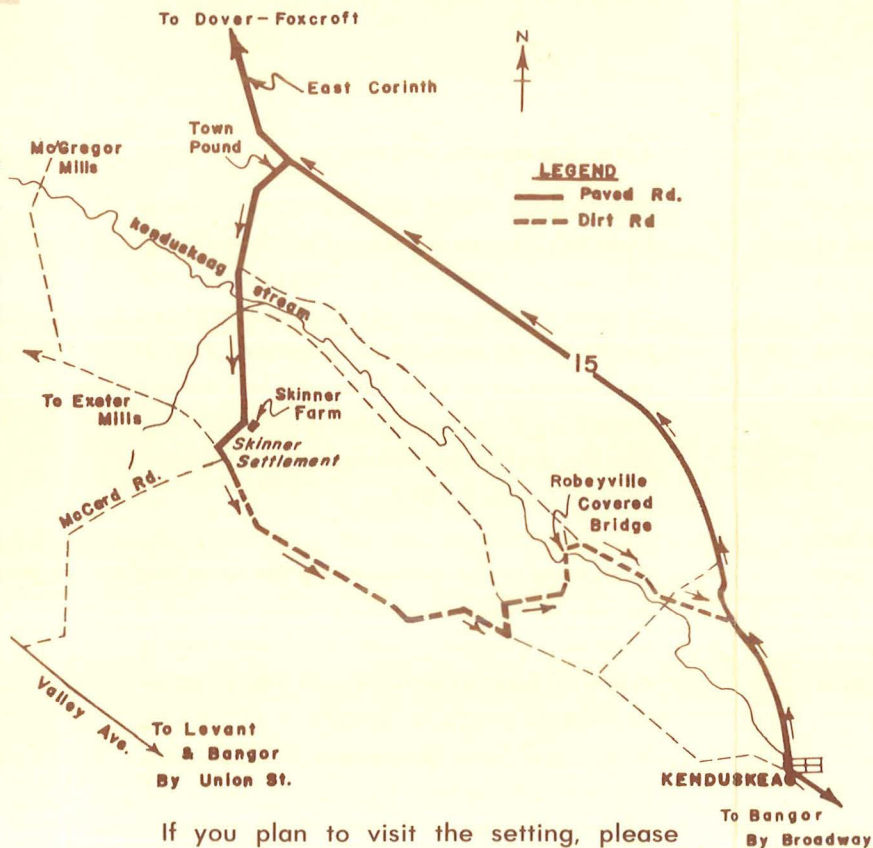


Where is the Skinner Settlement?

The Skinner Settlement is about a half hour drive from Bangor, Maine. The area is now commonly called West Corinth. It lies some 3 miles west of State Route 15, turning a mile south of the village of East Corinth. It can also be reached via the Robyville Covered Bridge (built by Royal Sweet, who built the present Skinner barn) but this route is not recommended in mud season.



If you plan to visit the setting, please understand that the farmhouse is still a private residence and is not open to the public. Those who wish to visit the farm, may enquire at Hodsdon's General Store.

Directors

Franklin P. Eggert, Verona, Me. Secretary
 Sarah Fogler, Exeter, Me.
 Herbert Fowle, Levant, Me.
 Sherman Hasbrouck, Orono, Me., Treasurer
 Harry A. Roach, Corinth, Me.
 Nellie Skinner, Corinth, Me.
 James B. Wagner, Corinth and Orono, Me.
 President
 Bradford E. Wellman, Bangor, Me.

*Skinner Settlement
 Association
 Corinth, Maine*



*For the preservation
 and operation of
 a 19th century Maine
 farm in a crossroads
 village setting*

How Can You Help?

There are many ways you can be a part of the Skinner Settlement project. Your donation is needed and welcomed. We are a non-profit organization. The Skinner Farm restoration will also need old tools and farm machinery, livestock, special skills and know-how, as well as a lot of plain hard work. Contributions of any of these are encouraged.

You may wish to become a Member Of the Skinner Settlement Association with a \$5.00 annual contribution.

If you think you can help in any way, large or small, please contact:

James Wagner, President
 Skinner Settlement Association
 Corinth, Maine 04427

or Telephone: 285-7746
 866-4163



What is the Skinner Settlement Association?

The Skinner Settlement is a 19th century Maine farming crossroads, largely undisturbed by the "progress" of the present time. It consists of a cluster of farmsteads, a Methodist meeting house, a general store and a one-room schoolhouse.

The Skinner Settlement Association is a group of Maine residents who wish to preserve the Skinner village setting to portray life on the nearby Skinner Farm as it was lived a century ago. A changing scene of daily and seasonal tasks on the Skinner Farm would present a complete and living picture of everyday life of our ancestors for the enjoyment and education of the people of Maine.

The Association seeks the support of all those interested in preserving and increasing an understanding of the way of life of our forebears.



Courtesy Lincoln County Cultural and Historical Assn.

Aims and Activities of the Skinner Settlement Association

The Skinner Settlement has always been a farming community and the central goal of the Skinner Settlement Association is to show what life was like on a Maine farm of a century ago. To do this, the Association has purchased the Skinner Farm and is engaged in restoring the farm to its working condition in the 1870-1900 period.

Crops of that day will be planted, tended and harvested with the methods and tools of the time. Crop and apple varieties, and breeds of livestock of the period will be used to restore the farm to its appearance a hundred years ago.

The Skinner Farm would be open to the public and interested groups from Spring planting to Fall harvest and will accurately portray the busy and changing round of farm activities from day to day and season to season.



The Skinner Farm

The Skinner Farm, a long stone's throw from the crossroads, was settled by Daniel Skinner in 1793. It has remained in the Skinner family through five generations and 180 odd years to the present day. It was one of the first farms to be cleared from the wilderness in the Town of Corinth and the first Town Meeting was held in the Skinner house in 1812.

By the end of the 19th century the farm had passed through successive stages from a frontier "chopping" to a commercially oriented farm specializing in dairy, apple and maple products. Details of life on the farm have been preserved in over sixty years of diaries kept by George and Sarah Deering Skinner, who, after their marriage on July 4, 1852, ran the farm during a half century of rural transition.



Hodsdon General Store

In addition to the Skinner Farm, the Hodsdon General Store has been restored to its condition in the same period, when it was the principle trading center for farms in the vicinity. A half century of store ledgers survive and provide the information needed to restock the store with the merchandise carried on its shelves a century past.

Like the Skinner Farm, the Hodsdon General Store will be a working part of the Skinner Settlement, open for daily business much as it has been since it was built by General Isaac Hodsdon a century and a half ago.

Side One

Mrs ~~Ma~~ Clark describes her trepidation about going off with Jim Wagner to the Skinner Settlement

She describes where she was born, talks about her mother hiding her pregnancy from a neighbor man. when he arrived when she was spreading wash. (the day of her birth-in 1887)

Went to high school in 1900

Talks about a friend of hers, Mr. Clark who knew the history of both sides of Corinth. How the first settlers saw an Indian.

story of indian rivalry for "squaw. Her father owned a piece of the land named for the Indian sighted there- Perry Paul

talks about her father going hunting with some relatives. It worked out better for him than for them.

She was one of three sisters. Very close to her younger sister. She describes herself as a mischief just like her mother. Describes her mother getting into a pumpkin pie in the cellar that was supposed to be for company.

Describes how a man was pretty smilley at her mother- she had a squash blossom in her hair.

Talks about herself getting into the hen burrow, once then again in a clean dress. She got to the end of her clean clothes.

Description of how to make soap-"leaks the virtue off the ashes."

She once had some "gingdom" britches, instead of white ones.

Always had a wood stove.

Her house was once a halfway house for travelers.

Talks about the unusual barn to the set of buildings, built against a hill. Timbers from her barn are now in a barn in town

Talks about her fathers farm- vegetable trucking to Bangor. She would send raspberries along with him. She could keep the money she made on raspberries.

Talks about learning to sew. Was taught by her older sister. Owns some handwoven blankets.

Breakfast. She would dig some greens early in the morning for her lunch at school. Lunch at school.

Bangor
East Corinth

talks of a friend of her at school. Grapes still grow at the spot where they gr^ew when she was a child. Her friend envied her her grapes.

Describes the pump and watering trough at the school
The school team took the children to school

For very young children there was a school house right in the Settlement. Remembers being taught her letters.

Crippled superintendent of schools.

Vivid description of the dead stillness of a winter snow storm.

Talks about deep snow, drifts. Snow clearing equipment- "breaking the road" 4-6 horses dragging a sled with a timber attached. Rollers. Danger of the thawed road.

She was her father's "boy" her father was disappointed that she was not a boy

SIDE TWO

She would sit in a tie-up and wait for her father

When her father would go off to work in the woods, her mother would do the barn chores. (4 cows) Did'nt want her daughters to learn to milk. Or to make butter. Or the hard part of farm life.

Reservoir of water in the barn. Pump and pump house

Her main occupation was school. Her father directed her to learn all she could.

She taught school a few terms. Taught around 1907.

Had no children. took care of older people

She married at twenty. Husband from Charleston. They had a small farm. Her father raised berries when he lived with her. She liked to make jam better when certo came in.

Self sufficient farm in childhood. Story of pig-moving
Pigs. Chickens. Broody hens.

Childhood friends. Used to play with two boys who lived near the mail box. Used to play authors- the card games. Some of the authors are familiar to her still. Only a Sunday school library then. book- "thunder was rolling barrels in heaven"

Earthquake- could be heard rolling in from the East. didn't damage anything.

Imagined indians- never wrote anything down then- Wrote a diary when she was married.

Transcript to here: Dka List

Rollers were
about 3 ft. high.

Charleston

Her husband got her to burn it.

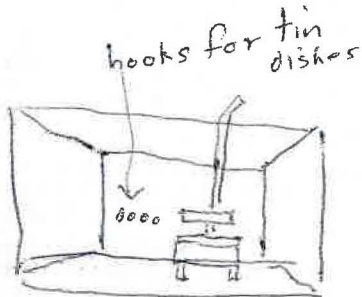
840016

She had a flock of sheep of her own- ten- she had to sell them because she became too attached to them

The wool from the sheep was spun by her husband's mother. She made sleeveless sweaters for the Red Cross in the First world War.

She and her mother shopped in Exeter. Her mother sold eggs down in Levant.

Games. Fox and Geese. Dominos. Fox and geese was homemade, a peg game. They didn't own the game of authors. They didn't use other cards. The "man-sized boys used to play cards"



Toys. Dolls. Raggedy-ann. A wicker doll carriage. Shared with her younger sister. Tin Kitchen. A friend "with money" had a little toy iron stove as a child. Her mother got her the tin kitchen.

Her mother didn't go to city

Father as a boy lived in a log cabin. At 9 her he remembered building a house. In that house during remodelling they found two little tin types.

Exeter
Levant

Interviewer's tape no. #2 NAFOH Accession no. 840Interviewer Ilka List Address RFD #3, Dover Foxcroft, Me.Interviewee Grace Clark Address East Corinth, MainePlace of interview Her home. Date 10/11/74Other people present NoneEquipment used Sony Cassette recorder.Tape: Brand _____ Size reel _____ 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed 3 3/4Cassette: Brand Dynasound Clsc. C-30/C-60/C-120Amount of tape used (Side 1) all (Side 2) 3/4

Brief description of contents: Talks about: Woods, fishing, streams, McCard Sugar house, tapping sugar maples, hooking rugs, home-made kite sled & snow shoes, games, school, home life & relationships, bedtime stories, treatments for chest colds, painful legs & cuts, lighting at home.

Mrs. Grace Clark
East Corinth, Maine
Oct. 11, 1974

SIDE ONE SECOND RECORDING SESSION

840018

general remarks. Checking on names and spellings
of her father's name, husband's name etc.

husband's name	<u>Deane L. Clark</u>
father's name	<u>Al Johnson</u>
mother	<u>Harriet Jaquith</u>
older sister	<u>Ethel Estelle</u>
Younger sister	<u>Rena Francis</u>
good friend	<u>Else Junkins</u>
Road	<u>McCard Road</u>
Schools-	named for the district

tape recorder off for a moment while I checked
that it was recording OK

Talks about her wanderings as a child. She found
all the different kinds of berries, wild flowers,
flushing a partridge. Details about the experience
with the partridge.

Looking for painted trillium

She knew the woods well in three different areas

Might have learned the names from Ladies Home Journal?

Fishing with a crooked pin

Streams, one was on the Exeter Road, one in Corinth

Wandered about alone, except for going to the brook

Sister used to have painful legs. Used to treat them
with heat

Walking over the "crust" in the springtime to the
McCard sugar house. She tried to tap the cedar trees
as a child.

The living room rag rug made a tent for the children
under the apple tree. Apple blossoms and lilac blossoms.
She dug up a daffodil and planted it in her own garden.
Her mother took the bulbs to west Corinth with her.

Her mother died at 70, her father died at 88. He
was ill even at the time her mother died.

Thinks her father's family was Swedish.
Four families of Johnson in the vicinity of where
she lived.

She tapped some sugar maples a few springs, all herself
Found some spiles her grandfather had made, as well
as some newer ones. Never visited the Skinner sugar
house. Describes visiting the McCard Sugar House.
Mother boiled down her sap.

*Exeter
Corinth*

chain noise

Used to "slump" up and down through the crust on the way to her maple trees. Didn't have school at that season.

Hooked two rugs during different spring vacations.

Tried to make a kite. Used the newspaper.

Barrel staves for snow shoes.

She had a homemade sled to go downhill. Had good runners on it.

Her father bought the farm from his father-in-law. Her grandfather would come over just for the day, and they would visit there too. Her sister was impatient with the long trip by horse and wagon. Her mother told her sister they would leave when the apple sauce was on the table. Her sister later saw the applesauce and asked if they weren't going home.

Doesn't remember much about meals then.

Grandfather had a cow and hens and had milk costumers

In Mass. there is a cemetery that is entirely Jaquiths

Doesn't remember playing jumprope. Played hide and go seek, tag.

End of 1st Side
Beginning of Second Side
She might have had some pressure from her parents about behaving properly for a girl- reminds her of the conjugation of verbs. Her sister teased her by saying it incorrectly. She kicked up at her sister, her sister grabbed her foot and threw her down. Her wrist really ached.

Didn't make any diff. between boys and school. She enjoyed it, especially mathematics. They used to start at the same place in the book every fall. Fractions were the hardest part.

Her mother read the Bible every morning, out loud before the children went to school at 8. Went to bed at 7. Their father got up at 4. Used to dress in front of the stove. Probably read portions from both the old and new. Mother was self conscious about reading at first.

They had an organ and the first Hymn she ever sung, she learned at her mother's knee.

*Nearly cried
Tears stood in
her eyes*
She sings "Shall we gather at the River." Good Meter, she says. Stood near the stove. Nothing was ever forced in their family. Sang when inspired to. Her mother loved to play. Another song was "The Dying Nun." Another, "Listen to the Mocking Bird."

/talks about getting a spanking with a carpet slipper Her father kept asking her if she had a spank-ing lately after that.

Mass.

Her mother got many spankings that were undeserved because she was so active. remembers again the story of the pumpkin pie and the squash blossom.

favorite stories from the bible? No. No bedtime stories. They had the books "The Three Bears" and Cinderella" Also the Mother Goose Stories. Her mother never told stories that she had made up herself.

She won a prize in spelling, and won a book "Oliver Twist". Never read it.

Mrs. Abbe was her teacher and awarded her the book. Both Mrs. Abbe and her husband taught school.

Told the story of some mischief in Mr. Abbe's class. Took off his glasses to see if he could find out what mischief it ~~was~~. Made me turn off the tape recorder, because she told me that a little first grade girl had peed in a half pint dipper (for water) Not because she had to, but just out of mischief.

Once she had a chest cold and she had a larded brown paper sprinkled with lard on her chest- it got heated in front of the stove at school- but she didn't dare take it off, it was put there for a purpose. "She wouldn't venture to take it off."

Butter and molasses and vinegar was the remedy for a cold.

Had to take castor oil. It didn't bother her.

Beef iron wine was a patent medicine

Puff balls, old ones for a cut. The spores would clot the blood. Or wrap a cut in a piece of cloth.

Kerosene lamps. /candles were used before her day. Her mother had a big old chair with a burnt out place where a candle could set.

Never had electricity.

840021

Interviewer's tape no. 3 NAFOM Accession no. 840
 Interviewer Ilka List Address R.F.D. 3 Dover Foxcroft, Me.
 Interviewee Mrs. Grace Clark Address Morrison Ave. East Corinth, Me.
 Place of interview her home Date Oct. 18th, 1974
 Other people present none
 Equipment used The Uher Tape Recorder and microphone
 Tape: Brand Scotch 176 Size reel 5" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed 1 7/8
 Cassette: Brand C-30/C-60/C-120
 Amount of tape used (Side 1) yes (Side 2) ~~yes~~ No

Brief description of contents: A further interview with Mrs.

see tapes worksheet
 Clark on details of her life around 1900

Mrs. Clark tells me the name of the town in Mass. where her mother's relatives are buried- as near as she can tell the town is Bellerica, Mass.

Mrs. Clark has a cousin still alive, son of her Mother's brother. Down In Mass.

Refers to old man described at the end of the last interview, said he wanted to come back in 100 years to see the curositities. (left out the i in curiosities)

They didn't have a refrigerator, or ice. They had a cold water well. They had a drilled artesian well. The drill had been powered by wood. Milk was kept in the cellar. They drank the milk raw. No TB tests for cows.

The old man had been able to put the shed framing together, for a barn addition without putting any figures down on paper. He didn't know his written numbers. But the shed came out perfectly.

To get the shed to fit between the barn and the house they moved the barn back on rollers. The new addition was to be a grain and hay storage room.

They kept cows, but she never had to milk. Had to milk a sheep ocassionally to feed a lamb.

Her duties. Her husband's father and mother lived twenty years after she moved in with them.

She was the one woman in the family that could harness a horse. She could hook up a team to the farm machinery. She did like horses them.

*Mass.
Bellerica, Mass.*

Now, or even long ago she learned to distrust them. She could plant a straighter row of beans than any of the men. She walked alongside of the horses head.

She once got made ~~2x~~ with her ^{husband ?} Father. She was up on a load of hay, when he commented that she didn't know what work was. She was very tired. It turned out that her father hadn't meant her specifically. He had been reading about the "~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ hard times the British people were experiencing during the war. (First World War)

They had a horse drawn hay loader for the barn. She would lead the horse by the head. They were big horses but not "western" horses.

Men drove the wagon to market. She had a carriage with a hood (such as on a baby carriage) which she could drive to visit friends. Her parents-in-law drove one wagon, she and her husband another. They would hitch the horse, wagon and all in a shed.

They lived with the parents, who needed help with the work. They were nice people. They didn't make a slave of her (as in The Good Earth.)

She doesn't remember how she got the barrel staves to stay on her feet. There was so much snow that her road would fill in and they would drive across the fields instead. And in the spring stay off the road, because it was so dangerous, and you could get mired.

They had no phone. To see someone you'd just plan ahead, or go off to see if they were home, on a "venture".

Once she went to see her "special friend" when her father went to see his special friend. Her father covered her completely over in the ~~saley~~ slay with a buffalo lap robe.

Her friends home had flowing water piped in, from a spring on the side of a hill. Something they didn't have at home. Their house was a new house. Her friend had more toys than she had. When she went to visit she they would play house with a little china teas set.

She always went exploring by herself. Her friend lived too far away, even farther than the wild blackberries.

Her childhood garden was a flower bed. She still remembers precisely what was in it. It was alongside of the shed. Roses, sweet peas, daffodil, hollyhocks. Nastursiums. Possibly Bachelor Buttons. Vegetables were all in the vegetable garden. The veg. garden came after the farm crops were in. Later her mother had a little vegetable garden that she tended.

They had a little "radio" ? run on batteries. Three different ones, a small one, then bigger, then one that stood on the floor.

Never knew personally of any ghost ~~thaxxa~~. There was always an explanations.

It takes a superstitious person to turn the ordinary noises into "ghosts". She feels these noises are the cold house contracting.

She loved to draw. She did beautiful drawings in a notebook in High School. For her study of the Kingdom of the animals.

She learned her book from cover to cover.

Description of a tin-type photograph in a beautiful little old frame. She is giving it to the West Corinth "treasures"

By "good meter" she meant the timing of the song. She once wrote a poem that was "her work of art" She feels very good about it. She wrote it for a woman's club. There is still one word in it that bothers her, but the rest is real good. "The earning of dollars is an art in which I have very small part." She didn't like the word "art/."

She once wrote a poem for a boy in school, after she was married. "Spring is here! Spring is here!"

She loves to read and enjoys the expressive qualities of words. She reads evenings, but doesn't sit up later than usual.

Who prepared her for becoming a woman. No one prepared her. Her mother had asked her to tell her when it happened. She guesses she was pretty ignorant. (At this point she asked me to turn off the tape and she told me of how her mother had explained about the farm animals going off to be bred.)

We come back into the tape with descriptions of her working with her ewes during lambing. She had sometimes to assist with the birth. Her pet sheep once had serious trouble. She always gave birth to twin ewe lambs. She had to reach into the Ewe and turn one of the twins around so that it could be born. Her lamb used to follow her everywhere. She once stole her crocheting.

West Corinth

Interviewer's tape no. 3A NAFON Accession no. 840
 Interviewer To Walker Address 130 Forest Ave, Lot 6 Orono
Alison Bishop Address 110 Mill St, Orono
 Interviewee Mrs. Grace Clark Address East Corinth, Me.
 Place of interview her home Date 10-31-74
 Other people present none
 Equipment used ~~Uher~~ Uher
 Tape: Brand Scotch Size reel 5" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed 1 7/8
 Cassette: Brand _____ C-30/C-60/C-120
 Amount of tape used (Side 1) almost all (Side 2) _____

Brief description of contents: talked about clothes and social occasions in East Corinth about the turn of the century.

	Opening announcement
	Tells about learning to sew and knit and the difficulties involved because <u>Mrs. Clark</u> is left-handed.
041	Finally learned to knit right-handed.
	Tells about winter clothes. Wool stockings.
067	Rode to school in the schoolteam
	Tells about a red hood she used to wear
080	Said she used to have some pictures from school days but has since destroyed them
	Talks about coats-store bought
089	Didn't have patterns
	Her sister took dressmaking from a lady x and made many
100	of the clothes for the family
112	We talk about the differences in opinion about patterns from our previous informant
121	Tells about the xxx first sk irt with a pleat

Interviewer's tape # 3A NAFOH Accession # 840 Catalog pg. # 2

141 Full skirts before pleated skirts

150 Fleece-lined store-bought underwear
Petticoats
Tells about keeping feet warm with hot bricks in

163 the wagon Soap-stones.
Mrs. Clark talks about box socials sponsored by the school. The girls brought the lunches and the boys bid on them. Sometimes the boys had some "advance information" on whose box was whose. Money went to a fund for school.
She didn't go to dances. Protective parents didn't want her to.
She couldn't remember much about dances or parties. She had only sisters-they had a limited social life. Was only a few children in her neighborhood, she didn't do much "calling"
She had one girlfriend who had nice toys. They had tea parties together.
Mrs. Clark had no party dresses
Fall clothes-cotton dresses bought at local store.
Her family home was located one mile and a half from the Skinner Settlement.
She and her sisters were "carried" to school .
She felt there was more snow in those days.
Used to go to Hodgedon's store in the Skinner Settlement
She can't remember if there were yardgoods at the store
Her mother went to Exeter to shop-traded eggs and

Exeter

Interviewer's tape # 3A NAFOH Accession # _____ Catalog pg. # 3

butter for things.

Mrs. Clark kept a diary when she was married.

Kept account of her money in it. Her first diary helped a girl get a birth certificate. She vouched for her birth--it was in the diary. Wrote in her diary every day.

After she married she lived with her husband's family. There were hired hands on the farm and her work was limited to housework.

She met her husband at high school. She was introduced to him one day and ended up holding his hand on the way home from school.

She taught school for two or three years after she graduated from high school.

Before her first year at high school she had taken simple algebra so that when she went to high school she skipped algebra and took geometry..

Comments about geometry not changing despite the "New Math" today.

SAYS she liked school and her father encouraged the girls to go to school.

Tells about East Corinth Academy.

She taught school for three years and missed being eligible for a teacher's pension by one term.

Her family wore special clothes to church.

Remembers some pants made from gingham. (Not worn to church!)

East Corinth

Interviewer's tape # 3A NAFOH Accession # 840 Catalog pg. # 4

They wore white dresses for summer.

Ironed clothes with hollow iron filled with hot coals

Metal containers filled with coals were taken to church to warm feet.

Her mother had a spinning wheel. The wool had to be carded; then her mother spun the wool into yarn.

After the wool was spun, she wound it into a skein.

Skeins were put on swifts to double or triple threads.

Heavy yarn for mittens.

Mother dyed the wool with diamond dyes. Used vinegar or salt to set the dye. Mother knit a lot.

She (Mrs. Clark.) has some of her grandmother's woven blankets.

Mrs. Clark married before her term was up as teacher.

They were engaged for a while and she had a diamond ring

Her friends gave the Clarks a sixtieth wedding anniversary party

They were married at her family's home, no outsiders were invited. Married on Christmas Eve at 7:40 p.m.

She wore her high school graduation dress as a wedding dress. She can't remember any flowers. Husband wore traditional black. There was no honeymoon. They stayed at her family's house.

Husband hauled logs in the wintertime.

She says her mother made soap at least once. Says she told a previous interviewer (Ilka List) about making it. She mentions it again briefly.

Interviewer's tape # 3A NAFOH Accession # 840 Catalog pg. # 4

She didn't have a hope chest

Her mother had a Singer treddle sewing machine

Her mother patched torn clothes until the girls were old enough to do it themselves. Her sister complained about Mrs. Clark's poor sewing.

Can't remember wearing any hand-me-downs.

Her mother sometimes dressed the girls alike.

End of interview.

Nov. 8, 1974 Mrs. Grace Clark

Sun Dog's- a halo of brightness on either side the sun. Some people claim it brings good weather, some storms.

Had I been to East Corinth, where Jim Wagner's store is. Looks a lot the same but there is a tree out front now. ~~Now~~ there are hitching posts in the picture, one on each end of the porch. There used to be another building next to the store. An odd looking gas pump. Her father standing in front of the store.

Jim Wagner saw her recently by accident.

(I have a terrible cold and sound a lot different)

I ask to borrow the picture to make a copy.

People wore overalls over their clothes, to protect their good clothes underneath. Girls never wore overalls, boy's clothes. ~~There~~ were none made small enough for small girls (?) She wore overalls only once and they were her husbands. She had to catch a swarm of bees- she tied the legs over her stockings so the bees couldn't swarm inside. She wore a metal beekeeper's hat, with the net.

She found the poem mentioned at the other interview- she worked on and improved the first two lines. She enjoyed writing it very much.

Christmas as a child. Hung stockings on the mantelpiece. She enjoyed Santa Claus then and still today. she had a storybook about Snata Claus. Didn't have the Night before Christmas until later. One Christmas her best friend's mother gave her mother a wonderful mending bag- it was hung on the Christmas Tree. (Else's mother) It was made of creten, explained as a kind of heavy drapery material. Figured cotton cloth. Very pretty colors. It was semicircular, and on the outside was a flap, that held a piece of heavy outing flannel as a needle case. She was around seven. All the presents were hung on the tree. Strings of popcorn. Wonderful smell. Before they had a tree at home, there used to be a tree in the hall, then in the church. They put a tree up to the ceiling- eight feet. May have sett the tree in a pail, with dirt in it. (The oil man arrives)

How did you keep your meat. Some kept it outside packed in snow, staying frozen. Another way was to freeze it and wrap it and pack it in a grain bin.

East Corinth

Sometimes salted the meat down.

Had a piece of fresh pork, or chicken for Christmas dinner.

One Thanksgiving, the grain thrashers were at their place. Cooked beans for the thrashers, and chicken for them. "That was goin some..." She was always doing nice things.

The thrashers may have been part of her father's crew. He did thrashing for themselves and other local people.

The thrashing machine was operated by horsepower, with the horses operating a treadmill that turned a wheel, ~~and by a belt that turned~~ Sometimes the horse got tired and stopped and would ride to the back, and have to be prodded on. She is very sympathetic to the horses. The wheel moved a belt that turned a wheel on the thrashing machine, which moved the beater, and its small teeth. A man threw the grain down, another man feed it threw the machine, and another man tosses the ~~straw~~ straw away. It was terribly dusty. Nowadays they thrash in the field. In the field working by hand rocks were a problem. Inside the machine somehow sorted out the rocks.

Mrs. Clarks job, when her father came home on Saturday for the night and Sunday, he had thistles in his hands. They would go right through his gloves. His hands were tough and calloused, and she used a needle.

(On batteries this tape is too slow, and on household it is too fast and makes our voices very high.)

Her father contracted "old fashioned consumption" They got their pay by taking toll, so many for the owner and so many for themselves. They had a grain storage area in the shed chamber. For their own use. Feed for the horses, cows, chickens.

Her father didn't raise corn. She describes a wooden device used to help elevate the corn ~~shocks~~ stalks so they could stand up and dry, in shocks. She finds her attempts to describe it very funny. The round cross piece had two holes drilled through it for legs, a long piece stuck into the ground. The corn was laid on it bound together at the top with another corn stalk and then stood up.

Canadian corn she says was very good. Farmers used to raise oats and barley. The barley had beards on it - it used to be ground up with the oats and then feed to the cattle.

All the food for all the animals was raised. If you didn't raise the food you didn't have the animal.

Money was scarce. She earned some money by selling tomatoes.

She grew tomatoes in the house to start. Near the windows. Variey of seed makes a difference. She used to order from ~~New Brunswick~~ Nova Scotia, where the climate is similar to Maine's.

Didn't sing Carols at Christmas. Celebrated one day. Kept the tree as long as possible. One Christmas her baby sister received a sled for herself, so Mrs. Clark no longer had to share the one her grandfather had made for her. She was delighted.

The one Sunday she got her mother to let her take three times down the hill, she had an accident on the first time down. Happy days.

Children didn't buy presents for parents. An orange in the bottom of the stocking. A candy cane. They were happy with what they had.

No celebration of New Year's.

No Easter Eggs. That was something people down south did. Easter programs in the church.

Sunday was kept special. "Today is Sunday." Not even a little girl knitting.

(It gets too fast near the end- but I believe it's about the Fourth of July.)

Nova Scotia

Interviewer's tape no. 2 NAFOH Accession no. 840.6
 771 Stillwater Ave.
 Interviewer Celeste Baulieu Address Old Town, Maine 04468
 Morrison Ave.
 Interviewee Grace Clark Address East Corinth, Maine
 Morrison Ave.
 Place of interview East Corinth, N Date Dec 9, 1974
 Other people present Edward Rues
 Equipment used Uher tape recorder
 Tape: Brand Ampex Size reel 5" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed 1 7/8
 Cassette: Brand _____ C-30/C-60/C-120
 Amount of tape used (Side 1) all (Side 2) approx 1/3

Brief description of contents:

*The structure of home, layout of rooms,
 furnishings, exterior of home*

Begin NAFOH TAPE # 840.6

Explanation of my purpose in project.

In the early nineteenth century, Mrs. Clark lived in West Corinth, about a mile from Skinner Settlement-- in a 2 story clapboard house. This was when she was a young girl.

Number of rooms-- kitchen, pantry, living room, three bedrooms downstairs, three upstairs, but one used as storage room for grain. Ell was behind main house and there was an entry here.

House burned some years after they moved away. Fireplace in kitchen had been opened up after they left, none there when they lived there. Heated by wood stoves. Cook stove in kitchen also used for heating.

Talks about flannel nightgowns being scratchy.

Kitchen doubled as dining area. General layout of house-- kitchen, stairway going upstairs was in kitchen, position of kitchen table. At table children scrambled to use the sugar spoon to eat with.

Living room furniture-- sofa, organ, writing desk, wall clock, stove had side door to put small pieces of wood, larger opening on top to put large chunks. Stove was under mantel in living room and this was where they hung their stockings at Christmas time.

*See diag
 diagrams
 3A & 3B*

West Corinth

Interviewer's tape # 2 NAFOH Accession # §40.6 Catalog pg. # 2

Tells of taking care of her younger sister. Sister got new sled one Christmas. Mrs. Clark had an old sled her grandfather made. Says she wasn't envious of her sister's new sled.

Had carpet in living room. Large hand woven rag carpet. Was there when she moved there, didn't know where it had come from. Later discarded the rug and made a tent out of it in the orchard. That was the only carpet they had.

Stove in southwest room for heat. Before stove was put in they used to open the pantry to let heat in from the kitchen to warm the bedroom. Family all used the same bedroom, parents one side, the two girls on the other. There was only one dresser in the room and a small stand that she could use. Couldn't remember where rest of clothes was kept.

Early memory of snow drifting up higher than their pantry window.

In pantry were shelves for storage. People who lived there later had taken shelves out to use for firewood.

Summer kitchen out in the ell. Thought there might have been two families there at one time. Other kitchen was large, with two pantries. Entry to back part of ell was through old kitchen.

There was a "big bedroom" off kitchen which they used for storage. there was also a smaller bedroom. She thought it might have been a place to put up travellers because it was near the Bangor road, but she wasn't sure. Her family did use it as a summer kitchen. Her grandfather also used part of it as a carpentry workshop. It was used during hot weather when it was uncomfortable to have fire in living quarters. Made soap there and also did laundry. It had an old fireplace and she had found an old cooking pot there. Used mostly in July and August.

Front of house faced south. Entrance with living room on one side and bedroom on the other. Wooden fan decoration on front door. Piece of granite cut square for front step. Never used front door except in hot weather to let in fresh air.

See
diagram
3A & 3B

Bangor

Interviewer's tape # 2 NAFOH Accession # 840.6 Catalog pg. # 3

Had mosquito nettings tacked in windows to keep out bugs in summer time. Storm windows in winter time.

They didn't have piazza.

Chimney was in living room approximately in center of house.

Used upstairs rooms mostly in the summer time. Had dormer windows, one in each room.. Walls in upstairs rooms had stenciled patterns. Thought her grandfather Johnson had done it, but wasn't sure. One was a basket of flowers and another was green trees. After they'd moved out, one lady came to cut one stencil out for a keepsake.

Children's bedrooms--she and her younger shared a bedroom over the living room, slept together. Her older sister had her own room. One of the rooms was heated so they could use it in winter. Had "air-tight" stove, very little draft.

Living room used regularly by family in winter, but in summer they played outside or in kitchen.

Their family could play on Sunday, but some families couldn't. One time she was reprimanded for knitting on Sunday. Her husband was shocked when she made candy or popped corn on Sunday. Families had different levels of strictness regarding Sunday observance. One lady had special knitting that she did only on Sunday.

Company entertained in kitchen. She remembers one little girl climbing on a chair to look out window. Really didn't visit back and forth that much. Once a family came to spend a Christmas evening. When she thought of visiting, she thought more as spending an extended length of time. Once she went visiting with her father and she had to sit in the bottom of sleigh, facing backward and she felt as though she was going home the whole way.

End NAFOH TAPE #840.6

End of side one. Interview continued on side two.

Begin NAFOH TAPE #840.7

Explanation of cord beds--tightening up slack in rope. Put stick in end to hold slack.

Interviewer's tape # 2 NAFOH Accession # 840.7 Catalog pg. # 4

Christmas--had Christmas tree that father had cut. Got rid of it when it began to shed. Set the tree in a rail in the living room. Decorated with strung popcorn. Couldn't remember if they had candles. It was brought in a few nights before Christmas. Not many presents, put them on the branches. Hung stockings--it was a treat to get an orange. Kids didn't give their parents presents, presents were homemade. Didn't discourage belief in Santa Claus, just outgrew it. Christmas dinner, chicken. Once cooked regular dinner for family and baked beans for thrashers who were working there at the time.

Had a garden, but crops were main concern--they came first. Father tended garden until later years when he got ill. Then mother took care of it.

Cellar with granite walls, as large as the whole house. Had cistern for catching rainwater. Also used for cold storage.

Had two apple orchards. She remembers picking early apples.

No attic in house.

^{furniture}
Other, in kitchen--none. Her father used to nap in living room after supper. Kitchen had just table and chairs. Living room used regularly. No rocking chairs in living room. Describes some kind of furniture that was made in area. Very simple furniture--tells about one type of rocker they had two of these.

No washroom, baths were taken in washtub in bedroom. Baths sometimes taken in sink, remembers father taking baths in living room. Had a kind of partition.

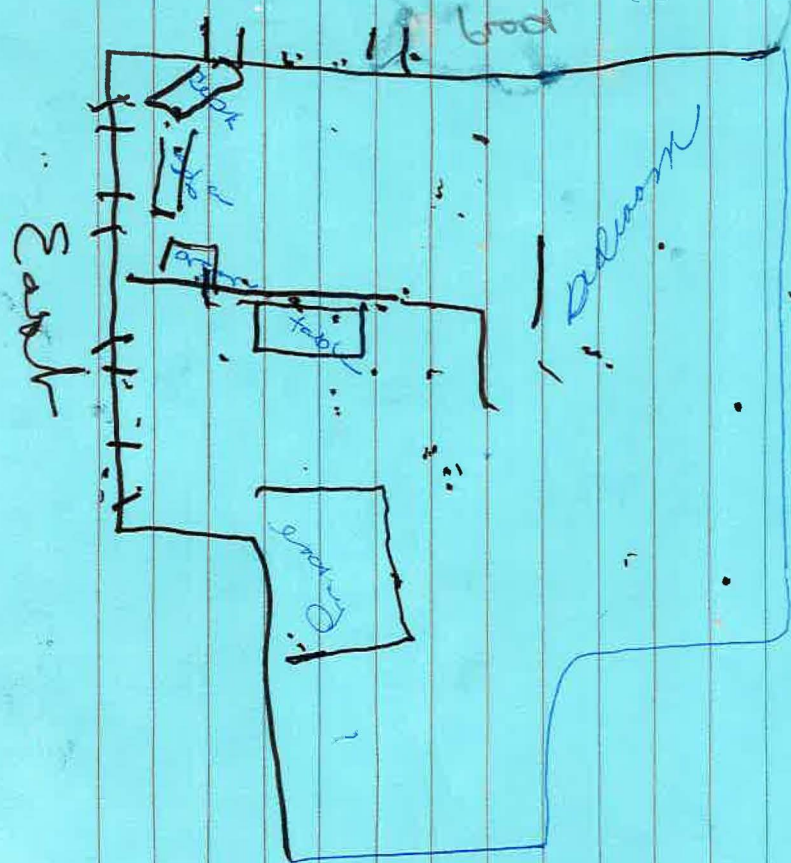
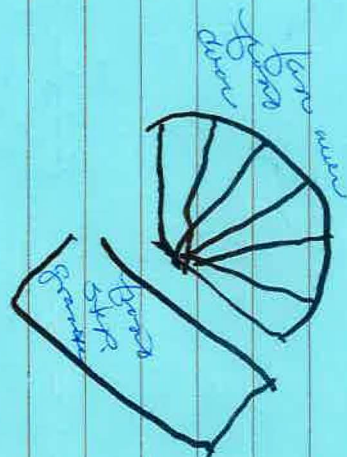
Had what they needed, though they were poor.

End of interview 12/9/1974

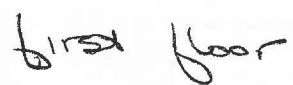
Mrs Clark - rough ~~sketch~~ sketch out
key out of house.

Interviewed
Dec 9, 1974

Mrs Clark
Diagram 3 A



840036



Interviewer's tape No. 12/18/74 #4

NAFOH Accession No. ¹²

Interviewer Galen Beaulieu

Interviewee Mrs. Clark

Address 23B Talmar Wood , Orono

Equipment used Sony

Tape Scotch 1.5mil

Speed $1\frac{7}{8}$

840037

Descriptions of contents: Deals with disposing of pests
around the farm.

Foreign sounds: None

Talks about hunting and trapping varmints in the cornfield.

The one time she ate woodchuck

Discusses how animals learn the secrets of electric fences.

Talks about squirrels as pests.

Tape 840.]

Interview with Mrs. Grace Clark

October 4, 1974

Interviewer: Ilka List

I: Ilka

G: Grace Clark

I: This is Ilka List and it's Friday October 4, 1974, and I'm on my way to east Corinth to interview Mrs. Grace Clark about what it was like in Skinner Settlement around the turn of the century.

G. I thought to myself, now this man, s a stranger to me, come over here to get me, [slight laugh] ride me round the country [X I; Yeah, so you got nervous about it?] So I said, well I ^{in afraid} couldn't tell you enough to be worth while. I didn't want to go. [I: ^{oh} gee] YOU know, I suppose I should have, but ^{I didn't} I didn't want to. [I can understand: ~~if~~ if you don't know somebody, you just might not...] Be particularly interested to have them come get you. [X I: yes, (laughing) not knowing what they were taking you off to, I suppose, but [G; Well] ^{but} maybe you could have [some slight confusion in here as we are both talking at once for a moment] He should have ~~made~~ maybe gotten somebody else that knew him to call you up and tell you it was ~~OK~~. alright. [laughing] Get somebody to come and get me, a ~~l~~ lady, I'd have gone with a lady I guess, but then I don't know as I'd would have too much information, I guess I'd have [I: Well, he's gotten really fascinated with the whole Skinner Settlement] I can see that [project] he is [and what he wants to do is restore it so that it's functioning as a little village almost the same way it was then, when you were growing up] [Yes, and they say that some of the ~~floorboards~~ floorboards in the ~~store~~ store are wprn through the upper [I: Have you been over there lately?] No, I haven't, and I [I: Would you like

East Corinth

to go over again and see what he's done?] I have, I'm, not so certain on my feet [I: yeah, right, when I came to the door I noticed that]

I: You were born right in the Skinner Settlement, wern't you?

G: Uh, well, about a mile and a half out.

I: Uh were you, what on a farm did you live? were you born at home?

G; Yes] I have one child who was born at home, and my guess is then most people were born at home, wern't they? [G: yes]

G; I was my mother said that she had a child six years old, a girl six years old, when I was born and the day I was born was on a Monday, must have been, I guess, I call it, I'll say it was anyhow.

And you know they used to spread their wash on the ~~ground~~ grass

A in summer? [I: No, I didn't know that ~~to~~ To get it white?] Yes, and she ~~was~~ was out spreading out her wash [she is getting amused here] in the backyard, and one of the neighbors, an older man, came down for something or other, I don't know what, and she said she took special pains that he shouldn't see her ~~standing~~ up. And, so that ^{was that} part of that part. But I: ~~Yop~~/So, he, she didn't want him to see her, YOU mean, ^{after} right after she had given birth? [G: She hadn't had ~~me~~ the baby] Oh, she hadn't had you yet.

G: And when ~~he~~/s/ his daughters told him that my sister had a baby sister, he said, well, I was down there today and I didn't see any ~~thing~~ sign of it. [loud laughter] [I: Oh she didn't want him to see how pregnant

she was.]G; Yes, [I; He went there that very day and she ^{was} working right up until the moment she had you I guess.] [G: Laughing I guess so]G: But that always amused me. I: Who helped her have you?, ~~but~~

I: What year was that? That you were born?

G: 1887.

I: It was, ~~so~~/yop [G: yes] so you were already thirteen by 1900.

I: This is a

G: Time to go to school [I: uhm] High School. [I: Right] Yes.

I: Uhm. Were there mid-wives in those days? Or was there a doctor that came?

G: I think she must have had a doctor because the first ~~time~~ child she had she had a pretty tough time.

I: That was your older sister. [G: uhm-huh] Did she have as hard a time with you?

G: Yes i know she must have ahd a doctor. [Long pause] Wel, uh. Mr. Clark, the old gentleman that I mentioned these people came, settled in Corinth. One of them settled over in West Corinth, the other one settled over here on the East side ~~of~~ down the line a ways, so that he had the history of both sides of the town, you see. And one little incident that I'll tell you that interested me was, that when the first early settlers came and , uh, to West Corinth, and I think they came there first, I'm psitive that theydid, that they found an Indian along the stream, just out of thevillage there, down over the hill . A lone Indian. And he spent his time, of course, hunting, fishing, when the salmon came up there. He could catch salmon. And. uh, ~~the way~~ he told it to me, he said that when the two Indian Braves were interested in a particular girl, of course there was a contest between them. And, uh, the one that lost out went ^{off and lived} ~~out~~ to ~~live~~ by himself after that He didn't even live with the tribe.

I: oooh. He was just soo hurt. [G: uhm-huh] So the one that they saw near the Settlement, must have been one of the losers.

G: Yes, one of the losers. [I: uhm-huh] And the stream that runned towards East Corinth runs across West Corinth there.

West Corinth
Corinth
East Corinth

G: And my father had a piece of the land that was named for that Indian. uanh, the brook was called, oh I don't ~~know~~, I hesitate, to pronounce it because of course it's Pierre. Pierre Paul. Pierre Paul.

It simmered down to Perry Paul by the time I was born. [I: Perry Paul] See? [I: That was] [I: That was the stream?]

G: That was the stream [I: uhm-huh] And when my father was a boy he was cousins from up in Aroostock County come down visiting fall went hunting and I guess that my father was the youngest of the group, so the others rushed off with their hunting dogs, and , uh, he come up in the rear with the old farm dog, and he said they rushed through the woods digging around and he was so far behind, that when he got where they'd been down by that brook, his dog treed a coon. [laughter] The rest of them didn't find anything.

I: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

G: I had two sisters. We were three girls.

I: YOU say you had a sister that was younger than you.

G: Yes, and she's been with me since I lost my husband and she'd lost hers for six years and past away last February [I: OH, oh]

and I didn't know how much I'd depended on her, really [I: oh]

She had arthritis, she couldn't do much for work, but she was eyes for me [Slight laugh] [I: And company] Yeah, company, and, uh, helped me about numbers in the telephone book [I: When you were a little girl[]

[I: were you as close? as you are now?] Oh, yes, [I: you were] Where you saw one you saw the other. I'd expect that I was a mischief. My mother was before me, I know [I: She was,

Laughter] She said she got a good many whippings that she didn't feel she deserved because she didn't mean to do wrong, but she just had to be busy about something, and the

[I: Was that because girls

Aroostock County

were supposed to be a certain way, do you think, or

G: No [I: Just that she got into] Just that she got into mischief because, uh, she was that active. [I: uhm] her mother had company come, [I: uhm] and she had a pumpkin pie down cellar, ~~waited~~

and they had milk and cream, and young mischief went into the cellar and saw this pie, poured cream and stirred up the cream in the pie and was her self something to eat]laughter] [I: she ate the whole thing?] I don't know ~~how~~ how much she ate of it but she ruined it for her mother's company. [I: oh no] And she said one time her mother said that someone came to the door and she answered. it and it was a man, and he looked pretty smiley when she ~~was~~ went to the door, so after he was gone she went to look in the looking glass and she had a squash blossom in her hair. [~~laugh~~; laughter] That my mother had placed there that morning. So that's the of her activities. I don't think I did quite as bad as that, but I went out to sit down where the hens had burrowed, you know, scooped out,]laughter] and I [I: What do you call it? the hens had what?] Burrowed. [I: burrowed. Right. Uhm, my hens do that too.] Well, and I went out and set down in one of those places and pulled the dirt up over me, She went out and found me and took me in and cleaned me up, put on clean dress and let me loose, and the next thing she knew I was right back there and finally, now I I guess she thought it would be too much of a job to keep me inside. Finally she got to the end of her clean clothes, and she ~~did~~ said this time you've got to go to bed. [I: oh] I washed some clothes, and my older sister watched me, and I guess she had a job to keep me in bed.

I: How did you wash the clothes? Did you , you had a tub and you

G: Wash them, yes and a scrub board [I: And you washed them on a

scrub board, and how'd you heat the water, on a wood stove?

[G: yes] All of that. [I: And you made the soap yourself, probably.]

G: Yes I can remember my mother making soap once. Unh always saving waste grease to put in it, [I: uhm-huh] Then, the, barrel of ashes was set out and you poured water through those ashes, and it leached the virtue off them, I don't know how to express it [I: Get some chemical out of them. I guess] Yes [I: then when you mixed that with the fat] Yes, it makes soap. [I: It must have been quite a job doing laundry in those days [G: Oh, I should think so] Well, I mean, a woman when she saw her daughter get her dress dirty it meant that she had a whole lot more work to do, so they had to be very strict. Did they? [G: Well, I should think so.] Did you, you always had to wear dresses I suppose. [G: yes.] Now-a days girls wear overalls, [G: laughter yes, I don't. One time she made us some gingham panties, that had a we used to call them ~~ox~~ our gingdom britches. [I: Yeah, that's the way little kids pronounce]

[laughter] G: Oh, I don't expect you'd take all this stuff on tape. I: Well, there are little details, what I'm interested in hearing about, like how you washed the clothes, and whether you used a wood stove in your house [G: We never had anything but a wood stove.] And I expect the house on the farm where we lived ~~was~~ in early times was a half way house for travelers, [I: Oh] I told Mr. Wagner something about it, and, uh, he wanted to know if I had any pictures, and I said, I think I have, I did have enlarged framed pictures, but, and I never reported back to him either, because I said I'd see if I did have and I didn't. [I: If you find any pictures of it, then, uh, I could borrow them, and get a print made, and then bring it back to you, right away.] Well, I then, I think I gave those pictures to

sister and her daughters. And they live so far away that they don't come very often, of course- so [I: ~~Well~~, what was a halfway house.] Well, I mean it was a stopping place for poeple on the road. The road, now say if we lived here, there was a road that went ~~right~~/t through here. There was a four corners down below, below our orchard, and this was the Bangor Road, and I expect travelers ~~coming~~ see, coming from Bangor, through, up in that country. [I: Where would they be headed ~~ing~~ ing, from Bangor, up to] Well, [I: ^{what town} ~~we~~/~~here~~ would that be] I don't know what, Corinna, Dexter [I: Well, yeah, right, over that way] Those places. [I: uhm-huh] .Exeter's over there to

I think.] Yes, I couldn't give you accurate. uuuhhh. [I: So would they come and stay overnight at your house?] uuuh. Stay overnight?there. [I: And your mother would cook for them?] No. I meanfurther, in earlier times, before that. [I: oh, oh, I see.] Back. Earlier. There were two brothersthat built their buildings there. lived in this one. And it was an unusual barn to that set of buildings. There were, Well, it was built, it's built, was built, it's burned now, built against a hill. [I: uhm] And down here in the door yard, you went into the barn, right on that level. But, on the back side, when you ~~you~~ come into the barn, you were on a second floor, [I: Oh, tha't marvelous.] And above thatwas two more pairs of stairs, and the whole thing, the barn was put together with wooden pins, and great timbers, six by six, and some of those timbers are in a varn here on the main road now. [I: Is that right?] So this was already built before your family moved there. [G: yes, I don't know how long.] What kind of farming was your father doing? [G: Well, mixed farming.]

Bangor

What, some cows, and some [G: Well , had a few caows and he raised, while I was big enough to know, early potatoes, to take to market. He'd get up four o'clock in the morning, and take, ~~at~~ a, harness up the horse to the market wagon and go to Bangor.

[I: Did you go with him on those trips?] I never went to Bangor.

[I: You didn't]

[laughter] got to work. [laughing] We used to pick to raspberries, and send the, to one of the grocery stores ~~in~~ Bangor.

[G: yeah]

[I: And earn a little money taht way: Were you allowed to keep

itas a child, or ~~at~~ did your] yeah [I: ~~that's good~~ oh, that was nice.

[G: [I: How much would you get for a box of raspberries?]

G; Oh, ten or fifteen cents. I guess ten would be a good average.

[I: UHM_HUH] He come home one time, ,he was full of fun, and

he teased me, and said, they didn't want them today, and then,

[I: oh] I got more than usual. [cough] [I: That money would buy a lot more than it would today, wouldn't it.] Oh, yes. [I: What would you kids

spend your money on?] Oh, it was so long ago I don't remember.

[I: You'd go to the General Store. They had, did they have penny candy, or] Yes, yes we did. [I: Did you have to save up for clothes?]

Or anything, or have to buy anything. Your mother made all those

things.] no [I: Your mother made all those things?] Yes [I: Did

you learn to sew very er young? or] [Long pause 5 sec] I was left handed

so I was harderto teach to sew. My older sister ~~taught~~ taught me,

she said I wanted, [pause] uh I don't, to do sewing or crocheting
bother

I said, had to have patience, to ~~grapple~~ with me, ~~she said~~ [I: Oh uh,

slight laugh] she said, you want to learn so bad that I wanted to

help you. [3 sec pause] [I: Sounds like a nice person] Well, [paase]

my out sometimes, trying to teach me.

Bangor

I: Did your mother have to weave the cloth? Too? [G: no] No.

G: But I have some hand woven blanket. [pause] [I: But who wove them then? Somebody else that lived in town [G: grand...?] Belong to G: Grandma.]pause 4 see] I don't, I don't know that. [pause] Too far back for me.

I: I was wondering, what kind of say, do you remember what kind of breakfast you would have? [pause] Would you have a hot breakfast? Before going to school? [G: I think so]

G: I do know this. that when my Father got up at four o'clock in the morning to go to market with his potatoes, well if I dug some greens or got something ready to cook, why mother would cook it.

That morning for me to take to school for my lunch. [I: hum, What kind of greens would those be?] Dandelion greens. [I: uh-huh[huh?

[I: Yeah, I like them] Oh, my. [I: So you'd just take, what else would you have for lunch at school?] I'd have bread and butter, something sweet. I guess, and pie, whatever it was it

[I: I don't know what burned butter is [G: hum?] I don't, burned?

butter? Did you say burned] G: Now hwat did I [I: You said burned butter ?] No that wasn't what I said, but so it didn't sound right [slight laugh] Used to take bake beans sometimes, cold bake beans. [I: Uhm] Did you take a bottle of milk or anything like that?] I don't remember that we did. [I: Uhm]

G: There was, uh, water near the school, so that we could get plenty of water to drink. I had something else that I was thinking about I lost it now, ~~What~~ what was that? Oh, there was a school, same school that we did, and uh we grew up together. She was nearly a year older than I was, but we lived in the same neighborhood always. They moved out to west Corinth and we lived on the farm all the time, but still we were close friends. Well, over there on the farm Mr. Wagner said he's gone down there, and picked grapes. Uh, there's a every year, and there, they're from the same grapevines that were there when I was a child, and they, in the fall I used to take grapes in my lunch [I:uhm] And this friend said she used to envy me my grapes. [I: Oh. because they were so delicious, I bet] I didn't realize it at the time, of course, but she'd think that my, she'd like some of those grapes. [laughter] .It wasn't very possible to try and share with anybody else. You were limited in space when you had a lunch box about this square. [I: I guess you didn't have a thermos in that] No, [I: Something you take for granted now] I know [I: Yeah] Oh. Twas an old wooden pump, twas a watering, a granite pump where the they put the horses I would think [I: Uhm] from that same well, out in West Corinth, just below the first the, it was the next set of buildings below the church.

I; That school must have been heated by wood. [G: Yeah]

G. Seems to me it was a round one too, tall. [I: Did you all try and sit near the stove?] Well, in winter we did, many mornings after we got out there. [I: uhm] Warm our feet. [I: Did you have to walk to school?] It was ah too fara foot, at the age that we were, No, we never walked.

I: How did you get to school?

G; Well, ah, what we called the school team. Men with a horse, and wagon. And he had, there were seats along the sides. purpose, you know,

West Corinth

to carry the school kids. [I: Oh that's uhm very different than the yellow school bus] I guess so [I: I think my kids would love to go on that] Uhhh, and if, from our house, he would come about eight o'clock in the morning, but it was, wasn't this time. Daylight saving time, no it wasn't. ~~W~~What did they call it? Standard time?

[I: Standard time, I guess] I [I: I guess they didn't have to name it in those days, I don't know.] Well, probably not, As a beginner in school there was a school house right down below us here where I could walk to school [I: Oh you were over here?] And then the school house was down the road, or something?] Yes. [I: Yeah]

G: And near enough so that I could walk as a six year old. I can remember after going to school there, and standing, the teacher's sitting in her chair, and I stand at her side and learn my ABC's. ABC and uh cat and dog and those things, I can still remember that. I: Uhm, it must have been exciting.

G: Well, it was something new. [laughter] [I: You didn't start until six?] I don't know how old I was when I, I just used that for an illustration, because probably I wouldn't go younger than that. We had one superintendent of schools that, he was a cripple. I remember I was walking home for my dinner one day when he was a, ~~visiting~~ visiting over there, and he was heading back to Corinth. Little incidents, you know, I never forget one stormy day in winter, and the dead stillness looking out the window and seeing the ~~g~~ big flakes falling. But the dead stillness of the whole thing. It me so I never forgot.

I: Deep snow? Did it get very deep?

G: I don't remember a thing about the depth of it just that stillness. And it's amazing and interesting what sticks in a child's mind. [I: That's what I was just ~~thinking~~ thinking. Yeah. The things

Corinth

that are important to us, uhm, and things that remain very clear.

G; Yes, they say that, now I , who go. written all up. [I: It might not seem very significant to you but uhm it can be very interesting to people who are trying to recontruct what that time was like. What a child felt, you know, what the experience was like going to school on a sled. Things that you might just take for granted, someone else might say, I just can't believe it [G: No, imagine[Yes, how

different it was. G; We used to have deep snow, i remember that too. There was some winters when the wind would sweep the snow right up and cover our back windows clear to the top. [I: Did you dig

a tunnel, or did you have a house that was connected to the barn?]

G; It was connected to the barn [I: Oh that was lucky]]laughter]

G; Used to go across the feld, part of the way, because the snow was so deep, it was so much work for the men to keep a road open.

[I;uhm] You know, and after the snow got deep why, the wind or a storm would fill it in again. Well, getting ahead of it. [I" How did they

clear the road?] Well we had our outfits to clear the road

When they had oxen they used to do the road with oxen. And when they

would, after the oxen were part, they used to go with four or

six horses many times. [I: Would the horses drag something behind

them?] A sled. Or, what shall I say, a timber in front of it [I: I see]

to push it out both ways, I suppose they did, [I: Something like

a plow] Yes, it was. Then after they had it done that way, they had

a great big roller to break the road with, crush it down. My goodness,

I think the whole thing would stand maybe, I don't think I'm

exaggerating, that high, and put four or six horses on that. [I:

About three feet high I think] Yeah [I: What would that be made of,

wood? or] Yes wood [I: humph]

I: A round thing that (G: Um,hm.) that they dragged behind. (G:Um,hm.)
But the road got packed down. It probably got up high.

G: Yes. It was packing it down instead of pushing it out.

I: What happened when the snow melted away in the spring? Was the
road the last part to melt? (G:Oh, no, it- -) it was all
snowy.

G: a time it wasn't very safe during the thaw. (I:Umm.)
To try to get out with a team.

I: Because they could go right through. (G:Um,hm.) Through all those
layers, I suppose.

G: Some go in to their knees.

I: Umm. [Pause.] As a, as a little girl, did you have lots of farmwork
to do? (G:Farmwork?) Yeah. Were you expected to help your father?
Or were you expected to help your mother?

G: Ah, when I was little girl, I was, I was a disappointment that I
wasn't a boy. So, my father called me his boy and winter nights when
he'd go out to milk after he'd had his supper, he wouldn't, would go
out to the barn and milk the cows. I used to go with him a good many
times and ah, he had a- - [End of side one of original tape. Begin
side two of original which is a continuation of the previous interview.]

I: the recording of Mrs. Grace Clark in East Corinth and she's
talking about how she used to go with her father to the barn. [laughs]
So you had to bundle up.

G: Bundled up and while he milked the cows, I sat in the tie up. That's
what we called it. Cows were tied up, you see. And sometimes I went
to sleep because there was nothing to interest me especially. (I:Umm.)
And he'd have to wake me up and take me back in the house. [laughs] But
I was there anyhow.

I: So, you had a lot of his company just because he did wish that you were (G:Yes.) able to help him out then. When you got older, did you start milking?

G: My mother, well when my father would go away and work in the woods, ah, for a period of time, my mother had to do all the barn chores.

I: How many cows did you have?

G: Oh, we didn't have not more than four I don't believe and she said "I want you girls not to learn to milk 'cause if you know how, you'll have to." [Both laugh.]

I: She was a little .

G: So we, we never learned to milk.

I: Huh. Did you, did she ah, make cheeze out of it and- -? (G:No.) What did she do with all of it? Four cows is a lot.

G: Made butter. (I:Butter?) Yes.

I: Did you have to help her with that? Churning it?

G: No. (I:No?) My mother was very lenient on work.

I: She didn't want you to really learn the farm life then in a way?

G: Well, not the hard part of it. (I:Yes. Hmm.) [Sniff] Sometimes in winter the cows had to be driven down across the field to get water. Oh, we had something in our barn that not many people have, I guess was a reservior for water. It was a big long barn and it'd hold quite a lot of water.

I: What was the reservoir made out of?

G: I think ah, I don't know whether it was just dug like a cistern. I don't know whether it was ah, - -

I: Lined with anything?

G: Lined? I don't know about that part. I do know I had to be careful if I was, [laughing.] wanted to go across it. It had cedar rails on the top. I better not be fooling around on the top of it.

I: Did you ever fall in? (G:No.) [laughs] No. That's good.

G: I don't think I ever got that far out.

I: Was it deep?

G: I don't know. I don't remember how deep it was. Not too deep.

I: But you had water in the barn for the animals then during the winter?

(G:Yes.) That was great.

G: And ah, see, a pump in to pump it up. (I:Um,hm.) We had a small extra building we called the pump house.

I: And the water came in, into there?

G: And you see, you pumped it up from the reservior.

I: So then you had to carry the buckets of water to the cows. (G:Yes.) They drink a lot too.

G: Yes. They drink plenty.

I: Your buckets wooden buckets do you remember?

G: I guess probably they were tin. (I:Hmm.) I hope they were. They wouldn't be as heavy as wood.

I: Yes. That's right. [Both laugh] Did you have to do that? Did you carry water to the cows, or? (G: Not I.)Not you. (G:No.) What was your main job? What did you have to do mostly?

G: Go to school.

I: Did they, did your mother want you to study and did she- -?

G: My father said,"Learn all you can." So I had a good incentive. But I enjoyed it. I wanted to.

I: I can see you still enjoy reading. Did you ever hope to have a career or did you have a career of some sort?

G: Oh, just a country girl.

I: You didn't think of becoming a school teacher or?

G: I taught school a few terms and when I quit the superintendent of schools said, "You ought not to quit teaching now."

I: What year would that have been about do you remember?

G: Oh, nineteen seven.

I: So you were about twenty then? Um, hm. Were you married then or were you- -?

G: No. And I taught one of those terms after I was married. [Clears throat.]

I: Did you have children yourself?

G: No. (I: You never did have any.) My children were older people. And I took it to help them ~~out~~ always.

I: Was that your mother and- -.

G: Well, my husband's parents and he had a brother. And I, my sister when the very last and my father stayed with me ten years. What could I do with children. (I: Yes.) I think a child's life is ruined if they ah, have to live with their grandparents.

I: You do? (G: Well, I, I- -) I mean the grandparents are- -

G: I mean it's difficult. (I: Yeah.) Because ah, the grandparents and if the mother tries to keep them from being spoiled. Don't you know how they can go from one to the other? (I: Yeah.) And get pretty much what they want.

I: Yes. [laughs] One puts their foot down and says no and another says yes, right?

G: Yes. Away we go.

I: Yes. That's true. Well, I guess you were very busy taking care of those different people anyway.

G: Yes. I was. I don't know. I couldn't have done it.

I: Were you living on a farm then when you got married?

G: Yes. Yes. I lived on a farm all my lifetime.

I: How old were you when you got married?

G: Twenty.

840054

I: Did your husband come from East Corinth too?

G: Ah, Charleston. Up on East Ridge Road.

I: What kind of a farm did you both have?

G: Well, that was a small farm too and with ah, mixed activities.

I: To provide food for yourselves or for other people?

G: Ah, yes. ah. And [Pause.] I don't know as I ought to say, market gardening, but ah, used to raise ah, had the butter to sell and ah, produce in season. Not, not on a big scale but on a small scale, you know.

I: Um,hm. Um,hm. Did you um and- -

G: And then ah, we had berries. My father said while he lived with me he had more berries than he ever ate in his life. [laughs] Had strawberries and raspberries and blackberries. (I:Ummm.) And we'd go blueberrying where they, where we could get some.

I: Did you make jam and things like that?

G: Mostly canned. I don't remember that so much as I do later years, of course, making jam. (I: Umm.) when you could have the ah, sure-jell and things like that (I:Yes.) we have now. (I:Yes.) [Pause 8 secs.]

I: Well, when you were a child, ah, your parents raised enough food for the family by owning your own farm? (G:Ah, yes.) They raised their own beans and (G:Yes.) they raised just about everything that you'd need?

G: Ah, yes. Of course, they did.

I: LIke pigs. Did you have a pig. (G:Sure.) Yeah.

G: Oh. [pause.] I, I don't know as I ought to tell this. Perhaps I better not.

I: You're getting me very curious.

G: [laughs] Father had a pig down in the basement of the barn that he

*East Corinth
Charleston*

wanted to move around. Put it in another pen and he took the day when my mother wasn't home to do it. And she, she said, "How'd you make out getting that pig around?" And I, I don't know what he said to her, but I guess I begun to giggle. She said, "I know how you, you got him around. You had to drag him around." And that's just what he did.

I: Oh, and that pig. I bet it- -

G: [laughing] Put a, put a rope behind it's front legs and it was as obstinate as you ever saw a pig to be. [laughs]

I: It must have screamed bloody murder. (G:Oh, yes!) It sounds like, when you try to make a pig do something, it sounds like you're killing it.

G: I know it. You aren't hurting it a bit.

I: I know it. [laughs]

G: [laughs] They object strenuously.

I: They sure do. They don't want to go where you don't, where you want them to.

G: No, indeed. You can't coax them with anything as far as eating goes (I:Umm.) to trail them along. They're not going because they don't want to.

I: That's right. (G:Well.) You probably raised chickens too. Didn't you?

G: Yes. Yes. Mother had some hens. One time she let me ah, I, setter hens. Now she had, she had Plymouth Rocks, large sized hens, but ah, this was a little bantum and so she, I wanted a layer hen. She had a hen setting in a big hog's head and my little bantum was inaa little nail keg cut into her size. (I:Right.) And [laughing] when I, the time I went out and found it she had a chicken. I just cried I was so delighted. My bantum had some chickens.

I: Oh, that's wonderful.

G: A big experience for me.

I: Oh, it's very beautiful, I think when they hatch out. They're just the most beautiful little things. That you- -

G: Fluffy. (I:Yes.) Oh, cute as they can be. I don't remember how many I had. Couldn't set on too many eggs.

I: Was she setting on the eggs for the big birds or on her own eggs?

G: They were from the birds, I think. (I:Oh, probably.) I don't remember. Ah, I do remember that ah, I used to go out and take them out from under the big hens just laying, regular routine. And tuck them under my hand and say she laid so many, [I laughs] in a day. She laid, she could lay a half a dozen in a day. I them.

I: Right. [Both laugh hard.]

G: So you, I could think up things to do myself.

I: Were there a lot of children in the community?

G: No there wasn't.

I: So it was mostly you and your two sisters then?

G: Yes. Ah, about my own age, there were four beside us (I:Um,hm.) in the neighborhood anyway. (I:Um,hm.) So and up where Mr. Wagner has lived were two boys. And used to go up to our mailbox when we had ah, R.F.D. was up there. Course, we were right at the end of the neighborhood that the mailman would come to if he came to our box but if he could, if he came clear down to our house, but he didn't. He stopped up there. Go up and get the mail and ah, in season we used to play Authors with these boys.

I: That's the card game, isn't it?

G: Um,hm. So some of the ah, authors mentioned in these books that I was telling you ~~about~~ that ah, got checked off for were some of those authors. (I:Oh.) The names were familiar because I had played Authors.

I: Where, could you get a hold of any of those books when you were a kid? Could you, was there a library that you could get to or what?

G: Ah, we had a Sunday School library, but of course, that was a different type of books. (I:Yes.) Children's books. I can remember of reading, using my imagination. A child's book in the Sunday School library that ah, suggested that thunder was rolling barrels in Heaven. Well, that's a good idea for a child. And I can remember one time that ah, there was a earthquake (I:hmm.) which impressed me greatly. And mother heard it, of course. It was in the nighttime and she came up so we wouldn't be frightened and it, it, the sound rolled in from out east there toward the house. (I:Hmm.) You hear it coming nearer and nearer.

I: Oh. And she could hear it from such a long ways away that she knew to come up to you?

G: Yes. Because if it woke us up, it would take a little bit to wake us up of course, ^{we were} ~~it was~~ upstairs.

I: Did it do any damage?

G: No. Not that I know of. I expect that it was probably some distance away, but . I dreamed once that the Indians' coming up there.

I: Did you still see many Indians around when you were a little girl?

G: Never saw any.

I: You never saw any?

G: Only in my imagination. [laughs]

I: Did you ever write down any of your ideas or your stories or (G:No.) when you were a little girl? No. Or did you keep a diary or anything like that?

G: I didn't keep a diary until I was married and I had fun keeping them. And put in some funny things, you know. I burned them.

I: You did? What got you to do that?

G: Well, my husband didn't want me to keep them. [Chuckles.]

I: How many years had you kept it?

G: For anybody else to read. (I:Oh.) [G laughing.]

(I:Oh, Gee.) Well, I kept it all the time I was-.

I: Well, maybe you put it in more detail than in some of the diaries.

some of the diaries I've seen have only ah, (G:Just facts.) just facts, yeah. (G:Yes.) Not feelings or ideas, or anything like that.

G: No. [laughing] First little diary I kept, I made note of the kittens that the cat had because I knew I could laugh at that later.

I: Umm. Well, that sounds nice.

G: [laughs.] That, that was life on the farm.

I: Umm. Did, did you ever have goats? (G:No.) No. Sheep?

G: Yes. I had a flock of sheep of my own. (I:Oh, you did?) Yes. A neighbor had a pair of twins and the mother wouldn't own only one of them and that lamb was a beauty. (I:Umm.) And he gave it to me and from that one- -oh, she was a mischief. She was awfully good too. When I come to sell her, I said to the butcher, "Now, I want you to kill her and don't want her to live longer." And ah, course, he didn't, he said she was too good an animal. So he sold her and I happened to know where she went later and the man who bought her said, "You old fool!" [laughing.] She was so tame, you know, I could call her around anywhere. (I:Umm.) I've been to the meadow and got, gotten my flock of sheep when there'd be ten of them.

(I:Um,hm.) And look around behind me after we'd got lined up to come up across the pasture and here they were single file behind me and behind her. They'd follow her where she went. Old Peggy.

I: Why did you sell her?

G: Ah, well, I sold the whole flock. (I:Oh.) I got so I was tender-

hearted about ah, (I:Oh.) disposing of them. Too tender-hearted to want to keep them.

I: I see. Did you use their wool? Did you- -?

G: Ah, yes. I use to send fleece over to St. Albans, I believe it was. Send it away to have carded.

I: Um,hm. Then did you, did it come back to you and did you spin it?

G: Uh, my husband's mother would spin it. (I:Um,hm.) Double and twist it.

I: And then what did you do?

G: And then I could knit some stockings, and mittens. (I:Um,hm.) Which I did.

I: Did you knit sweaters too, or-?

G: In war time, I knit a sleeveless sweater. I never tried knitting sweaters with sleeves.

I: That was the first World War.

G: Umm. The ah, be the Red Cross wouldn't it that furnished? (I:They might.) I think so. If anything. Then I knit a second one for my husband, sleeveless, heavy wool to wear under his coat, jacket.

I: Did you have to make his coats, too? Or did you go to buy them somewhere?

G: Oh, I never made anything but dresses and (I:Um,hm.) Ladies wear.

I: Was there somebody else in town that would make those other sorts of things?

G: I'm afraid I don't know.

I: Umm. Where did you do most of your shopping as a, as a child that you and your mother go to the Hodgedon's store or to-?

G: Ah, we went up to Exeter. A lady that kept store up there for quite a few things and I used to like to go up there cause she'd give us girls some candy. (I:Umm.) [G laughs.] Then we used to take, ah,

St. Albans
Exeter

my mother took her eggs for quite a while down to Levant. Down there that ah, bought eggs and she used to buy feed in Exeter too. (I:Um hm,) Wasn't too far to go.

I: Was, did she use that egg money for family things, or-? (G:Yes.) Yeah. [Pause 12 secs.] Ah, what, what sort of games did you play as a little girl? Do you remember?

G: Oh, we used to play fox and geese. (I: Yes. Yes.) Did you ever hear of that?

I: I used to play that too. Um,hm. (G:Dominoes.) Yeah. We still play that at home.

G:Um,hm. (I:Um,hm.) And let's see what else.

I: Did you make your own dominoes or did they use- -?

G: We had some boughten ones. (I:Um,hm.) Course, the fox and geese was a homemade. I don't know who made it.

I: Oh, was fox and geese a, like a small game that you played indoors?

G: Fox and geese? (I:Yeah.) Ah, you had pegs. (I:Yeah.) You had a board with holes that you put the pegs in.

I:Um,hm. And you try and get across?

G: And the fox would be after them. Trying to jump them.

I: Right. Would you try to get to the other side?

G: Um. I've really, I've forgotten. But our object was, was to clean off the geese, I know. I used to like Chinese checkers, but that's later edition. I, I don't think we had any authors, Game of Authors of our own. I guess we only authors we played we played up with the boys.

I: Were you allowed to play with other kinds of, with other cards? Just regular cards?

G: MY mother wouldn't let us learn to play regular, regular cards.

I: Some families feel that cards are very bad and-.

G: Well, what I saw of cards was what I saw the grown-up, man-sized

boys in our school sometimes noontime. Something like that. I don't know one from another and I don't know. Oh, yes. I do know two, three, but- -

I: Well certain groups feel that cards are um, next to gambling.

G: Well, I know. Because they are used so much for gambling.

I: Yes. Right. They didn't want kids, I guess, to even get started (G:No.) using cards for fear that they might turn to that or something.

(G:Umm.) I, I was wondering if you had toys then. You know children now-a-days, you've probably seen, they get deluged with toys.

G: That's what they do. Well, we had our share of dolls. I'm sure of that. Even to Raggety Ann and we had a little doll carriage.

I: The wicker kind of doll carriage?

G: Um,hm. That was a privelage for a child. And ah,- -

I: Did you three sisters have to share it?

G: Well, the older sister was much older that ah, (I:Oh.) she was outside our planning. We had the two of us could get, do pretty good.

I: How close in age was your other, younger sister to you?

G: She was less than two years.

I: Oh, oh. (G:See- -) No wonder you were so close.

G: Yes. (I:Yeah.) and mother used to set me to watch her and that kept me out of mischief see. And she told me since she's been here the latter part of her life, that she always felt as though I bossed her around. [Both laugh.] I was as innocent as anybody could be of ever feeling that she thought I was bossing her around. (I:Umm.) I never would have thought of it. I was just planning for the two of us. Don't you see? It wasn't bossing to me.

I: I guess that's just the way younger sisters feel. (G: Yes.) Because the older sister has so many ideas.

G: Yes

I: So you two together would play with that doll carriage? (G:Yes.)

And your dolls. pDid you have little tea sets?

G: We had a tin kitchen. You ever see a ~~fin~~ kitchen?

I: No. I don't think so.

G: Well, it was ah, just tin, of course and painted, but here was the back and ah, slanted on the sides. And it had ah, a simulation of a stove here in the front of, up the middle of the back and ah, there were tin dishes to go with the kitchen.

I: What, whoops, would you- -

G: With a little fry, little frypan. (I: Oh.)And a little kettle.

I:Oh, It had a little stove in it like this with a little- -(G:Um, hm.) Did it look something like that? Well, let's see that would be the stove. If you want to- -

G: Where's my-, I'll have to have my glasses.

I: Oh, oh. [G laughs.] This would be a little pretend woodstove and this would be like the ah, stove pipe coming up? (G:Yes.) And then you have a little frying pan. What else was in the little room?

G: Ah, there was ah, hooks here that, that the tin dishes hung on.

I: Oh! (G:See.) Were these tin dishes just like the ones your mother used in the- -(G:No.) No.

G: Tiny. (I:Tiny.) Yeah. Doll arrangements. (I:Um,hm.) But there was kettle and a frying pan and oh, I can't remember now.

I: I wonder where that was made?

G: Oh, and there was ah, little Well, I don't know how to call it. A cake tin or what but it was crinkly around the edges and perhaps that size.

I: About two inches long or something? (G:Um,hm.) Maybe (G:Yeah.) about an inch wide. (G:Oh.) Did you mix up-, did you actually light up your oven? (G:No.) You couldn't.

G: But ah, we had friends out ah, toward West Corinth in the

that ah, people had money. And she had a little iron stove with all the covers and what have you. (I:Umm.) A real little stove. But ah, the friend that I speak of that was about my own age that lived in the neighborhood she had a tin kitchen first and of course, nothing would do but I should have a tin kitchen. So mother made it possible that I have, have a tin kitchen.

I: I wonder which store she got it at. Did she have to send away for it in the mail order? Or did she go to the city?

G: I haven't any idea. I know she didn't go to the city, because you didn't go to the city.

I: She never did?

G: That would be quite an experience to ride, ride on a express wagon behind a horse twenty miles.

I: What, what would you consider the city? Bangor?

G: I meant, yes, I meant Bangor. (I:Um,hm. Um,hm.) Ah, now if I can-. Did you shut- -

I: We're going to, going to shut it off in a minute.

G: I was interested in something that came up just recently. Over to West Corinth. When my father was a young boy they lived in a log cabin. And the, he told me this, the year he was nine years old they built the house that's there now and Carl Brown lives in it. And this fall.

[End of tape 840.1. Interview continues on 840.2]

Bangor
West Corinth

Continuation of an Interview with

Mrs. Grace Clark

Interviewer: Ilka List

October 4, 1974

G= Grace Clark

I= Ilka List

G: was this summer. Very recently anyhow. It seems that he's done some remodeling inside the house and they tore out the fireplace and behind that fireplace they found two little tin types. (I:Umm.) Not much more than a inch square. (I:Um,hm. Um,hm.) They've been there all these years.

I: Oh. Have you seen them?

G: Yes. I've seen them. Ah, his wife sent them over for me to see. But, but ah, course, I didn't know who it was. It might have been my grandparents and it might have been somebody else. (I:Um,hm.) But I said as tiny as those were I didn't wonder they got lost [laughing] behind the fireplace.

I: I wonder how they fell down there.

G: Oh, nobody knows. [laughs.] But it'd be easy to lose them that way.

I:Yes. So small.

G: I thought ah, I did go upstairs and get the family bible.

I: Oh, oh. I'd be very interested to see it. I'll shut this off.

[End of the October 4, 1974 interview with Grace Clark.]

An Interview with Mrs. Grace Clark

~~840064~~

Interviewer: Ilka List

October 11, 1974

840065

G= Grace Clark

I= Ilka List

I: This is ilka List and I'm in East Corinth on Morrison Avenue visiting with Grace Clark. It's October 11, 1974.

G: I know you'd say it didn't sound a bit like you.

I: I know it. But, I, well- -

G: And it sounds just as plain likr your voice to me.

I: Yes I think so too. And, I, the first time I heard my voice on a tape recorder I didn't like it at all. (G:No.) Now, I'm a little bit more used to it. I don't seem to mind it so much. (G:No.) There are some things I wanted to ask you before we started talking about anything else. Um, just real historical. (G:Yes.) Like your husband's name.

G: Deane. [Spells] D-e-a-n-e.

I: [spells] D-e-a-n-e. (G: Deane L.- -) Did he- -

G: Deane L. Clark.

I: Deane L. Clark. And your father's name?

G: Now this is an odd one. It's a capitle A and a small i. Ai.

I: How did they pronounce it? (G: Ayh -eye.) Ayh-eye.

G: A lot of people if they didn't know would think tit was just two initials, see. A.I. (I:Um,hm. That's what- -) Johnson.

I: I heard it once and I thought it was two initials.

G: Yes. You'd take it that way.

I: Did you spell Johnson. [spells] J-o-h-n-s-o-n? (G:Yes.) And what about your mother's name?

G: Well, that's another odd thing too. In her, she was French descent.

(I: Um, hm. Harriett.)

Ah, my mother's name is Harriett/Jaquith [spells] J-a-q-u-i-t-h.

I: [spells] J-a-q-u- (G: Now you wait.) i-t-h.

G: Yes. I think that's- - (I: Right. Harriett Jaquith.) Since I've spelled it that- -.

I: Well, was her mother from Canada or from France or- -?

G: Well, her father's ah, people were descended from French Hugonants.

I: Um, hm. [Pause 6 secs.] On the father's side. Now, let's see. What was your sister's name? What, what are both your sisters' names? Your sister that's alive and your- -

G: Ah, I haven't a living sister now.

I: You don't have any living sister now?

G: No. (I: Oh.) I'm, I'm the last twig. [Laughter.] The last leaf on the tree. [Laughter.]

I: Well, I'd like to put down how you spelled your sisters' names.

G: Ah, my older sister was simple enough. Ah, Ethel.

I: Ethel and your younger sister?

G: And the younger sister was Rena.

I: How do you spell that? (G: R-e-n-a.) R-e-n-a. Did they have middle names too?

G: Yes. Let's see. Ethel Estelle. (I: Estelle.) E-s-t-e-l-l-e. (I: Um, hm.) And ah, my younger sister's middle name was Francis, and I think that was for Grandmother Johnson.

I: Oh, and then your best friend's name. You mentioned the girl who was jealous about you having such delicious grapes in your lunch box.

G: [chuckles] She was a Bangor School teacher, High School teacher. Else (I: Else.) Junkins.

I: Jenkins? (G: Yes.) J-e-n? (G: J-u-n.) J-u-n. Junkins. (G: Yes.) Did your farm have a name? (G: No.) Never, no, you never named it. (G: No. No.)

I: Did, what was the name of the road you were on? Do you- -

G: McCard Road. (I:McCard?) Yes.

I: How would, how do you spell that?

G: M-c- (I:Yes.) C-a-r-d.

I: That's where the farm was with the big barn and everything where you?

G: Yes. On the McCard Road.

I: That was in your childhood and then when you got married you lived in the same community, didn't you?

G: No. I lived in Charleston.

I: Oh, you lived, you moved to Charleston. (G:East Ridge.)East Ridge Road? (G:Um,hm.) And um, let's see. You went to one school in the Skinner Settlement. Did that have a name?

G: No. Just a number. (I: What was- -?) I don't know as I know what the number was.

I: Now did the other school have a name?

G: Ah, no. They were just, back in those times, they were just districts.

I: Just district schools. Now, some schools now have a name and some don't. Like ah, the Harold Ladd School is Sebec, up where we live.

(G:Um,hm.) Not all the schools have names. (G: No.) In New York, my children went to the Emily Dickenson School. Named after the poet.

(G: Ayuh?) Um,hm. I guess those were the ah, the only things of that sort that I felt I needed to get down. Maybe you can think of some other things. Like, who, who owned the store when you were a girl?

Was that Mr. Hodgedon?

G: Yes. It was. Far, far back as I know. (I:Um,hm.) I don't know's his given

~~off~~/ name now. Charles, Charles Hodgedon.

I: So, he had it quite a few years, didn't he?

G: Yes. He did. And part the time he had the post office too in the

Charleston
New York

store (I:Um,) building.

I: Let me just check this. [Tape off to check level. On again.]- -of some, you know when you were thinking this week about things you felt like telling me. And I had some ideas of things I wanted to ask you about.

G: Well, I, I suppose that's going to record every word it say. [Both laugh.] (I: Well,) Well, among the things I thought of that I was an active child anyway and ah, [Chair creaks.] within a radius of ah, distance, walking distance as I could travel around, you know, for myself, I used to know where all the wild berries were in season.

(I:Umm.) The raspberries and blackberries and gooseberries and blue-
berries. (I:Oh, that's-.)/I don't know ^{Now,} how I found them all but I, in traveling around you know (I:Um,hm,) on my own.

I: You used to really go exploring then?

G: Yes. Trying to see what I could find. [Sniffs.] Well, I did what to tell you about ah, flushing a partridge from her nest. I expect I went down to the edge of the woods looking for flowers, wild flowers in the woods because I knew where to find them. [Sniff.] (I:Umm.) But, ah, and it was just accidental of course, that I came across this partridge nest but the partridge, when you get too near the nest, you know what they do?

I: They make a tremendous noise, don't they?

G: Well, they try to lead you away from the nest and they'll have a broken limb ah, a wing or a leg ah, have to go on the ground. And you follow them out think that you'd pick them up, but you never do. [Laughs.] (I:Umm.) And I was prepared for that and so I didn't follow her too much. I went and hunted for the nest. And I found it. (I:Oh.) In dry leaves right in the edge of the woods. And as I recall, I would say that she had four eggs. (I:Um,hm.) And what I don't remember

that they were white, but I don't remember if they were speckled any.

I: Yeah. I, I don't know whether.

G: I'd have to hunt up in the ah, article on (I:yes.) partridge to know that part. I don't, I don't remember.

I: Did you touch them? Do you remember?

G: I don't think I touched them, no. (I:You probably- -) I didn't disturb her nest a bit. What I, what I wanted was to find that nest instead of trying to pick up a (I:Umm.) injured bird.

I:Yes. Did you go back to the nest later to see if the eggs hatched out?

G: I don't remember that I ever did. (I:Umm.) If I ever went near them. I was looking for flowers. (I:What, what- -) wild flowers, you know in the woods.

I: What might you have been looking for?

G: Well, ah, down in that edge of the woods were some painted trillium. (I:Um,hm.) And they're a little later than the ah, red ones. Benjamins, we used to call them.

I: They're still called Benjamins, Stinking Benjamins.

G: Yes. [Both laugh.] But the painted ones didn't have that strong odor. (I:Yes.) I knew where to go in three different woods, wooded areas to find spring flowers. Search me, if I know how I ever found them out but I was looking for them I guess.

I: I guess you walked and walked and who did you ask to find out the names? That's what I'm- -. Did you have someone that you went to who knew the names of the flowers?

G: I don't remember. Seems as though I knew [laughs]

I: That you knew them all.

G: I knew their names. [laughs.] I do remember that ah, there was ah, article in a magazine, an article on wildflowers that, with the pic-

tured, in color, in the natural colors. I think I got some information that way.

I: What magazine would that be? Do you know?

G: Oh, It was long I- -

I: Was it one that came to your house regularly or?

G: Yes. I think so. (I:Uh,huh.) I don't know if it was Ladie's Home Journal or what it was. (I:Um,hm.) I don't remember that part. And how I ever found- -

I: Did you like to do things like climb trees and do all that?

G: I, I didn't climb, climb trees but I guess I covered the ground pretty good, thouroughly. [Both laugh.] I don't know how my mother ever let me travel off like I did sometimes.

I: Were there streams nearby that you used to explore?

G: YES, well, within a, perhaps a mile. Go fishing with a crooked pin (I:Um,hm.) on a string. Got minnows and chubs playing around it anyway. (I:Um,hm.) Yeah. Give you that much satisfaction. Never caught anything of course.

I: Never caught a salmon or something like that? I mean (G:No.) WAS that? That was not Perry Stream that you used to go to was it?

G: No. I don't know . One, one was on the Exeter Road I know and the other was in Corinth down the bottom of a steep hill back country. [Pause 5 secs.]

I: Did you used to go by yourself?

G: Good deal of the time I did. But when we went, eh, when we went to the ah, brook, my younger sister went with me. (I:Um,hm.) She wasn't as good a traveler as I was. She had a lot of trouble with her legs aching nights. Wake her up (I:Oh.) in the night she'd be crying cause they ached so much.

I: Did anybody figure out what was the matter with her?

Exeter

G: I don't know what was wrong. I've wondered if oh, [Pause 8 secs.]
Oh, I've lost my word.

I: Did she always have trouble with that all her life? With those
aching legs?

G: Ah, no. I don't think so. (I:Hm.) I don't remember that she did,
but they weren't very strong. What is it youngsters have?

I: Rheumatic fevers. (G:Hm. I wondered.) I think that causes aching
joints sometimes.

G: Yes. Sometimes. I wondered if possibly that might have been on
that order. (I:Um.) But I, I couldn't say that it was.

I: Did you used to rub liniment on them or anything like that?

G: I think heat helped them mostly, of anything. (I:Um,hm.) To help
some. Wrap them up in flannel.

I: Hm. So that's why you had to go on your own pretty much, I guess.

G: Yes. I think likely. (I:Umm.) It'd be too much for her. In the
springtime there's one walk we used to take on the crust. Used to have
splendid crusts in those days. We'd go from across the field. We didn't
stick to the roads. Over to McCard's sap camp, (I:Umm.) where they
made maple syrup and ah, at home there were cedar trees back of the
house. And my active mind conceived the idea of tapping those cedar
trees. (I:Oh!) You know just in play (I:Um,hm.) in fun. (I:Um,hm.) Ah,
drive in a nail and hang on a pail. (I:Um,hm.) Course when it rained,
I got some sap. [Both laugh.] Takes a child's imagination.

I:Yes. Children's imaginations are really wonderful. (G:Ah, they are.)
Really, really wonderful. [Pause]

G: When ah, when my mother's rag carpet in the living room wore out, it
made a tent for, for us out in the backyard. (I:Umm.) She took it up
in appleblossom time. Oh, and the appleblossoms were sweet,

I: Where did you put the tent? Under the appletrees?

G: I think. Yes. It was near the apple tree. It must have been over, mother through it up, she must have put it on a limb or something.

(I:Um,hm.) I don't think it had any supports other than natural ones.

(I:Um,hm.) And we had lilac trees back of the house that were so sweet

(I:Umm.) in lilac time.

I: Lilacs are beautiful. I found a daffodill blooming in the backyard one year and I had to dig that up. I don't know how many times I'd chop the top off before I got down to the bulb. [laughs.] but I didn't kill it. Moved it out to my garden. And I guess there's some of the offspring over to West Corinth now. (I:Umm.) When my mother moved- - I: I'm sure it must be.

G: moved from the farm out to West Corinth, she took the, she took those bulbs with her. [Pause 6 secs.]

I: Did your mother live a long life?

G: She died at seventy.

I: Well, that was a nice life.

G: Yes. Her mother died when she was only thirteen years old. My mother was thirteen years old.

I:Um,hm. But your father lived long after your mother then?

G: Yes. He lived to be eighty-eight.

I: Oh, so you must have inherited his long, longevity? (G:Yes.) Yes.

So he must, was he very, very upset when your mother died and then he moved in with you or?

G: Well course it was hard for him. And he wasn't very well, he could

(I:Umm.) well have passed off then but he didn't. [Pause 7 secs.] I expect they were Swedish, Johnsons. They came from Aroostook county.

I: There were a lot of Swedish immagrants um, this ah, (G:In New Sweden.) Yeah. Life was hard for, in Sweden. (G:Yes.) For people who were farmers and a lot of them just got up their courage and came over here. And

*West Corinth
Aroostook County*

started in anew. (G:Yes.) Like pioneers, I think.

G: Yes they did. There were several familys of Johnsons ah, well, I had an idea that there were perhaps three, inthe vicinity of where we lived. Yes there was a fourth one.

I: Did they speak Swedish?

G: Not to my knowledge. (I:Umm.) and I couldn't say positively that they ~~were~~ Swedish but I just surmised that in my thinking about them.

[Pause 5 secs.] A few springs, I really did tap some maple trees.

I: Oh, you did? (G:Um,hm.) How old do you think you were when you-?

G: Old enough so I could take the hand sled and bring the sap up.

(I:Oh, great.) It was my venture entirely. [laughing.] (I:It was?)

Found some old spiñes, homemade ones (I:um,hm.) That my grandfather had made and used. (I:Um,hm.) And he was on the place. And then I came across, I don't know how I happened to settle, that were the regular ones that they used in the whentthey were making syrup over on the maple orchards. (I:Um,hm.) Skinner's had a maple orchard too.

I: They probably had a sugar house too then didn't they?

G: Yes. They did. I never was down there, but when we went over to McCard's we used to go down to the house.

I: Oh, it smells good doesn't it?

G: Yes. It does And the steam comes pouring out the sides. (I:Umm.) And they had quite andoutfit.

I: They had those big flat boiling pans?

G: Um,hm. I didn't have. I had a milk pan do my boiling in.

I: Did your mother put it on the kitchen stove.

G: Yes. (I:Um,hm.) Boil it for me.

I:Um,hm. So you must ahave gotten some from what you hauled in didn't you?

G: Yes. Well, I don't remember, I don't remember a thing about ah,

eating it. (I:You don't?) No. [Both laugh.] Just the pleasure of doing it. And sometimes there'd be a rain and it would weaken the crust and I'd go slumping in you know. (I:Um,hm.) In and out to get down to my sap operation to empty the bucket's (I:Umm.) from the rain. But it was all fun.

I: Did you do it after school?

G: We didn't have school at that in that ah, didn't seems so at that time of year. (I:Umm.) I don't think we did, because I know the, well, spring vacation, I ah, hooked two rugs in different seasons. Different springs for occupation. I, I tryed to make a kite but I couldn't coax it off the ground.

I: What did you have for a model of how to make it? (G:Make a kite?) Had you seen one? Or did you see a picture or?

G: Well, I must have seen pictures and I expect I used a newspaper.

I: I used to do the same thing.

G: And some thin cedar (I:Um,hm.) strips, you know and tie the paper for the tail but I don't know. Well, I couldn't get it off the ground anyway. I took it out where there was the most draft (I:Um.) around the house but it refused to rise so that venture was a failure.

I:Yeah. I remember of doing the same thing. I/~~u~~

G: I used to take barral staves and put them on my feet for snowshoes. (I:Umm.) Did you ever do that?

I: No. I never did that.

G: Guess I tryed most everything. Well I did. time.

I: Did you have a sled to go down hill?

G: Ah, yes. Mine was homemade, Grampa made. But it had good, he put good runners on it so.

I: Did he live with you or had your father moved into with his father?

G: Ah, no. Ah, when Grampa left the farm, he moved to Newport and my

Newport

840075

father bought the farm from Grampa Jaquith.

I: What was his name? Jaquith. (G:Yes.) Oh, it was your mother's father then.

G: Yes. (I:Um,hm.) See my father's name was Ai Johnson.

I: Right. SO the farm had belonged to your mother's family and then your father bought it out from them. (G:Yes.) So, did he come and visit you for spells or something.

G: Yes. He used to come over from ah, just for the day. (I:Um,hm.) We, and we used to go over to visit them at Newport. (I:Oh.) And it seemed quite a long drive to my younger sister. She asked mother when we were going home. She asked her that before we got over there. [Laughs.]

I: It's a long ways to go. You were going by horse and wagon?

G: Um,hm. And mother jokingly said, "When grandma puts applesauce on the table for supper, we'll go home." [I laughs.] And when, when we had supper there was some applesauce on the table. I think we had gooseberry sauce or some other kind, some other kind of sauce but there was a bowl of applesauce on the table and my sister looked up to mother, "Are we going home?" [Laughter.] Well, I guess I've run on enough.

I: Now what else would they have for meals? Like they have gooseberry sauce, applesauce would they serve a piece of meat of some sort too?

G: I can't think now. I've forgotten. My Grandfather had a cow and hens, even over there and used to sell have milk customers. (I:Um,hm.) He lived in the village there. I don't know.

I: Did he speak French? (G: We didn't- -) Did he speak- -?

G: Not that I know of.

I: No. So was the distant back then- -

G: Yes. Way back you see. (I:Yes.) And ah, they came first to Massachusetts and there's a cemetery out there that is entirely Jaquiths.

(I:Oh.) And ah, the ah, stone step, the entrance-now this I've been

Newport
Mass.

told not that I know it, been there personally. Ah, on this stone step at the entrance is the word Jaquith and I have some friends who live near. I don't know whether it's the same town, any~~how~~, nearby. And ah, young man took pictures (I:Oh,) to bring back~~to~~ us. And they went to the beach and slipped on a rock and his pictures landed in the Atlantic.

I: Oh, no. [G laughs.] What town was that in?

G: I, I do know. But I don't know if I shall think of it cause I haven't thought of it lately.

I: You may think of it later.

G: Um. It's not Maine.

I: It sounds like it's near the ocean somewhere. (GYes.) [I looks at tape recorder.] I guess there's still some there.

G: [Whispers.] I expect it is. (I:What?) I expect it is. [Both laugh.]

I: Don't be nervous. Did you play jumprope too when you were little? Do you remember?

G: I don't ~~reme~~ remember that we did. [Pause 6 secs.] Ought to have, hadn't we? Enerjetic as I was, I ought to have.

I: Did you play things like hide and go seek?

G: Yes. And tag.

I: Tag. Cowboyss and Indians?

G: I don't remember that we played.

I: Chasing around after each other.

G: I don't remember that we did. It would take a group of boys to start that. [Pause 12 secs.]

I: Did you feel ~~less~~ much parents about the, being a girl and behaving properly for a girl?

G: Well, I expect probably we might have had. I remember, now with chores.

[End of side one of original tape. Begin side two of original tape.]

