the building was falling apart. The Poor House building was the, uh, was… They needed to get people out of there. So for a, I want to say a four or five, maybe six years, they took inmate, and I say inmates, residents from the poor house and they took them to the Beaver County Tuberculosis Sanitarium, which was where Penn State Beaver, uh, is now. Um. And that was sort of the mid, midway point until the new facility was built. Uh. But I don't know how many people went there. But that, that sanitarium, uh, for a while was considered the annex of the Beaver County Home. Um. We have photos of the, of the entrance way with the signs, Beaver County Home Annex. Um. So, you know, they needed to, and then Braden Township really up, up that way, when did they start making the plans for the medical center? It wasn't until a little bit later than that, right?

0:59:48

JIM CAMP: Um. Late seventies.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. Oh, wow. Yeah. So…

JIM CAMP: The late seventies.

JEFF SNEDDEN: So that ended up being the, uh, you know, what would eventually become Friendship Ridge and now Brighton Manor was kind of on one side and you ended up having the medical center on the other side.

JIM CAMP: No. I'm sorry. That was probably the mid-seventies.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. It was earlier than that. Because I was born there. [Laughs] I was born in 1977. So, um. But. Yeah. So it was, uh, they, they, you know, they… That was the transfer, uh, process, uh, at that time.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: You had written Jim about the decommissioning of the old County Home. The transfer of patients to the new facility. Can you talk a little bit about that too?

JIM CAMP: Yeah. They, uh, Henry was, uh, superintendent down there, and it came time to transfer the patients to the new facility and they had an ambulance services had provided at an extorting cost and Gordon got involved. Like he was, like I said, and I'll have to give you a little background. Uh. Gordon was a very community minded and engaged person. He, everybody was in those days. Everybody. You didn't mope around town. You had to identify yourself. A boxer, singer, athlete, you know. That's just the way people were. You had to identify yourself. Well he was that and, and ten more. He played polo. He was, uh, he had. He sang. He acted. He was a pilot. He did many, many things and he was also, uh, very well known in the, in the Masonic circles. He was a Free Mason, past master of Rochester. And, uh, Henry wasn't. Henry was probably suited for the Elks or the, the other social clubs. But when it came time to transfer the patients the costs were too high. So Gordon called the undertakers in, which are mostly all freemasons also. And he told them, you know, these people are in need of our charity. And their eventually going to be your customers. So he offered them the gasoline for the ambulances, the ambulance service and the undertakers were pretty much the same people in those days. Still. And, uh, he offered them the gasoline to do the job and the undertakers transferred everybody at no cost for gasoline. That's the story I remembered my father told me. And that's the only thing that I know about that occurring for free. It was through the benevolence and charity of a great organization.

1:02:56

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's a wonderful story too.

JIM CAMP: Thank you.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Is there anything else that I didn't touch on that you think is of importance?

JEFF SNEDDEN: Um. Yeah. I mean that area down there. Uh. You know, it, like we mentioned a couple of times. You know. It was originally just rural, but then by the, by the late nineteenth century you had a community there. Uh. That gets forgotten. So I feel inclined to mention it because it was kind of an important place. Uh. Bellowsville. Uh. It was never an incorporated community. Uh. It was a village. Uh. But at one point, there was almost four-hundred people that lived in Bellowsville. And, uh. It was called Bellowsville because the main industry, they had a plant there that made bellows, which are the, for the fireplaces.

JIM CAMP: Forges.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. And, um, it was, it was important because, uh, the ferry that ran between there and Vanport, uh, people used to, uh, people from Bellowsville were greatly involved with, uh, you know, Beaver politics and stuff like that and, and, and organizations in Beaver. Um. And a lot of those early names, you know, like Elliott and Stone and Dowds. Those are names that, uh, kind of resonate in Beaver County History. Um. And that entire village just disappeared off of the face of the map, uh, you know, through its own devices and through progress. Uh. You know. From the, by the 1930s, there pretty much wasn't anything left down there and then once St. Joe's Lead, uh, you know, was really getting into kicking into gear and then, uh, you know, what thirty years later they built the bridge and the highway and that, any remainder of it was gone. But, you know, people lived and died their whole lives right there. Yeah. People lived their whole lives right there in that village, you know.

JIM CAMP: Cook. Cook Anderson built the spur down through there.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Uh-huh.

JIM CAMP: Through the middle of the village.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yep. Yep. It was, uh. Bellowsville had. Bellowsville never had its own train station. It was pretty much gone by the time that they built the, the spur line. But, uh, ha, a story one, one of the, one of the most haunted houses in Beaver County history was actually down in that area and it was torn down when they built the highway, when they built the expressway. But it was, uh, you know, it's, it's a part of our history. So I always feel like I have to defend it.

1:05:42

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Of course. What made that house haunted?

JEFF SNEDDEN: I don't know. It was just, uh, it was the story that I've, I've read numerous times that the old road, um, I mentioned to you on the phone, the Narrows Road. Uh. That was the main artery between the Poor House area and Monaca. Uh. They didn't have the roads going up over the hill and all that like we do now. Broadhead Road obviously was there. But, um, if you wanted to get from the Poor House to Monaca and Rochester, you took the Narrows Road, which ran along the river all the way down into Monaca. Uh. Now if you, if you go down there now the train, the, the old train tracks, the line, follows where the Narrows Road was and there was homes along there, along that hillside. Uh. And. So people who, if you were coming to the Poor House, uh, chances are you were going through Bellowsville. Um. You know, cause not a lot of people came from the other direction. There would've been no reason to.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And was it called Narrows Road because it was narrow or was there another reason?

JEFF SNEDDEN: That was just the name of it. It was the, the, it was Narrows Road. But back in those days they said the Narrows Road. Just like they said The Broadhead Road. Uh. That was just the tradition of the time.

JIM CAMP: The one question you could speculate on and you let it go. [Laughs]

JEFF SNEDDEN: What's that?

JIM CAMP: Narrows Road. Of course, it's because it's narrow.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Well it's narrow. Oh, yeah. It would've been narrow because it was, you know, it was a hillside coming down. Um. I mean you want to go a little deeper than that Broadhead Road, uh, the original Broadhead Road. I'm talking like the general Broadhead, Broadhead Road. Uh. It ran down what is now basically where old Broadhead Road connects with Broadhead Road. Uh. And it ran down, uh, and it followed Stone Quarry Road and Wagner Road and then up over Sullivan Crest and it came down over the hillside and it brought you out right on the river where you could look across and see Fort McIntosh, and they used to ford the river there. Uh. In those days and all the way up until 1936, the Ohio River during most of the year you could walk across it. It wasn't deep. It was very, very much, uh, narrower than it is now. Um. The, the big Montgomery Dam and all the big dams really deepened it. Um. But the, um, the original Broadhead Road came down and actually intersected with the Narrows Road. Uh. You know. And Narrows Road was there, uh, in the early part of the nineteenth century when that part of Broadhead Road was still being used.

1:08:20

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Now did Lock Six also have an effect on the fact that you couldn't walk across the river.

JEFF SNEDDEN: That was part of it. Lock Six was part of the earlier dam system. We had five of 'em in Beaver County.

JIM CAMP: Uh-hmm.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. We had five, we had five locks in, in Beaver County, uh, on the Ohio River. One was right here, uh, at Freedom. Uh. And…

JIM CAMP: And two on the Beaver River.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. We had two on the Beaver River. And those helped to deepen the water level but not, um, not as much as the, the, the big, the big one, Montgomery Dam. Montgomery Dam actually, uh, creates the, the depth for both the Ohio and the Beaver River. That's how, uh, how much it effects things. Um. The, the natural Ohio River, alright, if you got rid of all the artificial ways that we, you know, that we, uh, make it more navigable, um, the, the natural Ohio River, uh, during most of the year would be about four to five feet deep. And during some parts of the year it would be even less than that. Um. There's been times in history when you could ford it on a horse just, just right across. We have photographs of people standing, uh, swimming in the river, but people standing like this talking under the bridge, the Monaca Rochester Bridge. Yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's amazing.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. That's the way it was, and the Beaver River was basically a stream, you know. Without, without dams and, and locks it's a stream. I mean it would be like a, a creek. You know, it's, you walk through it without getting your ankles wet.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Wow. I can't imagine.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yep.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Jim, was there anything else that you wanted to talk about that I might've not touched on?

JIM CAMP: Well, the, the change in society. I alluded a couple of times to in the narrative about my grandfather and everybody had to identify themselves in the community. You didn't mope around. But that, the charitable acts of people in general in those days. I mean it's, we were just a different class of people. Closer to, closer to their religion.

1:10:45

JEFF SNEDDEN: That's the main part of it. Yeah.

JIM CAMP: They guy didn't rule the guide of our life is what it is.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah.

JIM CAMP: But I had, uh, wanted to read this, uh, from my grandfather's remarks, uh, at the opening in 1920 or in 19, uh, 59. As Chairman of the Institution District of Beaver County, I dedicate this beautiful home and hospital to the unfortunate, who in the sunset years of their lives come here for comfort and kindness. That they are faultless is not to be supposed, but as the milk of human kindness flows in the veins and hearts of each employee of our institution district staff, I assure you all who need sanctuary in your final days that your every need will be taken care of. Now, here's not a common individual, individual, but rather near norm. Everybody was like that in those days. And, uh, how society has changed I think needs to be pointed out.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. Yeah. Absolutely. Uh, you know, there's a lot of great stories of, you know, uh, in our area people taking care of each other. Um. You know. We brought it up many times. But I mean even stories of, uh, a gentleman from Bridgewater who was, uh, an African-American gentleman who got captured by…

JIM CAMP: Free.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. He was free. Free man.

JIM CAMP: Born free.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. Born free up here. It was a business owner in Bridgewater. Uh. He was respected. He sat on town council and stuff. And bounty hunters, uh, slave capturers or whatever came up from the south and they would just kidnap African-Americans and take 'em back down south and he was kidnapped and stolen and taken down south. And the people of Bridgewater fought to get him back. I mean they put up money to buy his freedom back, which was ridiculous because he was a free man. But you know, there's all kinds of stories like that in our area.

JIM CAMP: Uh, yeah. We were, the abolitionists were strong here.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

JIM CAMP: Like you said, we're way ahead of the curve in, uh, in all those things.

JEFF SNEDDEN: Yeah. Yeah. This was a, uh, Beaver County was a major point on the Underground Railroad. Um. We had Underground Railroad confirmed that we know of stops and this was, uh, a way to get to the Salem Road or up into Canada. Uh. You know. New Brighton, Bridgewater those areas especially. But, um, you know, we are, you know… Charity is a big deal here. It always has been. Um. When Aliquippa needed to build a hospital, their people stepped up and the company stepped up and they built it together. It didn't require any public money. It was all private money. Um. You know, just stories like that. So it doesn't. You know. When we look back on the Poor

House, uh, you know, it's, uh, it's like, it's like an anecdotal thing today. You know, oh, the Poor House. You know. You're putting me in the Poor House. But that's not what it was. It wasn't just, you know, it wasn't a joke. People, people cared about this. They, you know, it was important because you wanted to make sure that, you know, God forbid that you get to the point where you're in your last days and you don't have anyone to take care of you, you know. That's the way people thought back then. We don't think like that today.

1:14:37

JIM CAMP: No.

JEFF SNEDDEN: We don't, we don't think, you know, I need to take care of him in case someone needs to take care of me some day. We just think what we can do for me now. That's the difference.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And just a question to wrap us up. What do each of you think about Shell and the new petrochemical complex that's going in?

JIM CAMP: I think it's a great, great thing for the county and for the tristate area to bring industry back. I hope they get the employees that they need to, uh, build and maintain it and operate it when, when it exists. I was, I come out of management. I was Public Works Director for twenty-five years and when I started testing, skills testing and drug testing, it got pretty hard to find qualified people. Prior to that, it was easy to find people to get a job, but then I had to deal with 'em. So it's pretty hard these days.

JEFF SNEDDEN: I want my county to have jobs. I want people to be able to stay here. Uh. And this is the first step, uh, from what I understand and I'm by far not a chemical engineer. But, uh, from what I understand the byproduct of what this plant creates is used in just about everything. So, uh, you know, ancillary industries are going to pop up and it's going to offer employment opportunities so that people, you know, from this area can stay here and raise their families here. Because that's the one thing we're missing. We missed an entire generation. An entire generation of native Beaver Countians left because there was no jobs here and we had a gap. And we're just now starting to, you know, get back on track. So I want jobs for my county. And, so I'm all for it. I hope they do well. I wish them all the luck in the world.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Thank you.

1:16:42

JIM CAMP: Thank you.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Thanks so much.

(END)

William Paul Elliott, Jr.
Interview @ December 3, 2016

WILLIAM PAUL ELLIOTT, JR.
Summary

William Paul Elliott, Jr.'s (Bill's) interview took place on December 3, 2016 at his residence at 1008 Second Street in Beaver. Since Bill was born in 1926, he shared a wealth of information of how Beaver County has changed throughout the years: population change, businesses that are no longer there, local civic organizations that have evolved. His grandfather owned a farm in what is now Vanport (and on whose land the Shell plant is now being built), so Bill talked quite a bit about what that farm and the area was like before the St. Joe's Lead was built and industry changed the landscape, and the changes that were made. He also discussed his family history: where his family was originally from (they were Border Reivers in Scotland who then moved to Ireland), and why they came here (they got "kicked out of Ireland").

Bill remembered what the Poor Home and the area around it looked like, but he was never actually in the facility nor knew of anyone who lived or worked there.

Bill talked about Lock No. 6 on the Ohio River (located across the river from the Poor Home) and about locks and dams in general. When he was young he used to swim in the river before the lock and dam system was constructed. He talked about walking across the river on big ice flows with his dad, and how the river was so shallow in some places you could walk across it. He used to eat at the restaurant that was built at Lock No. 6 in the early 2000s.

BILL ELLIOTT
INTERVIEW - 12/03/2016

SPEAKERS: JULIE THROCKMORTON (INTERVIEWER)
BILL ELLIOTT

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Today is December 3, 2016. Could you please state your name and spell it?

BILL ELLIOTT: All right. My name is William Paul Elliott. E-L-L-I-O-T-T, and I'm a junior. My father had the same name.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And your address?

BILL ELLIOTT: My address is [redacted], Beaver, Pennsylvania.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And your date of birth please.

BILL ELLIOTT: I was born [redacted].

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Thank you. Could you tell me a little bit about your family and about your grandfather's farm and also just a little bit about where your father worked?

BILL ELLIOTT: Okay. Um. My first memories of my grandfather's farm was going down in what's now Vanport and, uh, blowing a conch shell to make a noise, and my grandfather would come down from his farm, which is where the Shell plant is, uh, proposed now. And, uh, he would, he had a little boat. He had a big boat too, but this little boat is what he came across the river and then they had a board and they made me walk on the board and get in that boat. I wanted to walk on it by myself, but they wouldn't let me do that. I had to have a hand, you know, and they'd hand me over. Then my grandfather would take me over to his farm, and I would stay there for two or three days and then I would come back to my home in Beaver, which was catty-corner from the Park Presbyterian Church. Now, that's Garvin's, uh, Insurance Agency now, but there was a house there and, uh, my, that's where I lived when I was little. And, uh, then we moved across the river to a place called Mona Manor, which is, uh, back in Monaca, and I grew up there for the next ten or twelve years. When we moved to Beaver briefly, and then onto, uh, New Brighton.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Were you at your grandfather's farm often?

0:02:38

BILL ELLIOTT: My little mind says, "Yes." But I remember you're talking to a 4-year-old when your… Yeah, I think I spent a good bit of time there. I knew my grandfather's farm, which was about a hundred acres. Actually, he had, uh, the Dowd's

Farm, which was over on top of the hill, which is a hundred and seventy-five acres. But he didn't like that because, this is my grandfather, because he was a river man and what he did was he got produce in the summer and took it to Pittsburgh and sold it there to people who were going to resell it on the street. So he liked to be next to the river and, uh, so that worked for me. I, I liked the idea that, uh, he was on this hundred acres down by the river. Next to him was a little old lady, whose name was Altice. I don't remember her first name, and I don't think I ever knew it. But she, uh, lived there by herself and I was fascinated by her because she had a gun under her pillow. So when we would go to visit her and my dad kind of oversaw her, uh, I would get the gun out and she would take the bullets out of it, and I'd play with it. Then we would put it back again. But that was the next property toward the, well I don't know whether, maybe it was toward Raccoon Creek, which was the creek that entered the Ohio down below that. Uh. And I would, uh, go over to her house with my father and so on. The next property was the Trotter Farm, which was a horse raising farm and, uh, it took up most of the ground where the chemical plant is now. Not Shell, but it'll remain there. At any rate, then that property went over to Raccoon Creek. The interesting thing to me about Raccoon Creek was there was a little park down there, which had a merry-go-round and had a Ferris wheel, and I thought that was great. But for some reason, my dad would never take, take me there. I'd just go down there and, and, uh, look at it and that was about all I could do. The bridge across Raccoon Creek was upstream about a city block or so from where the bridge is now. And, uh, but later on that was torn down and the present bridge is put there. So between on the upper side of the river was what they called the Dunn Farm and Bob Dunn and Alma, his wife, were the two proprietors of that place. I liked to go there because Alma made wonderful pumpkin pies and I, in my little mind that was the chief reason for being there. But that was opposite Route 18. Route 18 in those days was a mud road, and you didn't go down it in the spring because you could get stuck with your 1932 automobile or whatever it was at that time. So, uh, there were other people down there by the name of Goshorn, uh, but I've forgotten why they were there. They were farmers. I think they had a farm, a little farm toward, upstream, toward Beaver and the, uh, Beaver River and so on. So that's my memory, my early memories of that place. And then later on, uh, St. Joe Lead came to deposit itself there. I was always interested later on. My, one of my degrees was in chemistry, and St. Joe Lead, while they called it lead, its chief product was sulfuric acid. But you couldn't have a name like St. Joe Sulfuric Acid Plant, you know. So they gave it the lead name because it came from Rolla, Missouri, the company. And, uh, they could, uh, have a name, any name they chose, but they chose, since lead was a little bit of the product there, not much, but they gave it that name, and I knew its managers through the years because they kept calling me. And the reason they called me, they built their plant on this property. Uh. And, uh, the manager, I can't remember his name, but he's still alive and he still lives here. Uh. Told me that our family graveyard was underneath their centering plant, and I'd like, they'd like to get a release from me since I had the name carried down through the years of William Paul Elliott. Uh. Get a release from me. But I would never do it, nor would my father, who was, had the same name I had, uh, because if you do that then you have to go around to all the relatives, whoever lived and get a release from them. I wasn't going to do that. So that never happened.

0:08:41

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Why did they want the release?

BILL ELLIOTT: So that they could feel free from any lawsuits. For example, I could sue the heck out of 'em because they built a plant on my family graveyard. But I wasn't gonna do that. And, uh, so as result why, uh, it, nothing ever happened. I was curious when they began to remodel the ground down there for Shell that they talked about older graveyards that were there, but they never talked about the Elliott Graveyard. Uh. So, but I'm not gonna make any noise about it, you know, except to tell it like we're doing here. Uh. So that's the story of the graveyard. But…

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And . . . I'm sorry.

BILL ELLIOTT: Go ahead. The Dunn interest there. If we were to go back fifty years and go down and, uh, talk to people at St. Joe Lead, uh, their manager and so on, uh, they would bring in, uh, many people by the name of Dunn. The purchasing agent was Bob Dunn. I enjoyed, my company enjoyed a good relationship there because they bought a lot of stuff from us. And that, my business was supplying that kind of, uh, thing. I have a company called Beaver Falls Paint and Glass. But we were far more than the name implies. And we could get them what they needed and at a good progress, and so we enjoyed a lot of business from them through Bob Dunn, but the manager, plant manager, his name was Jimmy and I can't remember his last name. But he married a Dunn. So, uh, she, well it'd be, it's just again. He was the same relationship. Uh. The Dunn's were cousins of my father. So, but I don't know how that happened. All I know is they were full cousins. At least the Bob Dunn that lived down there. And, uh, so as a result why this, uh, was, uh, an interesting thing through the years, but one that I wanted to avoid when they started talking about your family graveyard.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Was your grandfather also William Elliott?

BILL ELLIOTT: Same name as mine. And one of the reasons through the years, one of the reasons the Dowd's and the Elliott's were all related. Virginia Dowd, for example, we used, my brothers and I, and I had two other brothers used to sit at her feet and ask questions. Just almost like you, uh, about what, how the relationship happened. Uh. She was Virginia Elliott, but I can't remember the tie-in, but she was a close relative and we sat, as I said, sat at her feet while she told us about the Elliott's and how they got there and the Dowds and how they got there. The property really through the years has been known by, as the Dowd's property. But my grandfather, who originally owned a good part of it moved down over the hill and that's why he got close to the river, where St. Joe Lead was and where the, uh, uh, Shell plant is, where they're working now building the property for Shell plant. Incidentally, I worked for a chemical company down there. I've forgotten the name of it, but as a chemist and, uh, they had a cracking tower and I worked the cracking tower. I was in charge of the cracking tower. So I don't get so alarmed about cracking plants, which people seem to be trying to stir up now, uh, because I don't see any effluent or giving off of gases and so on. There are folks around here that are

making noises like, "Oh, we will be inundated by all kinds of things coming off this plant." I can't see it. I can only see it as gases in, into the air, but I can't even see that because that's easily handled and we did. And I remember being up on the cracking tower with another fella and, uh, we were curious to know, uh, a cracking tower in those days made you start with the product, which was Illinois Crude Oil. And you put it in this tower and you boiled it like you'd boil tea, and things would be given off as the boiling happened on the tower and, uh, way up at the top you'd get gases, the first thing to come off from this Illinois crude. And then they captured that and then on down you'd get gasoline for example. The gasoline that it gave off was if my memory is correct was normal heptane, which is a seven carbon figure. You could burn it in your car, but the car would knock terribly. So what they did in those days they mixed it with ethyl alcohol and then when you went to the gas pump there would be one without the ethyl. I don't know who would use that. But there was another one that had ethyl alcohol in it and with it your engine would run smoothly. So that's my memory of the early cracking business down in, uh, Bellowsville or my grandfather's farm.

0:15:19

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Around what time was that? What year?

BILL ELLIOTT: Maybe 1930 to 1932. I was small. And somehow we, we were related to a family named Kennedy, uh, there's the place out there they call Kennedy's Corner now. It used to have a service station and I think it still does. My wife knows it because there's an ice cream stand across the way, but that was out on what they call the Camel Property if my memory is correct and we had great friends, that family, when I was little. I never understood why. We went to the same church, I suppose, so that was, uh, the reason for that.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And your grandfather's farm, what did he farm? What did he have on his farm?

BILL ELLIOTT: He had corn. He wasn't much of a farmer. He was a river man. And, uh. [Clears throat] But I think corn was probably, now this is a guess on my part. He wasn't a real produce guy like, uh, Floyd's are up on the hilltop now, who are great, uh, at raising produce, which they sold, have sold through the years to people all over the valley here. And, uh, the farmers market on Saturdays in the summertime. When they were healthy, they're getting old now, uh, they were the center of this. If you went in, there was a truck parked in the center and the back, backend was opened and you could get tomatoes and other things sold off the back. And that was their farmers' market sales point, although they sold to stores and people all over the valley through the years. Uh. Becky, the, the wife has been sick the last year or two. She's better now, but, uh, that slowed things down very much for that farm. I think there's a hundred, still a hundred and seventy-five acres up there that they farm. [Clears throat] I have a daughter who is looking for a small farm up here. She lives in Dallas, Texas, and her husband is, uh, head of a milk company, a big one, and, uh, he's about to retire. So they have a grandson up here and two little grandsons living in Vanport. So that's why they want to find some

property here, and I'm inclined to talk to some of the farmers around here and see if they'll sell off a little part of their farm, you know.

0:18:27

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yes.

BILL ELLIOTT: Uh. But we'll see how that plays out.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: When we're done here, I actually know a farm, a small farm that's for sale. So I'll give you that information. I think it's seventy-five acres in Economy Borough. So I don't if they'd be interested in that.

BILL ELLIOTT: Is it in the, it has to be in the country?

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Uh-huh.

BILL ELLIOTT: It can't be…

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yes.

BILL ELLIOTT: Uh. What is the name of the people? Can you say that here?

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Stone.

BILL ELLIOTT: Say that again.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Stone.

BILL ELLIOTT: How do you spell that?

JULIE THROCKMORTON: S-T-O-N-E.

BILL ELLIOTT: S-T-O-N-D. Stond. Hmm. Never heard that name.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yeah. It's with an E at the end. Just Stone.

BILL ELLIOTT: Just Stone. Okay.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Like a…

BILL ELLIOTT: Oh. Well I've heard about that.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Let me make a note. When we're done, uh, I can give you the information.

0:19:24

BILL ELLIOTT: He used to be a lawyer here in Josephtown that was quite a character.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Now when you said your grandfather was a riverman. Did he work his entire life on the river?

BILL ELLIOTT: No. He had this hundred-acre farm and, uh, how he farmed it I don't know. He may have had help. I just don't know. I know that he bought it. Well, the original property was bought as a, I don't know how the guy was a dealer, but his name was George Wheaton. And, uh, there if you drive out Route 18 and drive up that hill, you'll look at the signs and you'll see Wheaton Drive. Uh. I know that was important in the property ownership, but I don't know how that happened.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Going back even further, do you know when the first settlement of Elliott's was in this area?

BILL ELLIOTT: Well what happened. I'll have to get this straight. One of the people by the name of William P., uh, Paul Elliott. And that's important that that name remained. [Clears throat] It was that at the end of the, uh, Revolutionary War the troops were going home and they didn't have anything. So the government determined, "Well we'll give 'em land. We have a lot of land, you know. But, uh, we'll give 'em land." So they gave out these big parcels of land. Sometimes thousands of acres and, uh, I was told by a friend of mine, said that the parcel that William Paul Elliott. It has to have that full name. Uh. Was given stretched pretty much from where the airport is, Pittsburgh Airport, to the Ohio River. So many of the people out there, uh, when I told this story didn't believe it. So they went back in their records and they found out the deed, the name William Paul Elliott was on it. I would always kid 'em. I'd say get off my ground, you know. But, uh, we, there was a road out there called Poorhouse Run Road. Now the people that live there now didn't like that name. So they changed I think to Pleasant Drive. And, uh, so, uh, but that was all part of this property. And a couple of 'em didn't believe it so they did some research and they found out my name was the deed on the, on their old history. And which was never. It was a matter of interest to me. That's all.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you know when the name of that road changed and, and why it had changed?

BILL ELLIOTT: I'm going to guess and this is a guess only, but it changed about twenty-five years ago. So if you go back to 1990 or however it works out that was it. But I do know that as it began to get houses built on it and if you build a house out there raising your family, you'd say, you know, I don't much go for that name that we have here. There are a lot of roads around here that have very nice names, but didn't have good names to begin with.

0:23:34

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's interesting. And I never thought about that, that, in, in the nineties after, after the home had been closed for so long that people wouldn't want their address to say Poorhouse Run Road any longer.

BILL ELLIOTT: Uh. Actually it moved up here. I've forgotten what they call it now. It's changed its name two or three times. But it's up here and it's like a hospital, and part of our business was we were in charge of the decorations and pretty much the structure of the, uh, home up there now. My company that was part of what we did. And, uh, I remember the, uh, man who ran it wanted to put carpet on the walls of the first floor, and I refused to do it. Uh. I pretty well made what he wanted happen, but I wasn't willing for many reasons that I won't elaborate here, but, uh, I wouldn't do it. So I got fired and that was the end of that, and I was glad enough to be fired because it occupied a lot of my time.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Why on earth would he have wanted to do to put carpet on the wall?

BILL ELLIOTT: I wasn't sure. We did put carpet on the walls of the second floor, and why I would permit that I don't know. The reason I say that I was in charge of the fire code there. So carpet on the first floor didn't work with me in the fire code business. So that's why that, uh, I stopped that and got fired.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And was this through your company, the Beaver Falls Company?

BILL ELLIOTT: Yes.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Um.

BILL ELLIOTT: Yeah. Well, we, we had, we were in charge of, we were in charge of the Michael Baker Building out in the country when Michael Baker was going strong. And, uh, I would say to Mike Baker, uh, "Why are you hiring us? You have three architects here. We also had design department. You have three architects and why don't you use 'em?" And he said, "Big difference." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "You can design it, but you can also do it, and our architects can't do it. So just accept the business." And so we worked for years out there in charge of that building and we replaced the entrance doors and carpeting all over and painted it, and I've forgotten what all, many things.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Now, did your family originally come from England? Is that one?

0:26:33

BILL ELLIOTT: No. Those are bad words [Laughs] here. Uh. They were Scots. I am told. And the reason they, they got called Scotch Irish, but what happened in

Scotland they were Border Reivers, and this meant that they would ride up and down the border between England and Scotland and whichever side was winning at the time, they were on that side. The English side or the Scottish side. But what they did, they went to farms and, uh, stole product from the farms and made everybody mad and they didn't like the Border Reivers. Finally, they got kicked out of Scotland and they went to Ireland, and they've stayed in Ireland for a generation and married some of the Irish girls. And, uh, but they got kicked out of Ireland. Well, where were they going to go? They had to cross the Atlantic and people on the Atlantic coast didn't like 'em either. So they went over the mountains and came down, many of them, in Western Pennsylvania. Uh. Many of our family came down the Service Creek area, which is south of here, and, uh, settled there and made, set up a Presbyterian Church called Service Presbyterian. It's there now, and it has a congregation and it's a lovely property. Many people go out there and have picnics. It also is a burial ground, and we're related to that Service Burial Ground. Almost everybody in the burial ground. Uh, Uncle Joe Holmes, Joseph Lincoln Holmes was a lawyer here in town. He was a partner of my grandfathers who was also a lawyer, uh, M. J. Patterson and, uh, they, uh, but his tombstone is a round ball. So if you ever go down there or most people will go there to have picnics, you'll see at the bottom of the graveyard this big round ball. And if you look at the plate underneath, you'll see Joseph Lincoln Holmes. And I remember, he and my grandfather had an office on Third Street probably where the bakery is now or upstairs from it. Uncle Joe chewed tobacco and so when he was done with his chew he opened the window and spit it out so it would go down on the road below. You had to be careful where you stepped. Uh. But, uh, those, that's on the other side, not, that was on my mother's side. Uh. My mother was Frances Patterson. And, uh, so she married my father and therefore became part of the Elliott group from which I came. I was their oldest son. Uh. They had three more children, two more boys and a girl. And, uh, so. But that's when I lived catty-corner across from the Park Presbyterian Church. I was four. And, uh, so, but I was a moving four, and my grandfather and grandmother lived over on College Avenue up toward the hill. My grandfather and my grandmother were good with cookies and milk and so on. So one day when my mother wasn't looking I went up to my grandmother's which was a distance of six blocks, a 4-year-old, I crossed the main street, but remember there weren't that many cars in those days. There were horses and buggies and so on. And, uh, but there were, there wasn't really frontier stuff, but it was a little bit like it. So it was no good for me to go to grandmas. But grandma rewarded me with cookies and milk and everything went fine until my dad showed up. For which I got paddled soundly for my effort.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yeah. That story as the mother of a 5-year-old makes my heart sink because I can only imagine. How did they know that's where you went? Did they just assume that that's probably where? And for you to know just directionally at four to go that way.

0:31:17

BILL ELLIOTT: I was precocious at four. I don't say that pridefully. I'm just simply saying if it were my kid I'd beat the crap out of 'em. [Laughter] But, uh, but my kid, my oldest son, is precocious, and he does, he's head of Carfax and, uh, he does things that

are… When I say he's head of Carfax, he isn't the president, but he's their chief guy, who runs Carfax. So, and he's been doing that, cars, all his life. I wanted him to take over our business, which was a good one. No. He's interested in cars. So that's, cars, cars, cars and it's still. I had a long conversation last night. He said, "I bought a car for you, Dad." And I said, "I like my car that I have now. I don't need another car." Well, this, I want to tell you about this car anyhow. The price is right, and, uh, so then we went into a half-hour conversation about the joys of this proposed car. I was having none of it really.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Is he, is he also a William Paul Elliott?

BILL ELLIOTT: No. He's Donald. He's like Donald Trump. [Laughter] He has the name Donald. I'm trying to think of his middle name. Donald. I haven't thought about it in years, and I named him. Uh. I'll come up with it in a little while.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did you name any of your children William Paul?

BILL ELLIOTT: Our other children were all girls.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Girls. Got it.

BILL ELLIOTT: I delivered my second daughter. Dr. Trumpeter, who lived down the street here, uh, his mother passed away the same time Christine was coming into the world. So there was a hospital in New Brighton called Beaver Valley General and, uh, I sat outside the doors of the delivery room, which was like doors here. And here I am and here's the delivery room and, uh, I heard my wife groaning, you know, and so on and so I finally couldn't stand it and I walked through the doors and the nurses were trying to hold her back until the doctor got there. And I went in and, and I said, "I know what I'm doing. I'll deliver this baby." So I delivered the baby and the thing that scared me was new babies are slippery and I didn't have any gloves, delivery gloves. Delivery gloves have rough surfaces and I didn't have those on. So I had to be very careful not to drop my new, new daughter. And, uh, but he, the obstetrician came and he said, "What do you want me to do?" And I handed it, her to him, and I said, "Silver nitrate in the eyes and cut the cord." So he did that, and he handed her back to me. And I thought, "Now what do I do?" Well these nurses are still standing there so I, "Here wrap her up and put her in the nursery." And then he said, "Will you deliver the placenta?" and I said, "Yeah." So then he left and I'm sitting there beside the table with the hole in the middle and, uh, I said, "Wait a minute. This isn't what I bargained for." You know. So I thought, "Will I get a bill for this?" And I did seventy-five dollars. [Laughter]

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That is just an amazing story to me. I can't even believe that he came in and then he left.

0:35:12

BILL ELLIOTT: Yeah. Well like I say, he was mentally unhinged by the death, the sudden death of his mother.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Sure.

BILL ELLIOTT: And, uh, so and I had, my roommate. I spent time in medical school. So my roommate and I used to go down and deliver babies in the hill district. Ten dollars apiece we got for these. Uh. So it was not something that I didn't know what I, I really did know what I was doing. But the thing, the impact that hit me was sitting beside my wife and thinking about what had happened ten or fifteen minutes before and I was, you know, this is not the way it's supposed to be.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yes. Now when it came time to sell the farm, why did your family sell the farm to St. Joe's Lead? Do you know why?

BILL ELLIOTT: I don't know. I don't know a thing about that. All I know is that my grandfather traded that, his hilltop farm for that property. Now if there was any financial transaction, I don't know that. Uh. All I know is I knew where the farmhouse was. I stayed there overnight several nights as a little boy. And, but that's all I know about that.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you remember the Poor Home?

BILL ELLIOTT: Yeah. I do. It was over beyond, down river beyond Auntie Altice, which I mentioned earlier, and she was down in the little ravine, uh, which was a little crick as they say here in Western Pennsylvania. And there was a little creek that ran down there. Not Raccoon Creek, but the little creek that, uh, came down off the Dowd's Farm on the top of the, we always refer to that as the Dowd's Farm. Uh. It came down that hilltop, off the hilltop and ran into the Ohio River, and she was beside that. Uh. But she was an old lady. I don't know whether she was ever married, whether Altice was her born name, original name or not. I do know that she had a doctor who came down and visited with her. He was in Pittsburgh. I liked him, and he finally married her. I'm going to say they were in their eighties, but they were probably in the forties. In my little head, they were very old. So, but he married and then he lived down there until they both died.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Were you ever back in where the Poor Home was? Did you ever see the Poor Home or were you ever in it?

BILL ELLIOTT: I've seen it because if you picture in your mind, here's my grandfather's farm like the property across the street and this little crick came down. But before the crick entered the Ohio River on the grand, my grandfather's farm side, this little property belonging to Mrs. Altice. Uh. That was just the way it was, and then the other, on the other side of that was the Poor Farm Property. That's why this little creek and the road that came down off the hill is called Poorhouse Run, and that was the name of that little run. Poorhouse Run Road, uh, that, uh. But it was beyond it and it was a building. In my memory, it was a commercial looking building. It was square. It was two or three stories high. Probably only two stories because in those days they didn't have elevators and the old folks who lived there would have to struggle up the steps and

down again. But I don’t know that, that's, I'm telling you something that I saw, but how many floors it had I can't tell you.

0:39:43

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Were you ever actually in, in the facility?

BILL ELLIOTT: No. Not to my knowledge.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did you know of anybody who had lived or worked there?

BILL ELLIOTT: No.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did your grandfather or anybody else ever talk about the Poor Home or the people who lived there?

BILL ELLIOTT: Probably did, but I don’t have any memory of that.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did your family know anybody who eve worked at Lock Six?

BILL ELLIOTT: Worked at what?

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Lock Six.

BILL ELLIOTT: Is that down river from where we're talking?

JULIE THROCKMORTON: It’s the old Merrill Lock and Dam.

BILL ELLIOTT: I don’t remember, but was there a restaurant?

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yep. Uh-hmm.

BILL ELLIOTT: That’s called Lock Six.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's right.

BILL ELLIOTT: Yeah. I've had dinner there many times. Uh. Yeah. They, some of our family worked there. I think the name of the family that did most of that work and river work was Christie. And, uh, that's like Christ with I-E on the end of it.

0:41:28

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Okay.

BILL ELLIOTT: And they still live out there. Uh. Wish I could remember the names of the people that lived there. One, uh, second or third cousin is Christie, and that's the problem. I can't remember her last name. She is remarried, but she is the tax collector in Potter Township. So she's not hard to look up.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: So, uh, was Christie their last name or their, that's her…

BILL ELLIOTT: Christie was her first name.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Her first name.

BILL ELLIOTT: I like to, I like to say that her name reminds me of Christie Cajun, but I'm sure that's not right.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And so it was her, her family that worked at Lock Six.

BILL ELLIOTT: Yeah. Uh. When I say worked there, later on there was a ferry down there. A shipping port ferry. And it was run by Christie, the last name was Christie, and I can't remember any more than that, but I know that many times my car when I wanted to get across the river, it was a car ferry. You drove on it and four or five other cars and then then they ran across. And what they would do, my cousin Christie, I think his name was Joe, but I'm not sure, would start the thing across the river and then he'd go around among the cars with the engine, with the steering wheel unattended and he would collect the money and then you'd drive off on the other side. And that worked fine until one night in a fog a barge came down and sank the, uh, ferry and that immediately put an end to that ferry and brought up the bridge that's down there that runs over to Shipping Port.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Got it.

BILL ELLIOTT: Which has been built and rebuilt.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Oh. I didn’t know that.

BILL ELLIOTT: When the [Inaudible], when the nuclear power plant went in down there they rebuilt the bridge.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Got it. Was anybody hurt when that, when the ferry?

0:43:45

BILL ELLIOTT: Oh. I think some people were killed, but I, that's all I remember.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you ever remember Lock Six when it was functioning? I think they closed Lock Six in 1936?

BILL ELLIOTT: I remember that. I also remember there was a barber in Beaver. I can't remember his last name. It was a German name and, uh, he and his wife were driving up there and somehow he lost control of the car and they went in the river. And lucky for them, another fella was behind him. He jumped out and saved them and brought 'em to shore. But that was at Lock Six. Now, shortly after that the Montgomery Island Dam was built, which exists to this day. And these dams do more than people know. Uh. Other than just dam up the river, you know. It all started from water coming down from Canada and, uh, they finally decided what they better do is divide, devise a locking system, which would control the rivers very much. When I was little, Vanport was often under water. Uh. You don't see that anymore and the reason is, is this locking symptom, which Montgomery Island Dam is part of that. Uh. It starts up at Kinzua if you've ever been there and that Kinzua Dam dams up a lot of water and in fact, uh, I was flying over that area and I looked down and above Kinzua there's an absolutely round body of water on top of the hill, the mountain. And what happens when nobody needs electricity in the middle of the day, they take one of the pumps down below and they pump water up into this, uh, round lake and what happens is when the peak of the day when everybody's using electricity then they run the water down from that lake on top of the hill through another power station that pumped it up there now becomes an electric producing power to give, uh, energy to the red that needs it, the heavy hour.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Isn't that fascinating?

BILL ELLIOTT: It is. It's, but that whole dam system, uh, you don't see Vanport flooded anymore and you don't see the river rising up and down. Now, there's a fellow, I've forgotten his name, has a dredge down there. The dredge is constantly digging up the bottom of the river and they required draft or depth is nine feet. It can't be any less. So that gang of stuff down there on the river is constantly looking for less places than nine feet or nearly less. And the reason for that is these vessels that haul coal and things up and down the river, uh, need the nine foot draft otherwise it'll run aground.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you remember what the river was like before they put in the lock and dam system?

BILL ELLIOTT: Say that. One thing, I've lost the hearing in this ear. I'll get it back here in a couple days, but, uh, I lost my hearing aid and so I have to, I'm a veteran. So I have to go up and to the Vets in, uh, Butler and get a new one here in two or three days.

0:47:54

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you remember what the river looked like before they put the lock and dam system?

BILL ELLIOTT: Yeah. I swam in it. Uh. We lived in back of Monaca in those days. An area called Mono Manor. We went to a country schoolhouse for six years. And what we used to do and our mother never knew this, at least if she knew it she didn't say anything, we used to go over and we'd climb down that hill across there, little kids, and

we'd go swimming. We called it a play area across the railroads tracks, uh, Sandy Beach, and we'd go down there and swim in it. We had inner tubes that in those days tires had inner tubes in 'em. And, uh, they'd get patched up, you know, and finally they wouldn't put 'em on cars anymore, and then we'd blow 'em up and, and, uh, then we'd take 'em down there and we'd wait, in those days all of the river traffic, big traffic used paddle wheels in the back, which turned. And what happened, they created great waves behind 'em, like this. So us little kids would get in these inner tubes and we would paddle out to the middle of the river and then we would ride the waves that came off and this caused the captains of these vessels to have heart failure, you know, cause they didn't want to hit any of us. They never did. But, uh, that was great fun for us. But that was the Ohio River, which is very different than the Ohio River that I knew. Uh. It used to go up and down. For example, in 1936, I remember walking across the river on big ice flows with my dad and the reason for it was the river flows, froze solid and, uh, you don't see that anymore.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: We saw it. In fact, we just saw pictures of that last week. Somebody brought us pictures of the river completely frozen solid and it was amazing. I'd never seen anything like that.

BILL ELLIOTT: And then when there, there was great fear when it finally melted or partially melted. They had these big blocks of ice. They were afraid they would knock out Lock Six Dam and my dad said when he was a little boy that in the summertime they would swim in the river and they could walk across it because it wasn't deep and then the river traffic was stopped. But that doesn't happen anymore and that's all because of this locking system.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: So he actually remembered the period of time where you could just walk out in certain places in the river?.

BILL ELLIOTT: I can remember as a little kid, but, but much of this is my father telling me this. Then I could walk way out into the river. I couldn't walk across it, but I could go way out and there was no traffic. No river traffic. Um. My, but my father says that there was times when the river was just a little creek, but that doesn't happen more either.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And was the water at that time, when you were swimming, was it clean?

0:51:45

BILL ELLIOTT: I'm sure it wasn't, and I'm sure it isn't even today. There are up river sewage systems which are not really good and, uh, I'm sure that I would not want to, there are a lot of fish in the Ohio River now, but I wouldn't want to eat any of 'em because I'd be eating sewage upstream from you guys in Baden for example.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yes. That's right. [Laughter] And do you actually remember seeing Lock Six when you were young or what it looked like?

BILL ELLIOTT: Oh, yeah. Yeah. You could even almost see it because it hasn't been gone that long. Well maybe so. It might've been gone fifty or sixty years, you know. But, uh, there was a restaurant there. But in those days the water just flowed through it. It wasn't, it might've even been buried in water but it's gone now.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you remember when it was closed?

BILL ELLIOTT: I'm going to guess and this only a guess. Uh. The river was probably closed about the beginning of World War II, maybe 1940 and so on. I, I'm sure I'm within twenty years of being right in that.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And how, in your time, being in Beaver County, has the landscape changed? What kinds of changes have you seen? We've already talked about some of them.

BILL ELLIOTT: Well the big change is the population for one thing. I remember it because it was my business to know how many people there were in Beaver County. And if my memory serves me correct, it was around 212,000 people, and then it went down to 180 or 170. I'm guessing now, but I remember looking and saying, "Oh, we've lost this many customers." You know and so on. And then now it's back up way over that. So, uh, first of all, the towns were thriving when I was a kid. In Beaver Falls, you had to park down near the river and then walk blocks, many blocks to get up to the main street and I remember going there with my parents and thinking, "Boy, this is a long walk up here." Uh. And then it went down and the roads got better. Traffic could flow more freely. Uh. And then I remember Beaver Falls. I remember Beaver Falls because that was where our business was located. The main business. And, uh, it was thriving. People can't believe how many people, uh, in a paint and wallpaper and glass store. We might have, I would go out and count maybe twenty people waiting in there to get whatever they wanted. We had a big round table and women would come in there and pick wallpaper, which was very popular in those days. And, uh, but the, the main difference is now, uh, the highways are much better so you can drive through these towns faster. Uh. The trucks are bigger. The limit used to be forty feet, now it's fifty-two. So you see bigger and longer trucks. Uh. Bigger truck traffic, which I liked when we were in business because we needed trucks to bring stuff to us, you know, and we had some sizable trucks too. So, uh, that's the difference that I see, better traffic flow, better business opportunities, different businesses. For example, where the YMCA is was one time a park and it had roller coasters and it had merry-go-rounds, and it had a dance floor. So if you were a young person out on the night, you know, you'd go down to junction stretch they called that and, uh, then years ago, uh, I was chairman of the YMCA and we were looking for somebody to come and, uh, be our head and we were located in New Brighton about Eighth Street I'm guessing and Third Avenue. Third Avenue is the main street and, uh, we looked at a lot of people and they would send us files this big of people to look at to be our YMCA guy. There were three YMCAs in Beaver County, but two of

them were really ineffective. I even remember why they were ineffective, and I was very critical of them. I thought they shouldn't even be YMCAs. So we finally got rid of 'em and closed 'em down. Uh. But this brash guy from New Mexico and he told us the wonderful things he was going to do with, he was the head of our Y. And I had Michael Baker and Lou Pappan and people like that, uh, on the board and they were against this kid and I said, "You know, if he can deliver half of what he says, we'll have a good situation." So that young guy's name was Bill Parise, and we hired him. And he did indeed turn out to be a, uh, a real light on the horizon as far as the YMCA was concerned. In fact, he shut it down and built a new YMCA down on the junction stretch, where the ice cream stand is so on.

0:58:31

JULIE THROCKMORTON: It's beautiful.

BILL ELLIOTT: Yeah. And, uh, he's done great things there. He lives and has always lived on the hilltop above, new, above Rochester. And, uh, so, uh, but he's, he was a great influence and, and a good friend of mine. He and I used to fish together, and if you ever interview him, he'll tell you a couple of things about me that I'm not going to tell you today. Uh. But there were good things and it was, it's been a good experience. And now he's, he decided in his retirement he better get another job. So he's managing, uh, several of the Steelers players, one 38-year-old Steeler that's still playing and doing a good job. So that's Bill Parise.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: You mentioned population loss and then gain. Why was that? Why did it lose population and then what do you see as being some of the reasons why there was a gain in population?

BILL ELLIOTT: Most, many of the population here in your grandparents' day were immigrants from Europe, and they sometimes were not so much immigrants because they wanted to be. But these mills around here that was wartime going on and even before that, uh, this was the steel center of the United States and so these mills would send folks out and, and, uh, go over to Europe and tell the Europeans what a wonderful life it was here, you know. So they came over here in mass and, uh, they, uh, there is a cute story that I'll tell very quickly that has to do with Coraopolis, where my wife grew up. And, uh, the, they needed these conscripted people from Europe. So, uh, they went to Italy and they brought all these Italians over. Of course, they were good catholic people and so they went to the Catholic Church, but the priest wasn't really interested in having all these foreigners in his church. So he wasn't very good to 'em. Unfortunately for him, catty-corner across the street was the Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian's minister's name ended in I or O. I can't remember which. But he said, "Well if the priest doesn't like you over there, come on over across the street. I'll preach one sermon in English and one sermon in Italian." So that's what he did, and en masse they moved across the street. And to this day, if you go to the Presbyterian church and sit down and look at the bulletin and see all of the officials and so on in the church, their names all end in I or O or so on.

1:01:46

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Wow.

BILL ELLIOTT: And they're the descendants of these…

JULIE THROCKMORTON: What church was that?

BILL ELLIOTT: First Presbyterian, Coraopolis.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: I know exactly where that church is. I, I didn't know that story.

BILL ELLIOTT: Well that's it, and, huh, and even it's come down to Beaver cause I had a cousin who lived up in the next, no two blocks up in that cute house in the middle. Mary Ewing was her name, and she was a relative. But she married one of the guys from Coraopolis, and his name ends in I. I can't remember what it is. But good people, good guy, you know. But, uh, and my wife's name was Puglielli, and, uh, but her father was an Englishman. He was a Yorkshireman and, uh, I don't know about her mother. But at any rate that's a little bit of a side story here. One of the families here.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Why do you think that, after the industry closed then, the population is growing again in the region?

BILL ELLIOTT: Well there becomes work here again. Different kinds of work. You can work at the mall. You can, there are many stores, many shopkeepers. Um. There are many little industries that, for example, there was a transfer business in Monaca, and he needed money. So he came to me and he said, "Would you like to buy part of my business?" Well, I thought, you know, I've got business here and business in Sharon and well Beaver Falls Paint and Glass was a very minimal description of what it did. It did the Beaver Valley Mall for example, Magee Women's Hospital in Pittsburgh, and so on. That doesn't mean it was the general contractor, but it did much of the contracting work inside. Center Township School, for example. Uh. So people who thought of us as a little paint store sitting in Beaver Falls was, were misled because our, what we were doing went, went far beyond that. So, your question, why are people here? There are jobs here. That's, and they're now. It used to be you could buy these houses for half the price now. But now, people want these houses so the price has gone up on 'em. And, and, uh, yeah, there is work here.

1:04:53

JULIE THROCKMORTON: How do you think that that might change with Shell coming to the region?

BILL ELLIOTT: I don't think Shell is going to make a whole lot of difference. Uh. There're all kinds of people. When things change there are naysayers, who say you better

move away because the air will become so polluted you can't breathe. Well, park your car in Beaver overnight and come out and look at the windshield in the morning. That's the power station down the river, a very real effluent. That means give off gases into the air and so on. Most of it they capture in what they call a fly ash and there was a piece in the paper last night or the night before about that. They found a new place to send their fly ash. Uh. But the fly ash escapes also into the air. It comes down in Beaver. It comes down in Baden. And when you get out and look at your windshield in the morning if you park your car outside, uh, you see what's going on. Now is it harmful. I doubt it, but it's there. Now, what is this Shell plant gonna do. I don't think it's going to give many solid effluents off like the stuff that lands on my windshield. It might give off some gases, which would light boiler, what we call in the business light boilers, but those gases are going to go up, pollute the atmosphere or the stratosphere maybe. I doubt if they land in Beaver County or any county around here. I don't think as having a little experience in that kind of business that Shell is going to make any difference. And when I hear these people rise up, you know, I am inclined to go like that to 'em and say, "You don't know what you're talking about."

JULIE THROCKMORTON: What do you think will happen economically? Do you, do you think it'll help?

BILL ELLIOTT: Yeah. It'll provide. Will it provide six-thousand jobs? I don't think so. Cracker plants don't need a whole lot of people. They might, I'm sure during construction they're going to need a lot of people, but after construction is done and the plant is working quietly down there, uh, I think that, quietly incidentally is what I expect from that plant. Uh. I don't think they need all that many people. They talk about six-hundred. Well I don't know that much about modern cracking plants, but I don't think it's gonna hire as many people as they say. But that's just me.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: You had told me on the phone too that you had been to the site. What do you think of how the landscape has changed?

BILL ELLIOTT: [Laughs] A whole lot. One of my avocations in my youth started about forty and went up until I was about seventy was hill climbing motorcycles, and I, in fact as I bought several motorcycles were meant to just for hill climbing and the rear tire that I put on my motorcycles was, I've forgotten the name of it, but it costs six-hundred bucks today. So it was not just an idle tire, you know, and two of us, a fellow by the name of Bobby Day and I would ride every weekend. We'd get away and our frustrations and all that of our business were taken care of and we'd get out there and we would hill. One of the hills we would ride. When you came off the far end of the bridge and crossed Route 18, there was hill that went up like this and there was, I think, a tower, telephone or an electric tower at the top, and we used to, that was one of the hills we'd ride. And if you, as you're driving on 376 toward Pittsburgh and you look to the left you'll see trails along the road that you wouldn't want to ride or even walk up, but we did and, uh, I never got hurt. I took Bobby to the hospital three times. But, uh, he was less cautious than I was. But that's what we did and it was great fun.

1:09:55

JULIE THROCKMORTON: When was that?

BILL ELLIOTT: Well that was right across here where, uh, the, the, as you cross the bridge and then went underneath it and, uh, started down towards Hookstown. Now there was a hill that went straight up. It was right beside the road and that was our, one of our favorites. We would ride up, and you'd have to see it to know what it is. Uh. We had several hills around here we'd give, gave names. One was called the widow maker. [Laughter] And, uh, our wives thought they'd never see each week we left. We always showed up.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Around what year was that?

BILL ELLIOTT: Well it wasn't so long ago. It started about 1970 and it ended when I was seventy-five, which was 15 years ago. So about 19, about 2000, maybe 1990 to 2000, and then we decided it wasn't safe for me to be on 'em anymore.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you miss that?

BILL ELLIOTT: Yeah. I do. I really do. It was, it was a great way to let off energy. What I was doing was, it was a, uh, very complicated and this kind of contracting we put up curtain walls on buildings and so on.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: We had touched on this a, a little bit back when we were talking about the cracker early on, but do you, how well do you remember St. Joe's and people who worked there in the actual facility?

BILL ELLIOTT: Well I was related to most of 'em. The manager was a guy of the name, the one that I knew best was a fellow by the name of Henderson, and I think he still lives in Windy Ghoul above town here. Uh. He was the one that was most insistent that we get together and resolve this graveyard, family graveyard business. But I never, I would get together with him socially, but I wouldn't get together with him on that piece of business.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did you ever do any other work at St. Joe's or for St. Joe's?

BILL ELLIOTT: Well we supplied a lot of things. Uh. I can't remember now. We were down there a lot, my trucks, and so on, but I can't. They were routine things. Nothing that would enlighten the eyes of anybody, you know. It was just, just routine things. Uh. Bob Dunn, who was their purchasing agent was the buyer and he was a distant cousin of mine. So, uh, but if we could go back forty years and take a stroll through there and introduce you to different people you would be surprised how many Dunn's you ran into. I wish I could remember the plant manager because his name was Jimmy, but I can't remember, but he was married to my cousin Jean Dunn. And, uh, I

was at the eye doctor's a year or two ago and his eye was coming out. There was a lady out there. She said, "Hey, Bill, come over here. I want to talk to you." And so I looked at her and, "Who are you?" You know. "I'm Jean," which is the name I can't remember. But Jean Dunn was her, and she was the sister of the purchasing agent. Her husband was the plant manager. Well he was the plant, head of the plant workers. Not the plant manager. Henderson was the manager. And, uh, she said, "Come out and see me." So I thought well yeah, I can do that. So I, and my wife said, "Well you better go out and see her. She's an old lady, you know." And I said, "Well I'm old too." Uh, but I didn't and then I read that she had passed away in the paper. So that ended that visit.

1:14:54

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you often find that you end up running into people that you realize that you're related to because there's so many connections?

BILL ELLIOTT: Usually they tell me and, uh, yeah, I run into 'em all the time. I was born on River Road and Beaver. When I was a baby I could look out and see the Ohio River and the Beaver Monaca Railroad Bridge. And, uh, I always wanted to travel. Never did much because I had enough action going here that I had to stay and attend to things. My two brothers on the other hand, my brother Don graduated from the Naval Academy and was ranked, a high ranking Naval Officer as a result of it. Um. His name was Don, and my younger brother Phil, who is six years younger than I was, I remember looking over the basinet when he was born and, uh, he was just a few hours old then. He became a Naval, uh, Marine Corp pilot. He had many kills over Vietnam. Uh. And, but he's gone. So I'm the oldest, but I'm the only surviving of that gang. And our sister died when she was thirteen. She died of a brain tumor. So two or three years before that, we didn't see much of our parents because they were up in Pittsburgh at a hospital trying to get their daughter in good health and that didn't work.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: You had said too that you are a World War II veteran. Is that correct?

BILL ELLIOTT: Yes. Not much of a veteran I think. I was the youngest naval officer in the Fourth Naval District. I was nineteen. You're not supposed to be an officer until you're twenty-one, and as a result the Navy kind of hid me, uh, and took care of me, uh, during the last two, last year of the war I suppose and the only thing that they did with me that showed much action at all was, uh, put me in the sub chasers. And that was a peaceful kind of job because you go out and you make a noise in the water and you're almost too young to remember when they would have Naval movie pictures and they would show this noise, like a bell ringing through the water. And you did that and the Germans, who wanted to give up, and there were many, uh, would then come up and we would count their complement and that means we'd want to see everybody on the vessel and, and, uh, that's what we did until finally I went and I said, I asked them if I could sign over as a seaman first, which would've made me legal in the Navy, and they said, "We have a million more like you. We don't need you. Go home. If we need you, we'll call you." And that had a side effect because along came wars after that 1952, 1953 and, uh,

so I was worried, I had a family then, that I'd get called up, but I never did. So I don't have much of an illustrious [Laughs] Naval career.

1:18:56

JULIE THROCKMORTON: You served. It is very important.

BILL ELLIOTT: How's that?

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Still you served, which is extremely important.

BILL ELLIOTT: Well I suppose, but I was still. I didn't know a lot of this. I was just there, you know, and I was going where I was sent and doing what I was supposed to do, and I remember riding with a bunch of guys in a truck for, this is the Naval service now. And we were in the back of this truck and all they had were benches that weren't even attached and we went for hundreds of miles and I thought, later on I thought that was the worst part of my Naval career, riding around in the back of that truck. But there were, there were people. The Navy was a unique thing. It, uh, our, the German fleet actually worked out of Spain. They, this vessel, these vessels that, I spoke some German, so they liked me for that reason. And I would yell at 'em, "Sprechen sie Deutsch?" And, "Ja, Ja." You know. Uh. They all worked out of Spain and these, uh, submarines captains told us that we wanted to get back to Spain, but we don't have enough fuel to do that. Well come with us and we'll treat you well, and they did. We sent 'em to a place up in central Pennsylvania, which was a prisoner of war camp and they didn't want to go home after they were there. They said, "Boy, we like it here." You know. But we had to, every one of 'em had to go home. But many of 'em as soon as they bounced off Germany or Deutschland as they called it. Uh. They came back and they married local girls and so on. In our church, we had German people and I would go and talk to 'em, you know, and sing Christmas carols with 'em. And, uh, they liked that.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: It was actually Jeff Snedden, who gave me that map.

BILL ELLIOTT: Oh. He's, uh, Beaver County Times.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Uh-huh.

BILL ELLIOTT: Yeah. And I was critical of him until he came down and we met, and he said, "You know. The information that I had was prior to the kind of information you had." He said, "That's all I had." And, uh, so, but we got a lot of information that doesn't show very much here. It shows the old Braden Farm, and Doc Braden was a favorite. And my wife was a favorite of his, and he lived in Coraopolis, and he was the big doctor in that town, as was his father before him and maybe his grandfather. He doesn't have any children who became doctors after that. But he lived to be a hundred and five and he was great for sitting down and talking about. And I would sit at his knee, you know, and soak all this stuff in. But his forefathers had this farm right here, and it was a big farm

and there was a book written about, there were some people down there, who made bitters. Do you know what bitters is?

1:22:43

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Not really.

BILL ELLIOTT: Okay. Well it was some kind of an additive that you put on meats and so on and enhance the food. But during prohibition they made bitters that was mostly alcohol. So Hofstetter was their name, and they made this bitters and people would go down there and buy their carload, you know, to get these bitters and take it home and get the alcoholic effects from it. And, uh, that was down river of the Braden Farm and it might've even been part of the Braden Farm. The Braden Farm was a big farm. Maybe two-hundred and fifty acres. But it was downstream from, from this. But old Doc Braden, who just died a year or so ago, my wife, who's a very, probably the most humanistic kind of person that I know, she sat with him until he died. And he was always a great friend of hers and she was a great friend of his since she was a little kid, but he was a Coraopolis type doctor. And we used, my wife used to get interesting phone calls. She knew a lot of the Italian people and, uh, this isn't going to mean much to you, but a couple times I picked the phone up and the guy on the other end would say, "This is a Foge. Is Jane there?" And this guy, this was Foge Fazio, a big football guy for many, many years all over the nation. So I'd say, "This is Foge Fazio. I guess." So I'd hand the phone over to Jane, and they would jabber away for an hour, you know, and they went to high school together.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Wow. One of the people that we interviewed talked about Doc Braden too. The people in the area. Did he used to go and visit them? So he made house calls then.

BILL ELLIOTT: Yeah, and he was in World War. It might've been World War I for all I know. I know he was in World War II, and he was in Europe and, uh, treated the troops there. A very interesting guy. Uh. You would've better, better interviewed him than me because he had a prodigious memory of what went on and he was, for his age he was a bright guy.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: I would imagine that in that area people really had to rely on each other a lot.

1:25:43

BILL ELLIOTT: They did. I had a cousin, his name wasn't Elliott, but Ewing was his name, and he, he fell off his horse and died. He was a doctor that rode around in the countryside treating people on up on the hill above St. Joe or above the Shell property.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Now, one of the questions that I had and I'm not sure if you could answer this or not, but one of the things that I found as interesting is that the

Poor Home really existed, I feel like back down that road, and people didn't interact a lot, so it was, it was very separate and I was just wondering why you think that might have been that people didn't really see people in the Poor Home a lot or there wasn't a lot of interaction even though it was right there?

BILL ELLIOTT: Well there's a very good reason for that. First of all, transportation was not like it is today. You didn't jump in your car and drive down to the Poor Home. That was a big deal. The other thing, I think people were afraid of the diseases that the Poor Home folks might give them. So and I, I think about this because I remember people talking about, "I don't think we ought to go there." You know and that kind of thing.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Was there any fear about crime in connection with the Poor Home?

BILL ELLIOTT: No. But I do remember my dad coming home and saying that, and I'm going to say a name and I'm not sure I'm right. But there was a name Dillinger, who was a noted criminal, and someone. I remember when he was killed. My dad came home and said, "Dillinger has been killed." And I think in those days when you mention a name like that, that meant a lot because you didn't pick up the paper and read or look at the television and read all kind of nonsense every day. This was a big deal. Uh. And there's a place in the road above East Liverpool, and there's a note there along the roadside and it has something to do with a criminal. I think that criminal was Dillinger. He died here. He was shot by Joe Smith or whatever. But it's there and you can go and look at it.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Oh. That's not very far from here either.

BILL ELLIOTT: Well, it's a half an hour.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yeah.

BILL ELLIOTT: It's not far. Um. To question people down there, they would know about it than I know. But I do know that my aunt Margaret who lived in Aliquippa, uh, had a lady who took care of her boys. She was a schoolteacher and during the day, well in fact she lived with them for years, but in the summertime, uh, when she was out of school she didn't need this lady. So the lady lived in New Brighton up on the hill with her husband, and he had some kind of connection with these crooks we call them. Uh, and, uh, she, but you couldn't go and talk to this lady in the summertime. I've forgotten what they called her. We had a name for her. Uh, because she was drunk most of the time. She actually was an Indian, but I can't, I wish I could remember the name, and there's nobody around. My cousins are all dead. Uh. But then she would sober up and come back and she wouldn't drink all winter and then back summer again and back to New England hill in New Brighton and drunk.

1:30:06

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Huh.

BILL ELLIOTT: But somehow she had a connection with Dillinger. What is was, I don't know.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Is there anything else? Is there anything else that you wanted to share that I didn't ask?

BILL ELLIOTT: No. I can think of some of the scandals, but some of those people are still alive so I don't want to tell about them.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And you've lived in this home here for how long?

BILL ELLIOTT: Thirty years.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Okay. Well it's a lovely home and we really appreciate that you were willing to sit down and take the time to talk with us today.

BILL ELLIOTT: Well, I, it's fun for me because I don't often get the chance. I don't. But, uh, I hope what I've told you was, was as near to the truth as I can come with it.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And it was wonderful. It was wonderful to, to hear the history of the land and your family and we just really appreciate it.

BILL ELLIOTT: The only other thing I can think of and it doesn't have any bearing on anything here. When I was in high school, I needed to make money. So we had a family lawnmower, and I took the family lawnmower out and I mowed grass. And I typically got fifty cents for cutting grass. But it was a push mower. It didn't have motors in those days. So if the grass was long it was hard to do. But, uh, one day my lawnmower wouldn't work and my grass from the several yards I had around town was growing. So I went over and my grandfather who was an attorney here in town, uh, got his lawnmower out and mowed my grass. And one time I was down on Third Street, the main street of Beaver and my friends came along, a ball game going on. "Well, Bill, come on. We need you." So I was near my grandfather's office, a dignified office over here on the main street. So I put the lawnmower in the waiting room, and then I went off and played ball. Then I came back to the office, but the lawnmower was gone. So what to do, I decided I better go and look in grandfather's garage. I looked and there it was, which meant that my grandfather, a dignified attorney here in town took that lawnmower up Main Street a block and then up College Avenue three blocks to his house and put it in the garage. I never questioned him, but I always remember the picture of my dignified grandpa pushing that lawnmower.

1:33:53

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you think he was upset or do you think it didn't matter to him?

BILL ELLIOTT: He never said anything. I think he probably saw the humor in the situation and created it actually, but I wasn't willing to do anything. The other thing that I remember about him was he was very bald and my grandmother was a lady of education and all kinds of things. So she, he would sit, he would forget his hat was on his head to keep his head warm and he'd come to the table and get ready for the family prayer, you know, and grandma would yell at him, "Jim, take that hat off." And that was my little, when I was a little kid. Well.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Well thank you again so much for spending the time with us.

BILL ELLIOTT: Well thank you.

(END)

Melissa Haney and Jamie Hoskinson
Interview @ November 27, 2016

Melissa Haney and Jamie Hoskinson
Summary

The interview with Melissa Haney and Jamie Hoskinson took place on November 27, 2016, at the Captain William Vicary House (home of the Beaver County Historical Research and Landmarks Foundation) in Freedom, Pennsylvania. Melissa and Jamie are cousins and both long standing residents of the Monaca area; their mothers were sisters. Both shared a wealth of information on their extended family, the Stone Family; a family cemetery that was recently discovered during development by Shell; some dynamics of employment learned from family members that worked for St. Joe Lead and the Zinc Corporation of America; and general feelings and ways of life experienced while growing up in the area.

For years, both Melissa and Jamie have been researching family genealogy and collecting family records. Their extended family emigrated from Germany, former surname being Stein, which eventually got translated and adopted as Stone. In their research they know that Adam Stone purchased land along the Ohio River, stretching from what used to be Bellowsville to Raccoon Creek, in 1817. This property included a family dwelling, surrounding farmland, and a family cemetery. In 1853, George Stone (son of Adam) sold a good portion of the land to Beaver County for the use and development of the Poor Home.

Both Melissa and Jamie knew through their research about a family cemetery that existed on their former property and for years had been searching for it. Upon recent development by Shell, the cemetery was discovered. Headstones and remains were found and reinterred to Beaver Cemetery by the surviving extended family.

Melissa's father, brother, and husband worked for the companies (St. Joe Lead and Zinc Corporation of America) that eventually took over the property, after the County Home closed. She remembers company events and activities that her father and family enjoyed during his 30-year tenure, and still retains mementos from those days, like an identification pin once worn by employees and some of her father's trophies from the trap shooting team. She Melissa remembers when the family-oriented dynamics of the companies changed. Both her brother and husband also worked at the plant in its latter years.

The cousins also reminisced throughout about what it has been like growing up in the area, expressing the physical changes over time and general mindsets felt and shared about a variety of things.

MELISSA HANEY AND JAMIE HOSKINSON
INTERVIEW - 11/27/2016

SPEAKERS: JULIE THROCKMORTON (INTERVIEWER)
MELISSA HANEY
JAMIE HOSKINSON

INTERVIEWER: It's November 27, 2016. Would you mind saying your name and spelling it for me please?

MELISSA HANEY: My name is Melissa Haney. M-E-L-I-S-S-A. H-A-N-E-Y.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: My name is Jamie Hoskinson. J-A-M-I-E. H-O-S-K-I-N-S-O-N.

INTERVIEWER: And could you please tell me your address.

MELISSA HANEY: [redacted], Industry, Pennsylvania.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: [redacted], Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

INTERVIEWER: And your date of birth?

MELISSA HANEY: [redacted].

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Mine is [redacted].

INTERVIEWER: Thank you so much. And thank you for meeting with us today. I wanted to talk with you a little bit about your family history, when they first came here, where they settled here, where they lived….

MELISSA HANEY: Okay. We do know that they first came around 1817 I think it was. They had bought some property along the Ohio River stretching from what used to be Bellowsville all the way to Raccoon Creek from what we understand. We know that they had a homestead near Bellowsville along with a family cemetery, what is now the Shell property. Anything you'd like to add?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: No. You pretty much hit everything on the head there. [Laughter] Yeah. They owned quite a bit of land across the river which was really growing up unbeknownst to me. Personally I grew up right across the river, right across from where 84 Lumber is. So basically we looked at it daily. Had no clue. [Laughter]

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: But that's kind of the odd part about it.

INTERVIEWER: And was that just because nobody talked about?

(0:01:55)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Nobody really talked about it. Yeah. I mean we could see part of the Poor House. I mean it was St. Joe Lead back then. And we had no clue growing up. I mean never really heard any from grandpap about it.

MELISSA HANEY: Huh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: You know.

MELISSA HANEY: No.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: My grandpap Stone was my neighbor, so growing up…[Clears throat]

INTERVIEWER: And what? And I should say go back a little bit with that, what was the family name?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: It's Stone. Whenever they came over, when the Germans came over it was actually Stein, which translates to Stone. So…

INTERVIEWER: Uh-huh.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: But the original name was Stein.

INTERVIEWER: And how long was it that they owned that land?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Oh. Ah.

INTERVIEWER: Just approximately.

MELISSA HANEY: From 1817 until after the 1870s.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I think the last inquiry or the last documentation I have of the land transfer is 1873. That was to the Poor House.

INTERVIEWER: Got it. And how did they transfer that? Did the Poor Home purchase the land or was it…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Originally they sold it in 1853. Jacob Stone and the records of the Poor House and the Home of the Unemployment for the County Home of Beaver. In 1853 they sold them the property. Exactly how much…

MELISSA HANEY: I don’t know how many acres they were sold.

(0:03:32)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. I did not get a chance to really leaf through to see exactly how many acres it was. Basically it consisted of the farm, I believe.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-huh.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: The old homestead.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Which we do have pictures of, so…..

INTERVIEWER: Wow. What was on or do you know what they raised when they were on their farm?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: They were farmers. Just typical farming. I mean they had beef, pigs, and whatnot. They grew their own crops and whatnot. Just survived. I mean just typical farmers. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: And did the county or was it the county that approached them?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: That's not really explained in any of the land transfers. I would presume that they approached. They probably actually had it up for sale and then the county decided that seemed like a fairly reasonable spot for it due to the property and there was already buildings on it so, that's something they could use.

INTERVIEWER: And going back even further, I know I'm jumping around a little bit, but, do you know why your family came here in the first place from Germany? Did anybody ever talk about that?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Basically just to start a new life. The early Stone history is German migration of Stones, starting in the early 1700s, in colonial history. And basically there was thousands of Germans that came over and went into areas like North Hampton, Berks, Lancaster, and Lehigh Counties and whatnot, and basically kind of migrated this way. At some point, they actually ended up going down to Baltimore, Maryland because they were actually giving away land grants of a hundred acres or more. So basically they came to Lehigh and Berks and all that it was, was like 10 acres I do believe. So, they basically moved down that way just for more land. I have some documentation here, war rolls for Fredericks County, Adam Stone was drafted. In here it says shortly after he was discharged as an indigent person, which is the sole support of the family. But we did find some information on that. I can't remember exactly when they moved back up this way. That's…

MELISSA HANEY: In 1817, I believe, is when they first bought property here off of a John Braden.

(0:06:15)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

MELISSA HANEY: That's the earliest that we know of. Adam Stone did fight in the war of 1812.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Correct.

MELISSA HANEY: I do know that. And after that was over, they migrated to this area. But we don't know why.

INTERVIEWER: Hmm. That's interesting. I just found out yesterday that there was a Dr. Braden, who was in this area who was very well known. And I think I wrote down that information. He's deceased now. But I wonder if that was an ancestor.

MELISSA HANEY: It could very well be. Yeah. I don't really know of that name being that common around here.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Huh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: And so when did they move off of that property?

MELISSA HANEY: I guess 1873.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: 1873 is the last listing that I have of land transfer between David Stone to the Poor House.

INTERVIEWER: Got it. So, the Stones transferred it in chunks then.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I believe. Yes. Yeah. They owned quite a bit of property on that side. And it's kind of hard to read the land transfer deeds. It's just the fact of the way it was written back then. Not really clear.

MELISSA HANEY: It did say in part of the Poor Farm, Poor House history, that they bought some land off of George Stone, but we have not found a deed for that. But he was a son of Adam Stone.

INTERVIEWER: Got it.

MELISSA HANEY: So, it did say how many acres they bought from him. I don't know right off how many, but definitely, yeah, the farm embraces 130 acres bought off of

George Stone at $50 per acre. Their location is a good one. And that's all they mention about the Stones and the history of Beaver County.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And so where did they go? Do you know where they went after that, after they sold the land, where they settled?

MELISSA HANEY: Vanport.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. Vanport. Some moved out to Missouri.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. Jacob Stone which was the son of Adam moved to Missouri. And then came back. He was a barge and boat builder before and during the Civil War. His son was a prominent business man in the St. Louis area. He had a flour mill and general store. And another son lived in Smiths Ferry and he fought in the Civil War, Brighton Township.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Just different areas around Beaver County, but a lot of them lived in Borough Township, which was Vanport.

INTERVIEWER: Got it. And once they left did they continue to farm or did they go into industry then?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Some of them went into the industry. One I believe worked the steamship. Wasn't it?

MELISSA HANEY: I don't know. I think David had a ferry.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. Maybe that's what I'm thinking of, the ferry.

MELISSA HANEY: Jacob worked on barges and boats.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: He may have helped build the steamships around here. There's so many of them. [Laughter] It's hard to keep track and a lot of this is just from memory.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. It's a lot just trying to remember everything. There is a gang of information.

INTERVIEWER: It's amazing.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. Like our grandfather was a carpenter by trade. A lot of them were carpenters by trade.

(0:09:47)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: He worked for Cook-Anderson in Beaver County in Beaver. He was a cabinet maker for them.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: And my uncle was a cabinet maker, carpenter, our uncle Bob. So it kind of runs in the family. My brother does it and so I guess it's a talent that's been passed down through generations.

INTERVIEWER: That's very cool.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. Just the, the love of building.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. Working with our hands and I love to do that too. [Laughter]

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. It's inherent.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: I don’t have a sense at the price that they would’ve received for their land that the Poor Home paid; do you know if that was a good price?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: For the time, I really don’t know.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. I don’t know what things cost at that time.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. Back then, $50 an acre sounds like a lot of money for a hundred, over 130 plus acres.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. That does.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I mean, that's quite a bit.

MELISSA HANEY: Mm-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Especially for, you know, farmers. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: Right. Just trying to think of the incentive when you have a farm and you have all of that land, you know, and your settled, what is the incentive to when somebody comes in and says I'll pay you for this?

(0:11:04)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Well, it was probably the fact, I mean, getting older in age. Probably the children didn't necessarily want to continue farming. They wanted to venture around and do other things, was what I believe. I mean, you know, like Melissa said, he built windmills and whatnot for the grinding mills.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: So. He is the one that moved out to Missouri then. He ended up with his own grain farms and mills and whatnot. Had a lot of 'em worked, uh, pipe, you know, like on boilers and whatnot.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. I don't know what a lot of 'em did. And that's just an ongoing research issue with us.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. We're barely scratching the surface right now.

MELISSA HANEY: [Laughter] I know. [Laughter]

JAMIE HOSKINSON: And we've been working…

MELISSA HANEY: I know.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Doing this basically since the early '90s.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: So I mean, it's been a long laborious, labor of love, but it's taken quite a bit just to get what we have.

MELISSA HANEY: Mm-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: Well that was going to be my next question actually was, how did you get interested in the family history?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Oh. Basically just talking, you know, to my mother and father before they passed away about it, knowing about grandpap and, you know, talking to the aunts and uncles and whatnot, and them telling us stories and just gets you interested in it and you just want to really start looking back.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. I guess it's just always been a passion of mine as I started turning into my early 20s. It just became a real passion.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

(0:12:39)

MELISSA HANEY: I don't know. I love history and I love to know what my family did and who they were and just stuff like that.

INTERVIEWER: And the two of you, how are you related?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: We're cousins.

MELISSA HANEY: Our mothers were sisters.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Got it. So then where were you able to find so much of this information?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Well a lot started out, believe it or not, was from Carnegie Free Library at Beaver Falls. We would go down there Saturday afternoons until they closed and go up the archives and just start looking up the names. Went from my grandfather. We found his father. Then his grand, his father and whatnot and like going back as far as we could go and that's where we ended up back to where Adam and Jacob and Eliza, you know, and what they owned and, and all that. It's long and drawn out. I couldn't even tell you how many hours we put into this. I know just years and years and years' worth of, you know, laboring through stuff and it's just when you're getting ready to give up that you find one little piece of information and it just starts like fire all over again.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. Yeah. Ancestry.com was a good tool.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

MELISSA HANEY: And a lot of different places on the internet. Countless hours traipsing through cemeteries.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Oh, yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

[Laughter]

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: Just trying. And when the ancestors were found just trying to find a place for them to be buried near our other ancestors.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

(0:14:06)

MELISSA HANEY: In the Beaver Cemetery.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

MELISSA HANEY: That was a little bit of work.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Cause we wanted them to be together.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Why don't we talk about that a little bit since you just mentioned it? Do you mind telling the story of that process and how it started that you were looking for them?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Well, once we found out that they actually owned the property across the river where St. Joe was, we knew that just in documentation that there was a cemetery there. And that's pretty much what started us really wanting to look for it and find it. I know there was only seven or eight graves I believe in the cemetery itself. And, like I said, Melissa said the other thing just going through Beaver Cemetery and whatnot, you know, finding names, finding how everything connects and who's who. That was a big thing for us you know, but we actually physically wanted to find it. It was just we were nowhere close.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. Not. [Laughter] We traipsed and traipsed through the woods…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Hills and Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. Everything. Independently and together.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: And, I would talk to anybody I knew, you know, "Did you ever hear of this cemetery or this cemetery?" My dad had passed early, but he knew all this stuff and he had passed on before I really had a passion for this, and I think he probably could've directed me to it. Cause as a child he would drive around and say, "That's the Poor Farm or that's where the Poor House was." You know. And he knew all that. He worked at ZCA and St. Joe Lead. I would talk to anybody I could and we finally got a tip that the remains were found and that got the ball rolling.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Documentation from Ed Lackner too…

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

(0:15:52)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: That was kind of a point. Overlooking 60 above St. Joe.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. On a point. Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Nowhere near where we thought.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: No.

MELISSA HANEY: At all. Because we had seen photos of the old homestead.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: That's what we have.

MELISSA HANEY: Being that this was the old homestead and this was before the highway was put in. This would have been Bellowsville and this is St. Joe Lead. We would've never known that the cemetery was there. It's hard to see because it's very dark and little, but …

INTERVIEWER: Can you get that? T. J., can you actually see the…

MELISSA HANEY: That was supposed to be the old homestead. Right in here. Those photos were given to Shell from a gentleman who I believe is in his 90s.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. He's still alive and actually worked for decades there.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: At St. Joe. [Laughter]

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And, where was the cemetery that they found, approximately?

MELISSA HANEY: You know, the land has been moved and altered so much, but it would've been probably up in this area. Cause it set on a hill, which I'm assuming that would be the spot.

INTERVIEWER: So right up in that area.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

(0:17:00)

INTERVIEWER: Maybe.

MELISSA HANEY: Right up in that area I'm thinking. Cause this is kind of like a hill as you can see. Kind of. But like I said everything has been altered so much with the highway going in and, zinc expanding or moving things. It's all been altered.

INTERVIEWER: Would you have even been able to get to that place before?

MELISSA HANEY: No.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Huh-hmm.

MELISSA HANEY: Huh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: No. It was actually fenced in. It was inaccessible; I mean, without, you know, proper guidance and permission. This one here. I believe it was up in here Melissa.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. Up on that knoll.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: And like she said the land has just been moved around so much. When we went, we were actually 20 to 30 feet below it seemed like where we should've been, but…

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: The way that everything was moved around.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And, would their graves have been marked and maybe just the stones were lost?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Well they were marked at one time. I'm at a loss. I can't remember exactly where the documentation is, but it was stated and there was pictures they said about there being headstones.

MELISSA HANEY: Oh, yes. There were a couple of bases. There were …

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Half headstones.

(0:18:20)

MELISSA HANEY: Half headstones, and there was I think one full headstone of a young lady. But they also did find an infant, when they found the remains and a headstone for an infant that we knew nothing about.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: Which was named after Adam Stone and was under a year of age. And we were able to bury that headstone with the remains.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I actually have pictures on my phone of that.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

MELISSA HANEY: So do I. [Laughter]

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. When we had everything in the casket, the headstone and whatnot.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

MELISSA HANEY: Cause they were able to review the remains at the funeral home and, and all that.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. We were actually able to put together a full service.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: For us, I mean. Shell was very nice about that. They basically paid for absolutely everything.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh.

INTERVIEWER: That's amazing.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: [Laughter]

MELISSA HANEY: Our ancestors were, I guess, you would say, founding members of Vanport Presbyterian Church.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yes.

(0:19:12)

MELISSA HANEY: So we contacted that current pastor and he did the service for us, which I thought was appropriate considering they attended that church. We had the military come and honor Adam.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: For the Honor Guard.

MELISSA HANEY: For the War of 1812. And we got an American flag for that. And also Shell presented us with this, which is a coffin nail.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: That's an iron coffin nail.

INTERVIEWER: Oh my gosh.

MELISSA HANEY: They found several of those.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. Around the grave shafts.

MELISSA HANEY: Mm-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: Wow!

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. As they started excavating they knew exactly where the graves were just by the discoloration of the earth and whatnot and actually as they physically scraped the earth they found coffin nails, the bones, the skulls and whatnot.

MELISSA HANEY: And, and due to the acidity of the soil there weren't a lot of remains intact. But there were two skulls.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. The long bones.

MELISSA HANEY: Quite a bit of remains.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. The harder bones.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. I was actually surprised at what they actually found, the fingers and whatnot, and the toes.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. Yeah. And there was a tooth. [Laughter] That we saw. It's all fascinating to me. Some people find it morbid. I was excited. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

(0:20:20)

MELISSA HANEY: That they found it, you know. We had been looking for it for over 15 years. And it was just a passion of mine. I just kept getting frustrated, you know. I got to find this. This was just a life goal is to find this graveyard for some reason because I felt such a connection to it.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: It was number one on the bucket list.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. Yes. [Laughter] We are so thankful that they did find it because it was just frustrating when you can't find it, you know.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: It was bittersweet. Kind of. Just for the fact that we knew it was there. We just didn't know exactly where and many hours and miles we'd have to traipse trying to find this and to be that far off. [Laughter]

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: You know, and not be able to actually be the ones to find it. You know.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yes. Right.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: So, I'm very satisfied that they did find it. We were able to put to rest our, you know…

MELISSA HANEY: Mm-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Our grandparents basically. Our great, great, great, great grandparents. [Laughter]

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Um.

MELISSA HANEY: The matriarch of the family I guess, Adam who started it all.

INTERVIEWER: Uh-hmm.

MELISSA HANEY: You know, for us, that's as far back as we can go.

(0:21:28)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: That we've been able to find.

INTERVIEWER: Who then, or do you know, was Adam buried there, and his wife?

MELISSA HANEY: Anna. His son, David, and his wife, Maryann, and their son Adam who was the, a year old infant, Jacob, which was a son of Adam, and Elizabeth was another girl. She was young. I think she was around 18. She died of scarlet fever. So, we were able to put a beautiful headstone in Beaver Cemetery next to, great-great-grandparents of ours.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: So that was wonderful for us because they're now beside ancestors.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Family is with family.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: That that was very important to us.

MELISSA HANEY: That was our goal.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

MELISSA HANEY: Of ours.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: We have in Beaver Cemetery multiple family members and we have some in Oak Grove, but, it was basically necessary. We wanted them with, you know, our ancestors from Beaver.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm. Yes. I know Jacob Stone, who was a barge builder and a boat builder, was one of the first people to have a town lot in Vanport, which at one time was called Borough Township, but it was then changed to Vanport. But I cannot find the dates for the Vanport Church.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Vanport Presbyterian Church. That's kind of hard to read. Jacob and Eliza. The congregation unanimously chose the pastor who was then installed. But this is October 21st of 1890.

MELISSA HANEY: Oh. Okay.

(0:23:09)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: It says at the beginning, the pastoral Reverend Jake J. Keller, January 4 of 1887, the following persons living in Vanport were members of this church. The Presbyterian Church of Beaver and it basically goes down the list of names, and Eliza and Jacob are on that list. Minnie and Charles are on the list also.

INTERVIEWER: Where is Vanport in relation to Potter Township?

MELISSA HANEY: Potter Township? Directly across the river.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. Just right across the river. Vanport goes quite a ways down. Industry starts down past Lock…

MELISSA HANEY: I think around Lock Six.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. I was thinking just down passed or just before you go up the bridge.

MELISSA HANEY: Up. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Is it. I'm sorry. Go ahead.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: No. That's okay. [Laughter] And it goes quite a ways up.

MELISSA HANEY: It goes up to the beginning of the cemetery or the end of the cemetery.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I believe it's the beginning. I think.

MELISSA HANEY: The beginning. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And is it actually, if you're writing the address, is it actually Vanport or is it Industry?

MELISSA HANEY: It's a borough of Beaver.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Got it.

MELISSA HANEY: So, it's a Beaver mailing address.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: It was Vanport Town.

MELISSA HANEY: Vanport, Beaver.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

(0:24:22)

INTERVIEWER: Got it.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Same zip code.

INTERVIEWER: Now, did your family have any that you know of, any other connections to the Poor Home? Do you know if family lived there or worked there?

MELISSA HANEY: No. We just had someone that had lived with George Stone as a child.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

MELISSA HANEY: That ended up being a resident there. But we don't really know much about him. But that would be the only family connection that we have other than them owning the land.

INTERVIEWER: Got it. So when he was a child, was he orphaned or he had a family?

MELISSA HANEY: Um. I believe his mother married George Stone. I think. I'm not 100% sure on that. But after George Stone sold his property he did move to Independence Township. He bought another farm. So he continued to farm. But as far as any other connections, I don't know of any.

INTERVIEWER: Did anybody in your family ever talk about or mention the Poor Home?

MELISSA HANEY: No.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Not really.

MELISSA HANEY: Huh-hmm. No.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. I mean it was basically anybody that we would have talked to, you know…

MELISSA HANEY: Would have been deceased probably. Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. I mean, when we were old enough to start asking questions, even in the '70s or the '80s, they had been gone for a hundred years all ready. Anybody who had dealt with it. [Laughter]

(0:25:48)

INTERVIEWER: Right.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: So.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. And it's interesting. I was talking with somebody about this too that because of growing up in Beaver County, we didn't learn that history.

MELISSA HANEY: Huh-hmm. No.

INTERVIEWER: So I didn't even realize that there was a Poor Home, which I think…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: You would've thought, at some point, you would've learned that, but…

MELISSA HANEY: Right.

INTERVIEWER: Um.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: You just didn't talk about that.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Well, it was a Poor House Sanatorium, right?

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: So.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: And.

MELISSA HANEY: Tuberculosis and stuff like that I think was…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: We actually have. This is a picture of the Vanport Presbyterian Church before it was moved in 1964.

(0:26:32)

INTERVIEWER: Oh. Wow.

MELISSA HANEY: And I believe that was moved because of…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: The expressway.

MELISSA HANEY: The expressway.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Oh. Route 60.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: Wow. That makes sense. I love churches that look like that. [Laughter] Beautiful.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yep.

INTERVIEWER: Where is it now?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Oh.

MELISSA HANEY: Division Lane.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: By Eaton Corp.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

MELISSA HANEY: Around Vanport ball fields. It's right there.

INTERVIEWER: Got it.

MELISSA HANEY: Behind Crivelli's. Uh.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

(0:27:02)

MELISSA HANEY: Chevrolet Dealer.

INTERVIEWER: Got it.

MELISSA HANEY: Here is a picture of Lock Six. And I believe that might be the Poor House in the background, cause it's directly across the river from it.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: And these were gentleman, I think, that's in the picture, taking a break. Well. Oh, no. I'm sorry this is the picture of gentleman taking a break at Lock Six when it was in operation.

INTERVIEWER: And where were these pictures from?

MELISSA HANEY: = The Beaver County Albums One, Two, and Three.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

MELISSA HANEY: There's a little bit of Lock Six in there. I think I might have all the pictures from there to be honest.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know who compiled that?

MELISSA HANEY: I will be able to tell you in a second if I find my papers on it.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

MELISSA HANEY: We have so many papers. [Laughter]

INTERVIEWER: Oh, I understand.

MELISSA HANEY: You try to organize them, but it's, it's kind of impossible. But talking about growing up in Vanport, his mother or our grandmother, there were two sisters and two brothers that married and they lived side by side and one had 12 kids and one had 11 kids. And they lived side by side in Vanport. I couldn't imagine growing up with that many cousins nearby. Here is an advertisement for Beaver County Album. Number, is that Four?

INTERVIEWER: Four.

MELISSA HANEY: But that never came into fruition.

(0:28:46)

INTERVIEWER: Huh.

MELISSA HANEY: And I know Denver Walton, I believe, was the big contributor to it. But he is now deceased.

INTERVIEWER: Published in 1975, 1984, and 1987. Wow. Author and Publisher Arnold B. McMahon. Okay. And of Rochester. I haven't seen these before.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: There's the listing of everybody that was in the cemetery. That's the names of everybody that they had found.

MELISSA HANEY: Oh, yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I knew it was there. I just couldn't find it.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

MELISSA HANEY: That was the research that was done by Ed Lackner.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Correct.

MELISSA HANEY: And like I said we had no idea regarding the infant that was buried there.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

MELISSA HANEY: On the backside of that is Maryann's grave, but that wasn't found. And that's the one that tells you, the side you were just reading, that there were two bases, a half a headstone and one full stone.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: So this picture was taken, the back picture was taken in '79.

MELISSA HANEY: That's what it looks like.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Correct.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

(0:30:06)

INTERVIEWER: So what happened to it in between…?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Well, it was our understanding there was a lot of kids that would kind of sneak down through there and they would have their little parties and little get-togethers in the woods and basically I honestly believe that they destroyed 'em. This this is the headstone that they found.

MELISSA HANEY: Oh. Yes. The son. The baby. He would've actually been the first person buried in that cemetery because…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Correct.

MELISSA HANEY: Adam didn't die until 1849.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: And I believe Elizabeth died the same year. I think.

INTERVIEWER: Wow. How wonderful that they were able to find that.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: [Laughter]

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. Especially for us cause we didn't know it existed.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. And to know that he had a grandson named after him.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: You know.

INTERVIEWER: Right. Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: So.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah and we were fortunate enough the gentleman that used to work for St. Joe gave us a wealth of pictures. It still chokes me up to see the old homestead, you know.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. To know that it's on film. You know, to see it, and that was before the highway went in and Frankfurt Road was moved at one time.

(0:31:26)

INTERVIEWER: And approximately what date was that picture taken?

MELISSA HANEY: Well it had to be before 19, I think the bridge was built, I think in '69, '70.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Some. Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: The Vanport Bridge. I think the highway went through then. So it would've had to be maybe be mid-60s, but not earlier. You know, '50s and '60s, because St. Joe Lead came around '32, '31. So, I'm guessing the '60s. Because, this would be where the mall is now. It might even be pushed back further.

INTERVIEWER: Now, you had said too, am I right, that you had family who worked at Lock Six?

MELISSA HANEY: Yes, my grandfather's uncle, Charles Stone in 1909 was killed there. When he was working a cable snapped and killed him instantly. But he was a worker there.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know what his job was or what he did there?

MELISSA HANEY: I don’t for sure. I just saw [Inaudible]. My eyes aren’t too good anymore. [Laughter]. I have it right here, but I can't read it. I can't read it. [Laughter]

JAMIE HOSKINSON: What are you reading? Oh. I have it.

MELISSA HANEY: That's the article.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I have it. The bigger, bigger…

MELISSA HANEY: A larger version?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I believe I do.

MELISSA HANEY: [Laughter]

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Once I find it.

MELISSA HANEY: We have a funeral notice and then also the headline of the accident.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I could've swore I had a larger copy of that.

INTERVIEWER: That was your grandfather's…

MELISSA HANEY: It's right here.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Uncle?

(0:33:06)

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. Let me. I think yours…

MELISSA HANEY: It's not any bigger. [Laughter]

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. It's not any bigger. I thought I had it. I thought I had a larger copy of it.

MELISSA HANEY: We probably do somewhere. He was a well-known resident of Vanport and employee at Merrill Dam. He was fatally killed at 10 o'clock this morning while engaging at his work. It just says that a cable snapped basically and he was pretty much killed instantly.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Life was extinct and the blow having fractured every rib on his right side. He'd only been employed by the government about three months and was a favorite with the other workers being the kind of man, who makes friends easily, quickly. He was 38 years old. He was single and he did have a child. So that's all we really know about him. About what happened.

INTERVIEWER: That's awful.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. It is.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. It could happen at any time unfortunately. I thought I had a bigger book, bigger copy of that.

INTERVIEWER: Did the family ever talk about that at all?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Not that I've ever heard.

MELISSA HANEY: No, not that I know of.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Huh-hmm.

MELISSA HANEY: Cause it happened…

(0:34:34)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah, it was fairly early on too.

MELISSA HANEY: I think our grandfather would've been 4 or 5 years old at the time that it happened.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: So.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Anybody that really knew anything…

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Again, would've been long since gone before we, even our parents would've had to never been able to talk to him. And I don’t ever remember grandpap or any of 'em talking about it.

MELISSA HANEY: No.

INTERVIEWER: I wonder if the company did anything for the family or for the, you know, because he had a child, provided or….?

MELISSA HANEY: I don’t know.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. That's just, I mean, that's another good question. You know. That's something else to look into.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. I tried researching Merrill Dam about a week ago and I really couldn't find anything. Not a lot on newspapers.com. I was on there and there's not too much about that dam listed in the papers.

INTERVIEWER: What about, I know that you had said that your, family also worked in the local industry. So we had talked very briefly about Vanport Brick.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. Our great-grandfather was, I guess you would call it, a brick engineer down there, and there was a plant fire. One of the kilns caught fire and he was working at the time. And I had also went to interview my grandfather's cousin several months ago and he had said he thought that he had breathing problems from that accident. But he was also in his mid-80s. So, you know, I tried to get as much information out of him as I could. But, yes, he did work at Vanport Brick and I do have a Vanport brick at home, which I cherish. [Laughter]. I have several and, um, I'm collecting different bricks from around the county of the different brick companies that existed and they're hard to find. But, I'm coming across a few. But, yeah, he worked there and another grandfather worked for the railroad also.

(0:36:35)

INTERVIEWER: And you, am I right, that you had family who worked at St. Joe's?

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. My father worked there, my brother, my husband. But my father worked there for about 30 years. He worked there when it was St. Joe and then he worked there when it was Zinc Corporation of America. They had changed names several times. Horsehead Industries. He passed away two months shy of being 58 years old. So he died fairly young, but having worked there for 30 years. As a child, we would have Christmas parties and everybody would get a toy and I was really little. We would have company picnics at Idora Park in Youngstown. I do remember that. But that stopped after so long because I believe in '79 or '80 they had shut down and reopened. I think it was Zinc Corporation after that.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. Yeah. It went from St. Joe Lead to Zinc Corporation to Horsehead.

MELISSA HANEY: Horsehead. Yeah. So, he worked there for many, many years and I know a lot of his co-workers, just friends of his that worked there. That would've been our family property too where ZCA was. St. Joe Lead.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

MELISSA HANEY: I also have this little, uh, it would've been an identification pin for St. Joe Lead for a worker, and I'm assuming they wore that to get into the plant and that would've been his identification number.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

MELISSA HANEY: So I don’t know. That looks to be about from the '40s or '50s maybe. And I'm not even sure how I came across it. But I remember as a teenager having it, and I always just thought it was really cool.

INTERVIEWER: It is. It's terrific that you have that.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm. Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: That's wonderful.

MELISSA HANEY: And I have different production awards that my dad would’ve gotten at work and, you know, stuff like that. Several newsletters that he had saved that would, oh, tell about the employees and what they were doing and what was going on with the company and stuff like that. So I'm starting to try to get together my St. Joe Lead stuff just to have it basically because of my dad.

(0:38:39)

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: You know. The stuff that he had collected over the years and friends and people that I know that have worked there. Try to get some stories about it.

INTERVIEWER: What was his job there?

MELISSA HANEY: You know, he had open heart surgery. He had a heart valve replaced in the '80 or '90s or '80s. I'm sorry, about '86. So his job kinda of had changed to a maintenance kind of job. But I'm not really sure what he did in the early years. I think he moved around a lot. I'm not really sure what he did, but I know he shot trap on a St. Joe team, and I do have some of his trophies from that. He would just tell us about what St. Joe was like whenever. They had a cafeteria. They had a gym. It was very, very nice. It seemed like they had a lot of privileges working there, you know, with the cafeteria and the gym and just different, you know, the Christmas parties and the company picnics. It seemed like they treated their employees well at the time, you know, in the early years.

INTERVIEWER: It sounds like it was very family oriented.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. Now when I was talking to my grandfather's cousin he did say that our family that had lived where he grew up by 84 Lumbar hated St. Joe Lead because of all the pollution and stuff that would spew out of it.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: And he would say that they really didn't talk about it much and that they hated it. Because it was probably very dirty and polluted and, you know, and they were just directly across the river.

INTERVIEWER: Right.

MELISSA HANEY: So…

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. I understand that though. It was before all the regulations. It would've been a very different…

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Atmosphere then.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

(0:40:26)

INTERVIEWER: And did you say too that your brother and your husband worked there?

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. My brother worked there I think about 14 years. My husband was there about eight.

INTERVIEWER: Uh-hmm. And what were their jobs there?

MELISSA HANEY: My husband worked in the furnace plant. He had started in different jobs, but he ended up in the furnace plant, and my brother worked in the furnace plant. And then he eventually was with the bricklayers, the furnace builders. And my husband was a millwright apprentice before he left.

INTERVIEWER: Got it.

MELISSA HANEY: So.

INTERVIEWER: And, did he leave willingly or was it because there were so many changes?

MELISSA HANEY: My husband left willingly.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. But there were a lot of changes with contracts and stuff like that, that really, really got the people worried for their jobs when Horsehead took over.

INTERVIEWER: And with his apprenticeship was he able to then take the skills that he learned elsewhere or did he start…

MELISSA HANEY: Well he left before he finished his apprenticeship, but he could've taken his journeyman's card and probably went anywhere with it. Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: I don't know if talking with them, did you see or did you hear of any changes between the way that maybe your dad would've talked about the company versus the way that they viewed it or even with the different social activities, was there a change?

MELISSA HANEY: Well definitely there was a change. After the mill closed in the '80s, like late '70s, '80s, I don't think they had the privileges that they used to, you know, the company picnics, stuff like that. The cafeteria was done away with. The gym was done away with. The different teams that they would have. Like I said, my dad shot trap and stuff like that. All that stuff went away. Zinc Corporation took over and I just don't think it was the same company. It was more business-like, not family oriented.

(0:42:25)

INTERVIEWER: And, how close did you live in relation to St. Joe's and to that land?

MELISSA HANEY: Uh. I actually grew up in Vanport also?

INTERVIEWER: Okay. So you were right…

MELISSA HANEY: But I was just down the road from where he grew up.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Got it.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. I grew up right down on State Street.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: So.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: And, did you have family any…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: No.

INTERVIEWER: Immediate family that worked at St. Joe?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: No. My dad, he worked at Crucible, which was down in Midland. He was in the steel industry. Nobody that I really knew other than, you know,

Uncle Rob that worked there. Dad never really talked about it and know I never remember Uncle Rob ever talking about it either.

MELISSA HANEY: Huh-hmm. Huh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: You know, when the families got together it was just having fun with the family. Not dealing with work and whatnot.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: So, it just all grown up. We've always been deeply family oriented. Period. You always had family there.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. I mean with our mothers being one of 12.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

(0:43:30)

MELISSA HANEY: There was always family around, you know.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. I mean Sunday dinners you had family over. You never had just your own, you had two or three families together, which was the norm to us.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. The mothers, you know, our mothers would get together and play games, board games, or…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: You know. On a Saturday night or stuff like that. Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Any way. Yeah. I just remember them laughing.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm. Yes.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: A lot of laughter.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: A lot of good times.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. And, and in several years back when I first started getting into family history I asked a lot of my mom's siblings to write down their family memories of when they were growing up and it's comical to see some of the stories that…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: And also Christmas memories and, you know, traditions that they would have and how their parents would go to bed and they would wake up and the tree would be there and the presents would be there and their parents would stay up all night and do all that.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. After the kids went to bed.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm. Making gingerbread cookies and going for the tree and all that stuff.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Fresh bread for Christmas dinner and all that stuff.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm. Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I used to love the smell of that in the house.

MELISSA HANEY: Yep.

(0:44:35)

INTERVIEWER: Why do you think that is? I know I had asked this last week during an interview with Beaver County just in general, it seems like there are a lot of people like that, who when the steel mills went down or the industry went down people left or they really stayed and so you have generations and generations of family here, which I think to outsiders can sometimes seem strange. Why do think that's happened here when maybe it hasn't happened as much in other places?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I believe that once you have your roots in somewhere it's very hard to pull up roots and leave. I think that's the problem. Beaver Countians are just stubborn. Just refuse to give up or give in. I mean I truly believe that. I don't know how else to put it. [Laughter].

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. That's basically it. I mean, they do have deep roots here.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: You know.

INTERVIEWER: I thought it was interesting when I was walking upstairs here in the Vicary House yesterday. Brenda has, I don't know what it was used for, but the Beaver County motto. "Divided by our rivers. United by our people."

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: I found that very, very interesting because, even though, you know, we have these towns and they were rivals, but the family ties are very…

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Oh, very deep, very deep. A lot of times, you know, the properties and whatnot will just pass down generation to generation to generation, but it unfortunately didn't always work out that way. And it's never really even thought about growing up. That's just where I grew up. You know. It had uncles and grandfathers and, and we were all just pretty local.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: You know. You never really give it a thought growing up.

(0:46:29)

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. I mean. I would say most of my mom, only but maybe one or two siblings were still around here.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Basically all of them except for Aunt Janet.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

MELISSA HANEY: Were here. You know.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. Stayed in Beaver County.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. And I think Beaver County was made up of a lot of immigrants too that came here and worked hard and this is where they wanted to have their roots and they didn't want to leave. So, I think that's a big part of it. Just want to be together cause they worked so hard to get where they were.

INTERVIEWER: Well, how do you feel about what we touched on a little bit, but about Shell coming to the area? You know, that they've done a lot for your family, but as far as building the cracker plant.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I think it's a great thing for Beaver County due to the loss of the steel mills and everything, and the industry. Not only is it going to bring as they're building it a lot of part time jobs and whatnot, but it's going to roll into quite a few permanent jobs, I mean, for the county, which the county really needed. When the steel mills and whatnot all went down, Westinghouse and everything else, it decimated this place. It's great to finally see something finally coming back.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Hopefully it's just the start of many other companies wanting to come back to Beaver County, bringing a lot of the jobs back from overseas instead of building it cheaper, but build it better.

MELISSA HANEY: And all the offshoot industries that are going to pop up. The different companies that are going to pop up related to Shell and what they do. I have mixed feelings about it. I think it's good for the economy, but we're used to being small in a way and we're going to have so many more people and so many more cars, you know. We're going to kind of lose that small town feel I think to some extent. But I, I think it will be good for the county.

INTERVIEWER: Do you feel, where you live, you see that happening already that it's changing?

(0:48:36)

MELISSA HANEY: Only mostly so far with the road structures and what they've done because I have to drive through it every day. You know, just dealing with…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: You know, they've completely moved hillsides.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: [Laughter]

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: They've taken hillsides that were there forever and just they're gone.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. And I drive past and I constantly say, "My dad would not believe what this looks like now."

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Because we grew up across the river looking at it every day.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yep.

MELISSA HANEY: And he worked there for 30 years. It is different. But in a way, it's better with what they've done in a lot of ways, you know. I think time will tell. I think it will eventually be good for the area.

INTERVIEWER: Do you think he would’ve been supportive of it?

MELISSA HANEY: I don’t know. I don’t know. He would've been retired by now. So I don’t really think it would’ve affected him that way, but I, I really don’t know how he would’ve felt about it. I truly don’t.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Well, my dad, he worked in the steel industry. I believe he, being that it shut down, would’ve been very happy or pleased with anything bringing back jobs to Beaver County. Period. Anything on that, especially on that, that large of a scale. It's, like I said, he basically worked at Crucible for 30 plus years and when they shut down he was forced to retire. He wasn’t ready to retire. He was forced to retire. And that was hard. I mean, it was, you know, mid '80s and whatnot. That was hard back then.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. It was a tough time for people.

(0:50:04)

INTERVIEWER: Uh-hmm.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Well I wish it would’ve came sooner. That's my opinion of it. I really do. That's how in favor I am of it. I mean, I grew basically worked with my hands daily for my entire life the same way. Steel fabrication, , it's hard work, but it's honest work. You know. It's just nice seeing Beaver Countians be able to earn an honest dollar again.

MELISSA HANEY: Yep.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Put pride back into their work.

MELISSA HANEY: Yep.

INTERVIEWER: Uh-hmm. Was there anything else that you would like to touch on about your family history or cause I know you have so much? Any stories that you wanted to share about your family or anything that you can think of?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: No. not really. We pretty much touched on just about everything. I do have, if you're interested, when we had the burial and whatnot, we do have pictures of the Poor House. People that would, would’ve worked there. Basically they gave names. It says, "Men relaxing on a bench at Beaver County Home." It, these two gentleman were basically carpenters. They repaired, did repairs and whatnot.

INTERVIEWER: Two residents of the Beaver County Home [Inaudible] experienced woodworkers performed carpentry during the 1920s and 1930s.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: There's some other people who actually worked there. There's multiple pictures and there's captions.

INTERVIEWER: Women residents of the Beaver County Home late 1920s. This is from Charles Townsend's collection.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: A young girl, whose age and identity are unknown stands in front of a garden at the County Home. Late 1920s, early 1930s. Wow. That County Home is so beautiful.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. It'd been nice to actually be able to stand in front of it just for the fact that it was a big part of our history. Unfortunately that wasn't available to us.

(0:52:31)

INTERVIEWER: Sherman Moore was the superintendent at the Beaver County Home in the late 1920s and early '30s. His wife Marion "Mary" Marshall Moore, right, was the matron overseeing the welfare of the female residents. She hired a seamstress, Mrs. Hunt, first name unknown, who made the dresses for each woman upon her arrival and also at Christmas and Easter. How wonderful is that?

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: This one is Jim Springer farming superintendent at the Beaver County Home with two horses that plowed the fields.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Springer is a predominant name too. Also, it's mentioned a lot, just through land deeds and whatnot.

INTERVIEWER: This one is Beaver County Home staff 1920's and '30s. The man and woman at left are unknown. Next to them from left are Jim Springer, unidentified nurse, Mrs. Young, who was a cook, Mrs. Hunt was the seamstress, Marion "Mary" Marshall Moore, who was the matron and Sherman's wife and Sherman Moore, superintendent.

MELISSA HANEY: There's quite a bit. I don't know if you've seen these books. *The Stories of Potter Township. Stories of the Past.*

INTERVIEWER: I haven't. But T. J. and Carol interviewed Earl Shamp.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes. This book, the first volume, is basically the history of Potter Township and then the second book are basically articles and there's quite a few things in here about the Poor House.

INTERVIEWER: Okay. Thank you. Let me flip through those and I'm going to if you don't mind…

MELISSA HANEY: And also. Yeah. Sure.

INTERVIEWER: And I don't need to do it right now, we'll do it after we done, but I do want to write this down.

MELISSA HANEY: Also I had told you that a while back in my kayak I had went along the river where the Poor House was and I had found an old bottle and then we took our boat out on the river and my daughter and I jumped in the river and we swam to shore and we found a few artifacts that we think are from the Poor House. We think maybe they dumped their garbage over the hill. Back then, that's what they did. We found little like lotion containers and a horseshoe and a light fixture and there were marble windowsills and stuff like that. It was all just tumbled together, but it was kind of cool that we found those things and it kind of just cemented the fact that it was there.

(0:54:55)

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: And why else would those things be there if it wasn't, if it wasn't from there, you know. And I have those things at home.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

MELISSA HANEY: So it was really neat.

INTERVIEWER: That is very neat. So you were kayaking on the river and you were right underneath where…

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. And I just pulled over and I thought I'll look. Cause I knew the, the Poor House was right above there and I found a bottle and it was a manufacturer in Monaca, which I'm excited of anything I find that's Beaver County and then later on I convinced my husband to anchor our boat in front and my daughter and I jumped in the river and we swam to shore and we found and dug through what we could and we found those things. But she found the horseshoe and the light fixture. It was really cool.

INTERVIEWER: How neat.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. It was really cool. Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah. I guess that makes sense. They would've dumped over the hill at that period of time.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: So.

INTERVIEWER: This one is a resident at the County Home tends to cows grazing in a field and part of the farming operation at the Beaver County Home during the Depression. And two residents of the Beaver County Home rest outside one of the wings.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: It's amazing how big, how large that went from just a small little house to what, what it ended up being.

MELISSA HANEY: The operation of making, growing their own vegetables, you know, their own food…

INTERVIEWER: Right.

MELISSA HANEY: And their own animals.

(0:56:21)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Self-sufficient.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: Residents of the Beaver County Home rest in the shade. Photo is 1920s or '30s. And this makes sense because this would've been around the time that Charles's parents were in charge of the Poor Home, I think.

MELISSA HANEY: Charles Townsend?

INTERVIEWER: Uh-hmm. I think during the Depression.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

INTERVIEWER: Or not. I'm sorry. Not parents. Grandparents.

MELISSA HANEY: Oh, okay.

INTERVIEWER: It would've been his grandparents.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. I didn't know that.

INTERVIEWER: Charles Townsend collection. At least, I'm fairly sure that it was his grandparents, who were…

MELISSA HANEY: He was actually my teacher in high school, Charles Townsend.

INTERVIEWER: Really?

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: Wow.

MELISSA HANEY: I think it's the same Charles Townsend.

INTERVIEWER: I interviewed him. I'm hoping to interview him for this, but I interviewed him years ago as part of a steelworker oral history project that I had done because he worked at Crucible.

(0:57:15)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

INTERVIEWER: I think he was fairly young when he worked there, but yeah. Well thank you so much. If there was…

MELISSA HANEY: Thank you.

INTERVIEWER: I don't know if there's anything else.

MELISSA HANEY: I don't think so.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: No. The only other thing I'd like to show you are these pictures from the site and the remains and whatnot.

INTERVIEWER: Ah, oh, yes.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: And the actual funeral service. There's some photos.

INTERVIEWER: Wow. So Shell actually invited you on to this. Did they invite you onto the site or how did they?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah, yeah. Basically we were in contact with. Joe Manetti from Shell. Basically we were in correspondence with him. And they set it up for us to give us an actual tour. So we actually had to go through all the safety programs and sign off before they would allow us to do it. But that's typical for any type of a work site like that.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. And they told us we were their first visitors ever to be on that property.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: As a visitor.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Period.

INTERVIEWER: Wow. How did they know that it was you?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Well we contacted them.

INTERVIEWER: Okay.

(0:58:30)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: They…

INTERVIEWER: Got it. That's…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Basically, there was an article in the Beaver County Times about they had found remains on the Shell and we knew that there was a cemetery, our cemetery was somewhere around there and basically just from land deeds and general area of where it's at and plus all physical documentation we had of our ancestors owning that property that's where we pinpointed it to being our Stone Cemetery.

INTERVIEWER: Oh. And what is this right here, this.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: We put together a jar. We put an S on it for the Stone and basically anybody in our family who wanted to put anything in it a letter, a photo or like some type of memento, we put it in the jar and we put the jar in with the remains before they were reburied.

INTERVIEWER: You did such a wonderful job with this. Because I think, you know, some people would just let that go by.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Oh, we, we couldn't. [Laughter].

MELISSA HANEY: No. It was such a unique…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Situation.

MELISSA HANEY: Thing.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: It was.

MELISSA HANEY: Nobody had ever come across anything like that. We worked closely with Teri Tatalovich-Rossi, who was the Beaver County Coroner at the time. She was wonderful.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Absolutely.

INTERVIEWER: Wow. Can you imagine too for her that was definitely a new experience or…

MELISSA HANEY: Yes.

(0:59:55)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: It was kind of neat too. I got to help Teri close the casket and seal it permanently before we buried it.

INTERVIEWER: Wow. Your ancestors, they couldn't even imagine right?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I couldn't imagine with, reburying my fifth great-grandparents, no.

MELISSA HANEY: Huh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: It's such a unique experience and it's a little overwhelming, a little bittersweet. Like I said, but it was nice. I mean, like I said, Shell was absolutely wonderful.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I mean through the entire thing. If we had any questions, Joe was open. He said, "Call me at any time." So he was very nice. Very polite. Very respectful. They took everything very seriously on this. And we are completely satisfied with how, everything they had done.

MELISSA HANEY: Yes, and I feel they are finally at peace now because in the area that they were there was so much going on around.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: You know. Industrial-wise. And I just felt like it was disturbing.

INTERVIEWER: Yes.

MELISSA HANEY: I mean, obviously they're not there, but I just feel like they're finally at peace.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. With family.

MELISSA HANEY: In a peaceful situation. Yes.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Like I said that's the big thing is they're with family.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm. Yep.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I still get goosebumps.

(1:01:14)

MELISSA HANEY: I am too. Right now. [Laughter] Yes.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: I just don't know what else to say. It was a labor of love that was finalized. But there, opened up other questions also.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Which we're bound and determined. I still have quite a few years left. So I anticipate on using them well. I hope.

INTERVIEWER: What questions?

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Oh, just about, you know, the different parts of the family. Okay. I would like to go out to Missouri to find out about the other Stones out in Missouri. And find out about the family that we have out there now. You know. It might be distant, but family is family.

MELISSA HANEY: Just things that they did, what their hobbies were, personalities. Stuff like that. When I had talked to my grandfather's cousin he said the family was somewhat divided and why I don't know. I don't know if something happened or, what that situation was, but that's just the kind of stuff I'd like to find out.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: I just feel such a connection to them even though I don't know them. It's just my passion I guess. I just love it.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Wish more people should be interested in where they come from and who they came from.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Period. You know. That just being respectful to your grandparents and whatnot, your parents, your grandparents, your great-grandparents. Live and making their memories, still alive with your kids and whatnot passing it down. Yeah. That was the whole purpose behind my wife and myself and my son and my daughter and Melissa. We all got together for the binder. This is something we would like to scan into something, to give copies to the other family. It's just we haven't had time yet.

MELISSA HANEY: To make a book. Some kind of book.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

(1:03:09)

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. And that's one of the reasons why I wanted my mom and her siblings to write down their family memories.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Uh-hmm.

MELISSA HANEY: Of growing up in the '40s and '50s. Cause there was 12 of them, 20 years apart between the oldest and the youngest.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: And how much the world had changed in that 20 years, you know, and how they grew up, but it was really neat.

INTERVIEWER: Well that's, too, one of the main reasons that Shell wants to do this is to make sure that all of these memories are…

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Are never lost.

INTERVIEWER: And people's stories are preserved.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah.

MELISSA HANEY: Yeah. Yeah.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Yeah. Unfortunately it's most of the stories that we were told were just stories about family.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Doing things together as family. Nothing more than that that I can recall.

MELISSA HANEY: Huh-hmm.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: So. It was a fun time to grow up when big families…

MELISSA HANEY: Yep. Yep.

INTERVIEWER: Well thank you so much.

(1:04:02)

MELISSA HANEY: Thank you.

JAMIE HOSKINSON: Thank you.

INTERVIEWER: I really appreciate it.

MELISSA HANEY: Uh-hmm.

(END)

Sam Moore
Interview @ December 11, 2016

Sam Moore
Summary

The interview with Sam Moore took place on December 11, 2016, at Mr. Moore's residence in Salem, Ohio. Sam writes a column for *Farm and Dairy* magazine. Between his recent publication "My Mom and Dad met at the 'Poor House'" and detailed stories extracted from a family diary, valuable information is gained about the Poor Home and his grandparents' time there as caretakers.

Sam talks about his grandfather, Sherman Moore, well-known and respected "successful farmer and staunch Republican" in Beaver County who in the late 1920s was appointed as superintendent of the Poor Home. He and his wife, Marion, were caretakers until the mid-1930s.

Upon arrival, Sherman and Marion addressed issues at the Poor Home. Marion's strict sanitation rules assured the building and the inmates were clean. Any signs of rodents were eliminated, and the women inmates had strict personal hygiene guidelines to follow. Sherman ensured that the Poor Home was "a paying proposition," and kept detailed reports on what was produced and the facility's monetary value. The appointment as superintendent and caretaker of the Poor Home benefitted the Moore's financially and definitely created less anxiety during the worst years of The Great Depression.

Sam also shares how his parents met at the Poor Home. His father and uncle lived at the Poor Home with their parents, Sherman and Marion. Sam's mother was a member of a Lutheran church choir from Rochester, Pennsylvania, that would periodically go to the County Home to perform for the inmates. Their courtship eventually led to marriage.

SAM MOORE
INTERVIEW - 12/11/2016

SPEAKERS: JULIE THROCKMORTON (INTERVIEWER)
SAM MOORE

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Today is December 11, 2016. Can I ask you to state your name, and spell it?

SAM MOORE: Well, my name's Sam Moore. The last name's spelled M-O-O-R-E. The first name, of course, S-A-M. And I was born in 1933 in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, and grew up on a farm in South Beaver Township, Pennsylvania, Beaver County. And, uh, it was my grandfather's farm. He'd been a farmer there for a good many years. Well, in fact, my great-great-great-grandfather established the farm back in 1832, as I recall. And, uh, as a successful farmer and a staunch Republican, in 1928 or '29, I'm not sure which, he was appointed to be superintendent of the Beaver County Home. And my… his wife, my grandmother who's… My grandfather's name was Sherman Moore, and my grandmother's name: Marion V. Moore. And she went along as matron of the Columbia… er, the Beaver County Home. And they were there until my grandmother's heart trouble got so bad that they had to give up the jobs, so they were until (sighs) I'm going to say 1936, but it may have been '35. I'm not positive of that. And while there, my grandmother was a cleanliness nut and she cleaned the place up considerably, (coughs) got rid of, uh, lice and vermin of all kinds, according to what… story in that… that's been told in the family. And my grandfather, being a successful farmer, he put the County Home farm on a paying proposition. There's a couple of newspaper accounts that tell about that, and there are copies of them in that book about how he made the… made the place pay, in other words. And, I was there, because there's a picture existing of me and my mother on the front porch of the County Home. I don't recall it at all because I was just… well, a year or two old. I know that there were people from the County Home. There was a Miss Liston who had been a nurse there who came to visit us, or who came to visit my grandfather. I remember her coming, but I don't remember much about her. Other than that, I really don't recall much of anything else about it. That's about the story as I know it. There's more detail in, uh, my cousin Peg's diary, but…

(03:04:8)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Why them? Why were they specifically chosen as the ones who needed to come?

SAM MOORE: As a result, uh, well… As a reward for being a staunch Republican. (laughs) Because my grandfather was considered Mr. Republican of South Beaver Township. He never ran for office, but he was kind of a power behind the throne, if you will, and a hide-bound Republican. And I think it was in 1928 there was a Republican governor elected in Pennsylvania. I don't recall his name. At one time I knew it, but I don't recall it. And, uh, I guess as a reward for… Us kids always called him Nandad. That was our nickname for my grandfather. As a reward for Nandad's support, I guess he

was appointed. Plus, the fact he was a successful farmer and they needed… apparently needed someone to pull the farm together.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And was he interested in doing, for lack of a better term, social work?

SAM MOORE: Not that I'm aware of. (shakes his head no) Not that I'm aware of at all. I think it was (laughs) strictly a political plum thing. And, uh, it actually had benefitted him considerably because he had a steady income then during the worst years of the Great Depression. And he was able… he and my grandmother were able to live fairly comfortably then through the rest of the Depression as a result of that.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Wow. That's…

SAM MOORE: But I don't think he… I don't… I don't know that he had any aspirations for social work, I don't think.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And did they live right there?

SAM MOORE: They lived at the County Home, you mean? Yes. Yes, in fact, before they went to the County Home, they had a sale and sold all the farm equipment, all the farm animals, and a lot of their household belongings, and they left the house sit empty for a couple of years. And then, my… some of my… my uncle and aunt, and my father and mother eventually ended up living in it. And that's where I grew up, at that same farm house. But, uh, yes, because there's even a… a thing in that diary about my grandmother hosting a missionary society meeting from the, uh, our… the Presbyterian church that we attended at the County Home, so they lived there. Oh yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: What church did they attend?

SAM MOORE: It was the New Salem Presbyterian Church. It was right on the line between South Beaver Township and Ohio Township. And that's where we went to church at.

(06:08:5)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And, so, when you said that she was big on cleanliness, I know that you had said, you had alluded to a story. What did she see when she came to the County Home?

SAM MOORE: Well, she found a lot of vermin in the pantries, mice and rats and that sort of thing. Plus, the women inmates… I guess you don't call 'em inmates any longer, but at that time, that's what they were called… The women inmates were dirty, their clothing was dirty, and she observed one of 'em, when she… I think the first or second day she was there, picking something off her and throwing it down and stomping on it. (laughs) And it was a louse, is what it was. So, she got the strong soap and had new

dresses made for the inmates, and cleaned the place up, (laughs) like she would. She was a whirlwind at that. So, she was a real stickler for cleanliness, yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you also remember her being that way? I know she probably… passed when you were young, but…

SAM MOORE: Well, I… Yes, I was ten when she died, and she was pretty ill the last few years. So, I don't recall that about her, no. I know her house was always clean, but I don't know how much of it she was able to do. I just don't recall that, no.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Another thing that I think is interesting about the farm is it becoming a paying proposition. Do you know what the situation was? Was the County Home losing money, or it wasn't paying its way?

SAM MOORE: Well, I don't know for certain, no. I don't know for certain. It may state it that… say something about that in that newspaper article, I'm not sure. It may have been… 'cause of course, they raised their own food. The food from the inmates, a lot of that came from the gardens and so forth, and they sold, uh, the grain, and they had cows and all that. So, whether it was actually losing money before, I don't know. There's no mention in there, that I can recall, of who my grandfather's predecessor was or what the deal was there at all.

(08:23:7)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: But he did come and turn things around, then?

SAM MOORE: (nods his head yes) According to that newspaper article, and that's the only basis I have for saying that.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did they also sell a lot?

SAM MOORE: I think they sold probably some of the grain and maybe hay. I… I don't know that for certain, I guess. No.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: A question that I've been asking people is, did it seem like from stories that you've heard that the inmates were treated well at the poor home? Because that wasn't necessarily the case with poor homes…

SAM MOORE: Right. (nods his head in agreement)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: . . . Across the country. But, but, what had you heard about the Beaver County Home?

SAM MOORE: Well, I hadn't heard anything about it prior to them going there, but… but I know that my grandmother would've treated… and my grandfather too, I'm sure… would've treated them well. There would've been no starvation and no beatings, that kind

of thing. And, uh, there was a great effort at cleanliness and that sort of thing, and having them well-… maybe not well-clothed, but decently clothed at any rate. So, I think that during the time that Nandad and Grandma were there it was… they were treated pretty well. Before or after that, I can't say. I don't know.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did they tend to have more inmates because of the Depression?

SAM MOORE: Well, I would assume so, but I don't know that for certain. I think that's the reason they probably did.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And, do you know, from anything that has been written about approximately the make-up. Were there a lot of men as opposed to women, or were there young people there?

SAM MOORE: I… I don't know what the ratio would've been. I… And I don't recall whether there's anything in there about that or not. I don't think there were too many young people there, except what they called feeble-minded people, and some of them were fairly young, I believe. But most of them were the old and the infirmed, actually, but there were also some mentally… handicapped people there.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And, you had talked a little bit in that article about how your mom and your dad met.

SAM MOORE: Oh. (laughs) Yeah, well, Dad lived there with them and his younger brother did too. My dad's older sister, that was Peg's mom, was already married and they were living elsewhere. But my father and my… and his younger brother lived at The County Home with their mother and dad. And, uh, my mother was a member of the choir of the… It was a Lutheran church in Rochester, and I don't… I'm not sure the designation of it. And that choir was asked to go to the County Home to perform for the inmates. And Dad saw her, and liked what he saw and asked her for a date. I can't imagine him doing that, but he did, apparently. And they got together, and that was it. (laughs) So, that's the reason I said my mother found my father at the County Home in that story I wrote.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's interesting to me that they came and did that. I just learned recently that they had a chapel there, at the County Home.

SAM MOORE: I think Peg might allude to that in her… I think she might allude to the chapel, yeah. Mention it, anyway.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: You had said that your dad lived there at the poor home. Did he ever have any stories about living there?

SAM MOORE: I don't recall him ever talking about it at all, no, I don't. No.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Can you tell me a little bit about Peg, and the work that she did, and the research that she did?

SAM MOORE: Well, Peg was a student her whole life. She taught school for years and years and years. But she was a student her whole life, and interested in everything. Never married, and, uh, she did a lot of historical research on subjects about Beaver County. I guess, she and Chuck Townsend… her [inaudible] brother Chuck collaborate on a lot of them. And, uh, she got interested in writing a history of the Moore family, and that's only one volume. There's about five volumes of it. She put together (laughs) an awful lot of work in that. What started it was that she found, in the old farm house, where I grew up, Peg and her family lived in a smaller house on an adjoined farm, which was also owned by my grandfather. And, uh, anyhow, in the attic of this old farm house that I lived in, they found an old trunk, a steamer trunk type thing, you know? And, uh, they dragged it down out of there, and I think this was probably after I'd left home, I'm pretty sure it was. And, she went through that and there were papers and letters and invoices and things from way back into the 1850s when my great-grandfather had had a store in Railtown, which is Blackhawk now, and all that kind of stuff. So, at any rate, she… that got her interested in the Moore history, and she wrote this five or six volume thing. It goes from… right from 1830s up until 1950 is the end of it. So, uh, she just (sighs) she researched that exhaustively. I tell ya. I don't know how she did it, really, but she did.

(14:56:1)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's impressive. And, can you tell me again your relationship to her?

SAM MOORE: She was my cousin.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Your cousin.

SAM MOORE: Yeah, her mother and my father were brother and sister.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Got it. And you had also said, I think, when we were talking on the phone that she had kept a diary.

SAM MOORE: Yeah. She quoted from the diary in that history. I don't have… I don't have her diary, but she quoted a lot from it in that… in that history there. I think… I think there's… I don't know. There's five or six pages in that book about it. It's interesting reading, but…

JULIE THROCKMORTON: I see.

SAM MOORE: About the County Home.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: From Peg's book, one of the things that… Well, first of all, I can't believe how much she remembered. Do you know how old she was when the…

SAM MOORE: Well, she was born in 1927, so this would've been… She'd have been about two when they first went there, and probably what… seven when they left, maybe? So, she was old enough to have remembered some of that. Plus, she was very observant, even as a child. And she kept that diary, even as a child. Pretty amazing, actually, when you think about it. A little kid... (laughs) most little kids don't even think about something like that.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yes.

SAM MOORE: But, I'm sure a lot of that she got from her mother, too.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Right.

SAM MOORE: And, maybe even Grandma, 'cause she remembers Grandma a lot better… well, Peg's gone now, but she remembered Grandma a lot better than I did because she was that much older.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Well, I think this one story she tells about an inmate sitting in a rocking chair all day saying over and over, "I want to go home in the worst way. I want to go home in the worst way."

SAM MOORE: Yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And how it puzzled her. Why did she want to choose the worst way to go home?

SAM MOORE: Yeah! (laughs)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Right? (laughs)

SAM MOORE: So, she would've probably been five or six, maybe at the time.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Right. And to her, and she says here, "If I had been doing it, I would've chosen the best one." (laughs) Oh yeah, and then the woman who set her room on fire.

SAM MOORE: Yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Because she wanted to run away and get married. So she set her room on fire to make people think that she had burned up and then she jumped out of the first floor window. And broke her arm … and then the fire woke everybody

up. Amazing, the things that she… And, and just to think the stories that must've… must've come out of there, too, because…

SAM MOORE: Oh yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Of all of the people who lived there.

SAM MOORE: I know. Yeah. It'd be nice… interesting to know more of them, but…

JULIE THROCKMORTON: With your grandparents, I don't know if they had ever talked about this, but if there were any sort of counseling services available or, what they would have done… was there any psychiatrist for the people who were mentally ill?

SAM MOORE: I don't know, Julie, whether there would've been or not. I don't remember ever any mention of… The only… the only staff member I remember was that nurse, Miss Liston, and, uh, she was just, I'm sure… She was probably a registered nurse, but… I don't know of any… any… I never heard any mention of doctors or anything like that.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Is there a picture of her in here? No. I thought… I thought I saw a picture.

SAM MOORE: There might be somewhere. I'm not sure.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Actually, think I have seen a picture of a nurse somewhere.

SAM MOORE: She may be in one of… She's probably in one of those group pictures. But, I'm not sure I'd know her if I even saw her now. Unless Peggy… Peggy would have her identified. 'Cause I don't… I… I… I remember her coming to the farm to visit Nandad, but I don't recall what she even looked like. (coughs)

(19:02:5)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you know if they kept any sort of records, or where those records would've gone?

SAM MOORE: Well, I don't think they kept any personal records. There were records kept of the County Home, and I tried to get 'em one time and was told that they were… they were locked away because of privacy concerns. I forget who I talked to about that. Someone in Beaver County. Several years ago. I was curious about it, you know, and I wanted to get to… see if there were any records out that I could look at, and… Who did I talk to? Gee, I can't recall anymore. But, I was told that the records from the County Home were locked away.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yeah, somebody else was telling me… I don't know if it was Jeff Snedden, maybe who had told me that there's a place where they store all those old records.

SAM MOORE: Oh, I'm sure there is.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: But I can't remember what he referred to it as now. Because I was also curious about that information.

SAM MOORE: Well, Jeff, he's the guy at the Beaver Times. Yeah, he… he… If anybody could get access to 'em, you'd think he could.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Right. I wondered if what became the geriatric center that's now Friendship Ridge had ever had a hold of those records.

SAM MOORE: I wish I could remember who told me that. I just have no… I can't recall.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you know if they had any sort of holiday events, or they did anything recreationally?

SAM MOORE: I don't know. No.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did marriages happen there, or any issues or difficulty with keeping women and men, you know… (laughs)

SAM MOORE: (laughs) Well, there's a good story in there about it. (laughs) There's a difficulty, yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: (laughs) Yes, there is. And did they ever talk about crime being an issue there?

SAM MOORE: No. No, I don't… (shakes his head no) Uh-uh.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And I know that you had alluded to this a little bit in at the very end of the article that you had written, but why do you think that the poor home closed? Why do you think that poor homes not as popular as they used to be?

SAM MOORE: I… I think it's because of the stigma attached to it. You know? You don't dare say any… put any kind of a stigma on anyone any longer. It's just not accepted. And back then, people… I can remember as a kid, it was… the thing was… you know, "Oh, you'll end up in the poor farm," or, "You'll end up in the poor house." And, "I don't want to go to the poor house." That kind of thing. It was… There was a stigma attached to it even then, and people went very reluctantly, I'm sure. And, uh, pretty much as a last resort, or they were forced to go there, like someone with a mental problem, possibly. They were forced to go there. But, I just don't think it would be

accepted now. There'd be (scoffs) social media'd be (throws his hands up and yells) "Ah, you can't do that!" (laughs)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Well, one of the interviews that we had, they were talking about the change of the road name from Poor House Road or Poor House Drive to Pleasant Drive?

SAM MOORE: (nods his head in agreement) Pleasant Drive. Yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Because people after a while didn't want their address to read…

SAM MOORE: I know there's, uh, there's still… I… I know there's an Infirmary Drive or a road up by Kent… By Ravenna, I guess it is, and there used to be a… a… some kind of a poor… I don't know what it was actually, but they still call that Infirmary Road, but that's not quite the same as Poor Farm Road.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Right.

SAM MOORE: (laughs) Yeah, I suppose, people wouldn't want to live on… This place even happened to end up being a nice street, which is possible… well, down in that area it wouldn't be, but in some areas it might be.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And as far as getting about, did your grandparents have a car?

SAM MOORE: My grandfather owned a Buick. He didn't… he never drove. He never even drove a tractor, but his younger son, my uncle, Sherman, drove him everywhere. Drove them everywhere. So, Nandad actually owned a car, but he never drove it.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you how people would've gotten there, to the poor farm?

SAM MOORE: No. I have no idea.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: I've wondered that because it was so far back in, and of course, not everybody had a car.

SAM MOORE: Yeah. (shakes his head) Well, people did a lot of walking in those days, too.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And what was the reason, just out of curiosity that your grandfather didn't drive?

SAM MOORE: I have no idea. He just never did. He drove a team, but he never drove a motor vehicle, that I'm aware of. But I never knew him to drive one.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yeah, I think that's interesting. My grandmother didn't drive a single day in her life, but I think it was also different, too, for women.

SAM MOORE: Yeah. Well, my mother never did either. Dad tried to teach her once and (laughs) he gave up. But, any rate, uh, that's a story that… We went out to the hay field one Sunday afternoon after church, and he was determined to teach my mother to drive. At that time, we were still puttin' up hay the old way with little… little piles of hay in the… they'd cut it and it would cure, and then they'd stack it in little piles and let it cure a little bit more, and then they'd load it on the wagon and haul it in. Anyway, Mom kept runnin' into the haystacks, and my sister and I were little. We were in the backseat. And we got scared and started cryin', so I guess that was the last time Mom ever drove. But anyway, uh, that's got nothin' to do with this, but… (laughs)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: That's a good story though. How did you come about writing the story for Farm and Dairy magazine?

SAM MOORE: Well, I've been writing a column for them for years and years and years since (scoffs) twenty years or better. And it's just a… every two weeks I have what I call Let's Talk Rusty Iron. And it started out being mostly about old tractors and that sort of thing, 'cause that was my hobby for many years, was restoring old tractors and machinery. And then I got interested more in the history of the stuff than the machinery itself. So, it's kind of evolved into just pretty much whatever I want to write about. And I just thought that was a good story, so…

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did you get any feedback on that story?

SAM MOORE: Uh, yeah. A couple of my friends mentioned it. Yeah, the fact that, you know, my father'd come from the poor house and all that, but…

(26:35:6)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did Columbiana have a poor home?

SAM MOORE: Oh yeah. Columbiana County had one, down in… West of Lisbon. It… It… In fact, they're in the process of tearing it down now, what' left it. It was deteriorated so badly that it's been all condemned, all the old buildings. But I can remember, when I first came to Salem, I came to Salem in 1955, 'cause my folks moved from the farm out here while I was in the Army. And, um, I got a job at a telephone company as a repairman and I traveled all over the area, all over the county. And at that time, the Columbiana County Poor Farm was still in operation, and, uh, I went there a few times just to work on phones and that sort of thing, but I don't recall a lot about it. I remember a few of the people were mentally challenged, and they'd, you know, want to know what you were doing and really just… you know, they'd just kind of bother you, but it wasn't any big deal. And I'm not sure when it closed, but it's been closed for a good many years.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Was it similar to ours, or in size, or was it smaller?

SAM MOORE: It wasn't as fancy a building. 'Cause that was a pretty fancy building, that Beaver County Home, and, uh, but it was probably as big, I suspect, at least the… the dormitories or whatever you want to call 'em where the… the folks lived was. I don't recall what the headquarters or main building, or where the matron and superintendant would've lived… I don't recall.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: As your grandparents were living there, would the county have paid… not just given them a salary, but actually paid for their living expenses too?

SAM MOORE: Now, that I don't know, Julie. I don't know how that was arranged. I suppose they ate the food from there. I'm sure that was... you know, they just whatever the other inmates did, probably. And, oh, they may have bought some stuff on their own. I really don't know about that.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Well, it's interesting because this is something that I haven't really thought about before, the fact that you… the point that you brought up about the Depression and not only were they making a salary, but they would've had food, and access to fresh, good food and a place to live.

SAM MOORE: Uh-huh. (nods yes) Right.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And so would the… the inmates…

SAM MOORE: Yeah, well, that's true, yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: At a time when, you know…

SAM MOORE: A lot of people livin' in, well, wherever they could find a place. Yeah, that's true.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: I've never thought about it in those types of terms.

SAM MOORE: Yeah, in a… if… from that standpoint, there may have been another reason why there were more inmates then because they couldn't find any kind of a… any kind of work at all, and, uh, so they'd try and get into The County Home, and what it took to get in there, I don't really know. But, it'd be interesting to know that, too.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Yes.

SAM MOORE: What the criteria was for getting into the County Home.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you know if there was diversity. Were there a lot of people of different ethnic groups who stayed there together, or different religions?

SAM MOORE: I don't know. I (sighs) I don't know. I can't recall any… ever any mention of black people, for instance, bein' there. Although they may have been. I… I don't recall anything about that at all.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And, switching gears a little bit, did you remember St. Joe lead?

SAM MOORE: Oh yeah. Yeah, I remembered going by there and everybody thought about how terrible it was that that… it was killin' all the foliage on that hillside and all that. And I remember the smell, too. It was a pretty acrid smell.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Did you have friends who worked there?

(31:15:2)

SAM MOORE: No. Although, I… I… I know a fella who did work there, but he wouldn't… didn't become my friend until after he'd retired.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you…

SAM MOORE: I… I didn't know anyone who worked there then 'cause we lived quite a ways away from there, actually, where our farm was. It was quite a little ways from Monaca.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Do you remember how it changed the landscape when it went in?

SAM MOORE: Not when it was being built, no. I was too young for that. But I remember going, I think it was Route 51 used to go up over the hill in front of it, I believe. Or was it… Seems like it was 51. Used to go up to the… go up past the airport… the old 51… not… not, uh… Yeah, I think so. 'Cause when I would… I drove a dump truck when I was 17, 18, I guess, 19. And we hauled slag, I guess slag or limestone. I can't remember which. Slag. Into, uh, when they were building the Greater Pittsburgh Airport. And we drove up, we hauled up 51, that's the way we went. From, uh, Midland. We got the slag at Crucible Steel, and, uh, and went down to Rochester then, through Beaver, to Rochester, across the bridge, and then up over the hill to the airport.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Hmm.

SAM MOORE: And I remember going by St. Joe a good many times then, of course.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And you said you left the area… was that 1955?

SAM MOORE: Fifty… well, I left the area actually in '53 when I went in the service. And then, my parents left, came out here during… while I was gone, so when I… in 1955, when I came home from the Army, I came to Salem, and I never went back. Well, to visit, but not…

JULIE THROCKMORTON: And why did they move?

SAM MOORE: Dad got a job out here. He was, uh, the farm had become a non-paying proposition, and he had some bad luck with… he had raised chickens. That was his main business, was raising chickens and eggs. And, uh, they got a disease, and… a lot of them died, and that sort of thing. Anyway, he got a job, oh, at a co-op… cooperative in Beaver, I think it's still there. Ag Mark, maybe or something. Selling feed and that sort of thing. And he worked there for a while, and then, he saw in the Farm and Dairy an advertisement for an assistant manager for a similar operation here in Salem, and applied, and got the job. So, he commuted for a while and it was a long drive. (laughs) So, while I was away, they moved to Salem, and, uh… So, I've been here ever since.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Wow. I can't imagine commuting. Especially then, with the roads.

SAM MOORE: Yeah, I know. He (scoffs) he did it for probably four years, I don't know.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Oh, my goodness! Every day?

SAM MOORE: Yeah. Yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Wow. I can't even imagine that commute.

SAM MOORE: (laughs) I know. Yeah, nowadays it wouldn't be quite so bad, but back then it was a little more difficult, yeah.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Was it hard to leave the area and come here?

(34:39:0)

SAM MOORE: No, it didn't bother me in the least, no. I like this area so much better. (laughs)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: It is beautiful. It's beautiful out here.

SAM MOORE: Yeah, it is.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: One of the questions that we've been asking, too, and I know that you're removed from it, but… do you have any opinions, or what do you think about Shell building the petrochemical facility?

SAM MOORE: I don't really have an opinion on it, Julie. I… I don't know. It seems like it's gonna happen, so what's the point in getting' all worked up? You know, I've tried to come to that conclusion in… in my old age. If there's nothing I can do anything about it, don't worry about it. (laughs)

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Well, thank you so much for talking with us. Was there anything else that I didn't ask that you would like to share?

SAM MOORE: I don't believe so. I… if… if Chuck'll let you have a copy of that, that would be a big help to you, I think. I don't think there's anything… there's nothin' really that I can add that I ha… we haven't already talked about.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: Well, thank you again, so much.

SAM MOORE: Well, it's all right. No problem.

JULIE THROCKMORTON: We really, really appreciate it.

(END)