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### (SNP134) Luther and Myra Wood interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley

Luther W. Wood

Myra Wood

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM  
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Luther & Myra Wood  
INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Smith  
PLACE:  
DATE:

TRANSCRIBED BY:  
Peggy C. Bradley  
COMPLETED DATE:  
August 23, 1987

D.S.: Interviewing Mr. Luther Wood and his wife, Margaret ....

M.W.: Myra. M-Y-R-A, Myra.

D.S.: Myra. What was your maiden name, Mrs. Wood?

M.W.: Sandidce.

D.S.: Sanddish?

M.W.: S-A-N-D-I-D-C-E.

D.S.: Sandidce, that's an unusual one for this area, isn't it?

M.W.: Yes, right in this area it is but in the Amhurst section there are quite a few.

D.S.: Oh, I see, you are from Amhurst.

M.W.: No, my Father is .... from Amhurst.

D.S.: I see.

M.W.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Now, where is it that you were born and brought up,  
Mr. Wood?

L.W.: Albemarle County.

D.S.: Albemarle County, right on the foothills of the mountains?

L.W.: That's right, close about 4 miles from here. Right on  
the mountains.

D.S.: Alright now, ... what was the nearest area in the mountain  
to your home, ... Sugar Hollow or .... where?

L.W.: No, I'm way away from Sugar Holler.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: I'm back in the Blue Ridge back this way.

D.S.: The Blue Ridge?

L.W.: Back this way.....

D.S.: I get it, alright. And, where were you born, Mrs. Wood?

M.W.: In West Virginia.

D.S.: In West Virginia, how did you get down here?

M.W.: I came down here as a teacher.

D.S.: Uhhuh. O.K. So, where did you teach?

M.W.: First I started in a one room school in Avon.

D.S.: Yea.

M.W.: Then I taught in \_\_\_\_\_ and when I finished I taught at Rockfish down in Greenville.

D.S.: Oh. ... So you had the teaching of all the classes? That I've heard is quite a job?

M.W.: Well, it is. I don't know sometimes I hated to see just about as much as you could do then as you can now.

D.S.: Yea. Right.

M.W.: Course there are so many different things now that attract children attentions that did not advance as it use to be.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yes. Right. The children were more obidence then...

M.W.: That's right. That's right.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you have many mountain children that were in your school?

M.W.: Well, most of them were right here in this section. I did have one little boy really .... lived in the mountains.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.W.: But the rest of them didn't, lived in this section.

D.S.: How was he dressed?

M.W.: Oh, he was dressed just about like these children. I mean like the rest of the children in the school were dressed. ... I guess because his parents associated with people in this section.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.W.: Neatly dressed little feller.

D.S.: Uhhuh. O.K..

L.W.: It come to me, I told you it was Blue Ridge, it was not Blue Ridge .... ah, what's the name of that mountain range .... It come to my mind ... Keep on talking I'll tell you.

D.S.: Would you ....

L.W.: On the Blue Ridge, ... it's on the Blue Ridge where I lived but it was Ennis ... Ennis Mountain.

M.W.: I'd get a small map of Ennis.

L.W.: Ennis Mountain. I was very close to that. Ennis Mountain going around this way.

D.S.: I got it.

L.W.: Ennis Mountain, you got that?

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: That's where I was born and raised across the mountain.

D.S.: Alright.

L.W.: Ennis Mountain.

D.S.: Uhhuh. O.K..

L.W.: In Albemarle County.

D.S.: Well, lets start with what your home was like when you were a little boy? I'm going to take you back when you were a little boy. Uh, ... how many were in your family?

L.W.: My family?

D.S.: How many children?

L.W.: It was 6 of us.

D.S.: Six?

L.W.: Six of us.

D.S.: That was a small family.

L.W.: That was a small family but we didn't have a valuable home, our home was a log cabin like.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Right.

L.W.: A log cabin, ... when I come up.

D.S.: That's right. Did you use mud for chink or what did you use?

L.W.: Yea, it had been mud used for chink. Take paper ... take newspaper ... take paper and wad it , you know to keep air out. ... All way around.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Old house, old common log house.

D.S.: Right.

L.W.: That's where I was raised, right there.

D.S.: Did your father build it, do you know?

L.W.: Yes, my Father built it, that's right.

D.S.: How many rooms were in that house?

L.W.: I think it's just 3 rooms.

D.S.: Three rooms?

L.W.: Three rooms.

D.S.: What was the roof made of? Shingles or what?

L.W.: Roof made out that ole tar paper, you know.

D.S.: Tar paper?

L.W.: Tar paper.

D.S.: I imagine snow came in occasionally, didn't it?

L.W.: Sure it did! I've got any morning and couldn't all ...

... didn't have bed for all of us, ... some of us had to sleep on the floor ....

D.S.: Yea. (Laughed)

L.W.: I've got up many morning, snow in January and February done sift all in, you know....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: ...around on top of us on the floor.

D.S.: Right.

L.W.: My Mother had to get up and sweep it off and clean up every morning.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: It happened, I remember as well as I'm sitting here in this chair.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Sure. ... How many acres did your father own?

L.W.: Well, we lived on my Grandfather's place .....

D.S.: O.K..

L.W.: ....and he owned over 200 acres.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: At that time .... my Grandfather, we lived on his place.

D.S.: O.K..

L.W.: That's the way it was.

D.S.: Now, on this 200 acres .... uh ... was it very rocky?

L.W.: Not too rocky. No, it wasn't too rocky, ... not too rocky.

D.S.: O.K.. Then you had gardens?

L.W.: Yea, we had gardens. ... We made gardens ... had an ole spring down below the house there thad to tote water 20 - 25 feet up to the door there, ... right up here.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Big spring up there. Great big spring ... go down there dip your bucket in there and of course you had to bring it back up here to the house.

D.S.: Yes.

L.W.: Yea, and had great big Persimmon trees around it. Around the spring ... Uhhuh.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: My Mother use to go down the hill from where we lived take her washing down the hill, ... you know take water in the ole wash tub and wash down at the creek.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Keep from bringing water up ... Wash the clothes down there at the creek.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: When we boys ... would go down there as children and play in the water, you know.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Had a big swimming pool down there. Go down there every day, every evening me and my brother and swim in the pool ... down below the house.

D.S.: You had a soft life, you didn't have to work then? You didn't have any chores?

L.W.: No, didn't have no choice, that's right.

M.W.: No, no chores, didn't have no work to do, that's what she is asking you?

D.S.: Chores?

L.W.: Oh yes, we had work to do

D.S.: Oh, alright.

M.W.: If you didn't have to work, you'd go there.

L.W.: Oh yes, we won't workin' we'd go there ....

D.S.: Alright.

L.W.: ...but we had a ton of work to do everyday.

D.S.: Alright, did you have any special jobs that were yours to do?

L.W.: Well, my special job was goin' down and bringin' wood out.

Had to bring wood as far as here as some of these houses up here. When we was children, me and my brothers, we'd bring it to the wood pile and cut it up.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: That was our special job, even in the winter time.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Yea. Cut down a pole; you know, he'd get on one end, my brother would get on one end and I'd get on one end and bring it to the wood pile then cut it up ....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: ...and bring it in.

D.S.: Right.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: What did you raise in your gardens?

L.W.: Oh, we'd raised string beans, all kind of vegetables, corn and stuff like that.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Just vegetables.

D.S.: Yea. How big were the gardens, do you recall?

L.W.: Oh, I don't know. ... Right good size gardens.

D.S.: How did you keep your vegetables over the winter?

L.W.: Well, my Mother would can them and we set them under the bed in the room where the fire was at. ... You know, we didn't have no place like you got now.

D.S.: Yes.

L.W.: Just shove them up under the bed to keep them from freezing. ... We put some ole coats and stuff up over top of them to keep them from freezing.

D.S.: How about cabbages? How did you take care of cabbage?

L.W.: Well, we didn't take care of cabbages. ... Some of the old people buried them, ... we never did.

D.S.: Yes.

L.W.: Turned them down, you know.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Yea, but we never did do it but I know people to do it and I saw it done.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you go up in the mountains and visit any of the families up there?

L.W.: Yes ma'am, I've been up in the mountains. A little place over here they call Deadtown.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Some colored people lived in there ... I visited in there a whole lot in there.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: That's up against Ennis Mountain.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Alright, now, did they live about the same way as you did?

L.W.: Just about the same way! Just about the same way.

D.S.: Alright.

L.W.: Just about the same way.

D.S.: Now, what animals did you have?

L.W.: We didn't have nothin' but a cow. Just had a cow.

D.S.: No chickens?

L.W.: Yea, had chickens and a cow.

D.S.: No hogs?

M.W.: Hogs?

L.W.: Yea, we had hogs. That's right, chickens and hogs...

D.S.: O.K..

L.W.: ... a cow.

D.S.: No horses?

L.W.: No, no horses.

D.S.: No mules?

L.W.: No, no mules?

D.S.: So, you had to plow your garden by hand?

L.W.: By hand. Yea, we worked it by hoe by hand.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Right. Did you grow enough corn so you could  
make it into corn meal?

L.W.: Oh, yes ma'am.

D.S.: Where was the mill?

L.W.: Right down the road here a little piece, not far from here.

D.S.: O.K.

L.W.: Up beside Ennis Mountain now ... all that side of Ennis Mountain. Had a ole water mill there ground corn made meal.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Cause I've took a sack of meal ... uh, carried a bushel of corn on my shoulder ... bring it from my home up there and made meal out of it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you pay the miller or did he take a toll?

L.W.: Took a toll. He took a toll. He took a toll.

D.S.: That's pretty universal through out all the area.

L.W.: Yes ma'am, yes ma'am he took a toll.

D.S.: Did you grow wheat?

L.W.: Grow wheat, my Grandfather did ... but I was own Page as a boy, he growed wheat.

D.S.: He did?

L.W.: Yes. ... I've been here ... went with him we took meal and made flour. To the mill up there on the other side of Greenfield there beside up Ennis Mountain where they ground wheat and made flour.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Down here we'd take some on the wagon and take it up there ... You'd be gone all day with a horse and wagon, you know.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Make some flour .....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: ... at the flour mill.

D.S.: Then would your grandfather share that flour with your family?

L.W.: Yes. Yea, that's right.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Did your father have any brothers or sisters?

L.W.: Yes, he had some brothers.

D.S.: Did they live on your grandfather's?

L.W.: No, they didn't live on my Grandfather's place.

D.S.: Uhhuh. O.K..

L.W.: They lived around in this section here. Back of Blue Ridge Mountain now.

D.S.: Yea. Now, when it came on to Winter time, did you get in extra supply of food?

L.W.: Yes ma'am, we'd get in an extra supply of food.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Around, along in the Fall of the year we'd kill our hogs, maybe 2 or 3 hogs, ... have a lot of meat ...

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: ...have a lot of flour ...

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: ...put in. ... So much meal put in a barrel.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Fixing up for Winter.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Did you raise sugar cane?

L.W.: No ma'am, I didn't raise none but I saw it raised around here. But I never really raised none.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: A whole lot of people raised sugar cane and made lasses.

D.S.: uhhuh.

L.W.: They cooked it around here.

D.S.: Sure.

L.W.: I know how it was done.

D.S.: Yes. Just think you had to buy your molasses?

L.W.: Yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Yes ma'am, we had to buy lasses. Use to come in great big ole barrels, you know, use to call it lasse straps.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Great big ole 50 gallon barrels ... at the store. You go down with your container ... maybe have a faucet in there, they'd turn that faucet on and you'd want a half gallon or a quart or something like that, they'd run it until run full.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Uh, ... how about apple butter?

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you make apple butter?

L.W.: Made apple butter, yes ma'am. We made apple butter.

D.S.: Was it a work time or was it a play time? Did you make fun out of it?

L.W.: Yea, we made fun out of it, it was a work time but we still had fun.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Cooking apple butter, you know.

D.S.: Sure.

L.W.: Put it on real early of the mornin' and take it off at 8 or 9 o'clock at night. Cooked it all day.

D.S.: Did you take turn stirring the apple butter?

L.W.: Took turns. Take turns ... take turns stirring the apple butter.

D.S.: If anybody touched ... let the paddle touch the side of the kettle, what happened?

L.W.: You'd burn it.

D.S.: You didn't get a kiss?

L.W.: What you mean, flop on you? Pop on you?

D.S.: No. ... If the paddle touched the side of the kettle, ... while you were stirring, ... did you get a kiss?

L.W.: No. ... What you mean ....

M.W.: No.

L.W.: No, (Laughed) we didn't get a kiss.

D.S.: No. O.K.. Did you play any music while you were doing the apple butter?

L.W.: No, we didn't play no music.

D.S.: Nobody played any music?

L.W.: No ... music was played around.

D.S.: Did anybody take a drink of moonshine?

L.W.: Might have done that, I don't know. I don't know nothin' about moonshine .... I was just a boy.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. ... O.K..

L.W.: We use to have corn-shuckin's.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Haul it up ... get your corn up and haul it up in great big piles then have a whole bunch come around and shuck this corn out. That time you might have something to drink around there then. Put a jug of cider or something in the pile of corn, you know.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: It was a whole lot of boys and girls around shuckin' ... which every one got to that jug first ... big jug of cider ... got the first drink.

D.S.: Uhhuh. (Laughed) O.K.. Did anybody play much music ... fiddles, or guitars, or banjos?

L.W.: Well, it wasn't much music played. Did have one man went through here played the banjo right much.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Played the banjo right much.

D.S.: Were the banjos bought banjos or were they home made?

L.W.: Bought banjos. This was a bought banjo.

D.S.: O.K.. (Laughed) You're older than the old plush. You didn't realize this. (Laughing)

L.W.: No, children these days don't realize what you had to go through with when I come up.

> D.S.: How about shoes .. did you all wear shoes all year round?

L.W.: NO MA'AM! We was lucky to get a pair of old Road shoes in the Fall of the year before Christmas. That's them ole hard broad-am shoes. When it would get cold they would be so hard you couldn't hardly get them on your foot of the mornin'. You had to take tallet (tallow) ... beef tallet and grease them shoes every night and make them turn warn. We didn't get but one pair a season and that would be in the Fall of the year. Got them broad and we'd wear them till the Spring of the year and soon as Spring of year come you had to take them off and go bare footed.

D.S.: Sure.

L.W.: Cause I remember I use to hate so bad to go bare footed, the other children didn't but I always hated to go bare-footed in the summer. I got to have some ole piece of shoe and just tie it on my feet like, you know. But, I didn't like to go bare-footed ... but others did but I didn't.

D.S.: EVERYBODY LOVED TO GO BAREFOOT .... What was wrong with you?

L.W.: I don't know. But, I never did like to go bare-footed. I'd drag anything on my foot to keep from going bare-footed.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Remember that as well as I'm sitting here.

D.S.: Did your father have a thing to repair shoes in case they wore out? A Last?

L.W.: Yea, he had a Last.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Used a Last on shoes. Yea, he had a Last.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you use on your heels, ... like a little pony shoe?

L.W.: No, ... I don't think we used that.

D.S.: Did you use hob nails?

L.W.: Used hob nails.

D.S.: You did!

L.W.: Uhhuh. Uhhuh.

D.S.: Did that help you when you were walking in the snow or did that make you slip?

L.W.: Well, it always keep you from slippin'.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Keep you from slippin'.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Alright now, it is Winter time ... You've got all the wood cut for the day ....uh ....

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: ... and you can't go out and work in the garden because it is Winter ....

L.W.: No, ... cause it's Winter.

D.S.: So, what did yall do of the evenings?

L.W.: Well, just played around the house there, get in wood of the evenings ... chores in the Winter time. And, when we got in all of the wood for nights ... all of the children ....

M.W.: We call it night . ... think ....

D.S.: Yea.

M.W.: We call it night. What did you do then? After you have done all your work and probably had eaten supper, what did you do then?

L.W.: Well, we just played around in the house.

D.S.: Nobody visited? Nobody came to visit you? You didn't go visit other people?

L.W.: Well, we went some, ... yes. That's right.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. ... It wasn't that much visiting then?

L.W.: Well, that's right, you don't have that much visiting then. That's right. Certainly right. ... Yea.

D.S.: How about Christmas, how did you celebrate Christmas?

L.W.: Oh, just celebrated that in a big way.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: YEA, in a big way. Course then you didn't get nothin' but a orange, and a little candy and a sock, something like that.

D.S.: Yea..

L.W.: Then we'd make out ... we'd have a big .. we'd have a little Christmas tree around and make out and make a big thing out of it and Santa Clause would come see us and be a snow on the ground and our parents would tell us, 'You kids have to go to bed early tonight cause Santa Clause'. We'd all get in bed as soon as we could on Christmas Eve Night ... cause Santa Clause, looking for Santa Clause. Get up EARLY the next mornin' ... We'd celebrate that ... we'd put off fire crackers , you know, Scrip, you would call it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Shoot them around, you know. Get up about 2 or 3 o'clock in the mornin' ... then we'd walk all ... Ole people would tell us Santa Clause come down the chimney, you know. We'd get up, be snow on the ground, we'd walk all around to see weather we could see Santa Clause's tracks whar he'd come down the chimney and come in the house.

(Laughing) Yea.

D.S.: (Laughing) Did you do much visiting around on Christmas?

L.W.: Oh yea, we went from house to house on Christmas Day.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: House to house, visiting round, children did.

D.S.: Sure.

L.W.: Like they'd come here, and then go to another house and then to another one.

D.S.: Sure.

L.W.: They celebrated that highly, Christmas on Christmas Day.

D.S.: Yea. Lots of good things to eat, too.

L.W.: Lots of good things to eat, ... different things, ... as well as baked different kinds of cakes and all kinds of meat and all of that.

D.S.: Did you ever do the Kris Kringlers?

L.W.: No.

D.S.: You don't know whatthat is?

L.W.: No.

D.S.: I'll tell you when this is over. (Laughed) O.K., ... now, let's get into the school.

L.W.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: How far away was your school?

L.W.: About 4 miles, ... 4 miles.

D.S.: Four miles.

L.W.: Between 4 or 5 miles.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: I use to come over Albemarle County...go to a little school down here in Nelson County where my wife taught at.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: All the children come from there ... to that little ... one room, log school house down there where she taught.

D.S.: O.K..

L.W.: That was an ole log house ... school when I went to it. They finally built a nice school there and she come here to teach. It was an ole log school out there.

D.S.: O.K..

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Was that for 7 months or 9 months of the year?

L.W.: That was for 7 months then.

D.S.: Alright.

L.W.: See, big boys went to school then, ... they didn't get much learnin' ... When they got so ... weather break so they could work ... the parents took them out of school. Put them to work.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: They couldn't go to school unless it was a bad day or something like that then.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Wouldn't let them go like they do today cause they had to work.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: How far did you go through school?

L.W.: Well, I didn't go too far. I went to 4th grade.

D.S.: Yea. And, you were taught Reading, and Writing, and Arithmetic, History?

L.W.: No, wasn't taught no History.

D.S.: Just the three Rs.

L.W.: Just the three Rs.

D.S.: O.K., I'm sure you taught all the things, didn't you?

Yea. ... Uh, ... now, how did your father make any money?

L.W.: Well, just by working for ... around on the farm for the farmers, you know, white people, farmers, you know.

D.S.: Have you any idea how much he made?

L.W.: Well, some days he didn't make but 50 cents!

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: All day long.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Work all day long for 50 cents. ... I know one thing, he worked for a white family down here in Albemarle... and

he worked all week. My Father worked all week for that family and when Saturday night come they'd give him a hog jowl. Now, I know that's what I'm talking about.

D.S.: And he continued working for that? Pay?

L.W.: Continued working for it. If it paid him any money might give 50 cents or 25 cents a day!

D.S.: (Whistled)

L.W.: And I thined korn for them people down in there, white people, thined korn, I would thin korn for 10 cents a day.

D.S.: It was terrible, ... the ....

L.W.: Yea!

D.S.: ... but, still when you think about it, that was more money than it would be today. Much more.

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you sell any of your chickens or eggs?

L.W.: No, we didn't sell any.

D.S.: You didn't?

L.W.: No. We just had a few hens that layed some eggs for us to use.

D.S.: When you went to the store then you didn't take any of your butter or anything like that?

L.W.: Oh yes, we took some butter sometimes and Mother would sell a dozen or two eggs. We'd take them sometimes.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Yea. And, then with that she'd buy ...

L.W.: Buy some groceries or something she would need.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: She'd give me three ... I remember my Mother would give me 3 eggs and tell me to get some coal-oil, you know. We didn't have no lights like you got now.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Light. ... I'd get some coal-oil with 3 eggs at a time.

- D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Bring it home.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. So, 25 cents went further, it sure id. Uh, ...  
how did your family then find the money to buy shoes  
for you?

L.W.: Well, you didn't get but one pair a year. I reckon they  
kept saving up, get them ole , they wasn't too high.  
They wasn't too high.

D.S.: Did your father never peeled any bark?

L.W.: Yes ma'am, he peeled bark. I remember him peeling bark.

D.S.: O.K..

L.W.: Yea, he peeled bark.

D.S.: Did you do any of that?

L.W.: I done some of that myself.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Sold it. Peeled it, put it in the mountain and let it  
dry out and then bring it out ... it snowed then.

D.S.: Yea. Did you make any rail road ties?

L.W.: I made them. I've hewed them .. railroad ties.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Good and heavy.

D.S.: So, that was another way that you made money.

L.W.: made some money.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Did your family make any moonshine?

L.W.: No, they didn't make no moonshine.

D.S.: Nobody around you did?

L.W.: No.

D.S.: Did you ever visit any of the places up in the mountain where they did?

L.W.: No, I have not.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: I never visited no place that made moonshine.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: But, I never did drink myself. I never did drink.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: I ain't bought as much as a quart of whiskey in my life.

D.S.: Really! (Both laughed) How about church? Where was your church?

L.W.: Right on down the road here ... a little piece from the school house.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Right down the road here.

D.S.: So, you then still had a 4 miles walk to church?

L.W.: Yea! Certainly you did! Certainly you did!

D.S.: Oh, boy.

L.W.: Certainly you did!

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Well, tell me about your courting. How did you court your wife?

L.W.: Court ... on foot. ... This my second wife here.

D.S.: Oh!

L.W.: This is my second wife.

D.S.: O.K..

L.W.: My first wife is dead.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: The one I raised 8 children by, she'd dead. This is my second wife here. We ain't got no children.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Yea. Had walking on ... I walked for 4 or 5 miles to see a girl. Then we'd get in the road on down here to our church, the Greenhill church about 6 miles, ain't it Myra? Walked about 6 miles, but the girl in the road, they didn't pay no attention. They just walked.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Yea, just walked.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Were the weddings nice and simple?

L.W.: Yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Simple weddings.

D.S.: Did you ever see, ... attend any weddings in the mountains?

L.W.: Let me see, ... I don't believe I did.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Uh, this is not a very happy subject, but when you were a little boy ... uh, they didn't have embalming.....

L.W.: No.

D.S.: So, what would you do when a person died? Would they keep the body in the house or ....

L.W.: Kept the body in the house.

D.S.: O.K..

-L.W.: embalming anyway, kept the body in the house.

D.S.: Did you make your own caskets or did you buy them?

L.W.: Well, in my time they bought them. You didn't have to make them. I know a man did make them but you bought it after he made it.

D.S.: I see. Did you buy monuments or use rocks?

L.W.: Use rocks mostly.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Use rocks.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Yea. Was it the same up on the mountain, do you know?

L.W.: Yea, same, the same.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Same up in the mountain.

D.S.: Yea. Hey, did you have an orchard?

L.W.: Huh?

D.S.: An orchard?

L.W.: Orchard? Yes'am.

D.S.: What?

L.W.: You mean apple orchard?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Yea, we had some apple orchards.

D.S.: Peach?

L.W.: Peach and apple.

D.S.: Cherry?

L.W.: Cherries, plum, and all that stuff. Fruit trees all round the house.

D.S.: Did you sell any of those?

L.W.: No, we didn't sell none of them. Just ... my Mother just them up for the winter.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: We didn't sell none of them.

D.S.: Yea. Did your mother make her own yeast?

L.W.: Yeast, yes. Made it out of potatoes?

D.S.: Yes.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: She'd take potatoes and do what, do you know what she did with it?

L.W.: Well, she boiled them and look like she took the... I can't remember exactly how she made that. I know she made yeast. Take the water ...

D.S.: Do you know how to do it?

M.W.: I don't think they made yeast but ...

L.W.: You put a yeast cake in there. ...

M.W.: Yes, but that ... yeast is what she is talking about did you make.

L.W.: No, we didn't make no yeast.

D.S.: Oh!

L.W.: You buy that at the store, yeast cake.

D.S.: One fellow said his mother use to make yeast by letting potatoes and cornmeal ferment, but there must have been more to it than that. But, a little boy wouldn't notice her.

M.W.: That's right.

L.W.: No, wouldn't notice it.

D.S.: No. How about medicines. Did your mother know herbs?

L.W.: No, she didn't know nothin' about herbs.

D.S.: Uhhuh. What would she do when you caught a cold?

L.W.: Well, in a way she did know something about herbs. I had the bronkites so bad when I was a boy. And, ... the other children didn't have it but I had it, ah, terrible bad. .... Just sometimes...one time I couldn't hardly get my breath. She used different kind of ... mutton tallow and Vicks salve.. ... Vicks on me, ... grease my chest and I'd put red flannel on my chest along in November and I'd wore that red flannel all Winter. It would keep breaking that cold in my chest.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Red flannel.

M.W.: that little thing like I use to get. Mama use to get.

L.W.: Yea.

M.W.: Those ... different little plants.

L.W.: Yea.

M.W.: That's the truth.

L.W.: Eggs.

M.W.: Like Smith use to get.....

L.W.: Yea.

M.W.: She's talking about stuff like that.

L.W.: gemsin'.

D.S.: Ginsing.

L.W.: Yea. Don't grow around like it use to be.

D.S.: Yea. Did you ever pick any Ginseng to sell it?

L.W.: No.

D.S.: No?

L.W.: No.

D.S.: Did you ever hear about ... Peppermint tea, if you had a cold?

L.W.: Pepper tea?

D.S.: Peppermint tea.

L.W.: I heard about it, yes'am.

D.S.: You never had some?

L.W.: No, ... I heard about it.

D.S.: Uh, ... did your mother ever make an onion poltice?

L.W.: Yes'am, she made onion poltice.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did that help?

L.W.: That hoped. That hoped.

D.S.: Bark of the White Oak, did she ever use that?

L.W.: She didn't use that.

D.S.: A Dollar weed?

L.W.: She might that, as a boy I don't remember that.

No, she could have used that though.

D.S.: Was you ever biten by a snake?

L.W.: No, ma'am.

D.S.: Did you ever see anybody that was?

L.W.: I don't believe that I have. I haven't see nobdoy had been. I heard some people that say they have been biten by one but I didn't see them.

D.S.: Did you ever know what they did for it?

L.W.: No, I don't.



D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Did you stay with any of the families while you were teaching?

M.W.: Yes, at first I did.

D.S.: You did! Uh, ... were they in the mountain or down ..

M.W.: No, they were right here.

D.S.: Right in this section. O.K.. Uh, .. how about the food you got when you were there, did you think it was good food?

M.W.: Yea, real good food. They had good food. I mean, I guess it was because at that time most of the people working at different factories and of course, they had a garden but they didn't do farming to amount to anything.

D.S.: Yea.

M.W.: They ate good.

D.S.: Uhhuh. When did you come here?

M.W.: In '42.

D.S.: '42, I see. Yea, that was quite a while ago. (Laughed)

M.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea. (Laughing) You been here awhile. I guess we can call you a Virginian. (All laughed) Ah, ... well, I'm trying to think. ... Did you have any toy when you were a little boy?

L.W.: Oh yes, ... we had some-old wagon and stuff like that.

D.S.: You did?

L.W.: Yea, ... toys. Santa Clause would bring them to us.

D.S.: Did you ever make whistles?

L.W.: Yes'am, we made whistles.

→ D.S.: How?

L.W.: Take a week and cut it out, you know.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: A weed about as big as your finger and cut it out, then cut a place right in there like that for your whistle, then put it in your mouth and whistle through it.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you ever use a whistle to call your neighbors?

L.W.: No, I don't think we did.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: No.

D.S.: Sounds to me as those you all weren't that neighborly.

L.W.: No.

D.S.: You weren't?

L.W.: Not too neighborly. We'd go around see our neighbors.

M.W.: They were neighborly but...uh...well, the fact is that you didn't have time to visit everybody had his ...

L.W.: Pasel of work to do.

M.W.: ...pasel of work to do and then.... Well, most of the time you see people would be on Sunday.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.W.: They would be nobody had anything definate to do but it was just a struggle to keep things going you had to do..

L.W.: Through the week.

M.W.: Yea, in order to ... live.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.W.: Carry water a distance and ...

L.W.: Cut the wash wood ....

M.W.: ...washing and ironing, cutting wood and ...

—L.W.: .....and ironing.

M.W.: ....then in the Summer time, working the garden ...

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.W.: Those who worked at the factory, of course, left the ones home to work the gardens and well, just too much to do to visit very often.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.W.: But, if anyone got sick everybody go help ....

L.W.: Come in, yea.

M.W.: ...people need anykind of help everybody would be glad to go help and .. but, as far as go to someone's house and just set down and talk they didn't have time for it.

D.S.: Yea.

M.W.: And, they didn't do it much. Even some neighbors go help even a person do a large washing but you'd go there to help, you usually go help not to just to...

D.S.: Yea.

M.W.: Well, not to ... not to socialize, I say ... like they do now.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

M.W.: They really didn't have time to socialize like they do now.

D.S.: Well, like bean stringing, did you have any bean stringings?

M.W.: No, we didn't have any.

D.S.: No? How did you dry your beans?

L.W.: Well, ...

M.W.: the children. ... They had a lot of children. you'd teach those children to string those beans.

L.W.: String those beans.

M.W.: Yea, we'd do it individually.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

M.W.: You know, ... each family.

D.S.: Yea.

M.W.: All the children from the crib up almost learned how to do things like that and each family more or less independant.

D.S.: Yea.

M.W.: Other than to say them others needed help. They'd sacrifice anything to go help that other person, but it wasn't a lot of socializing.

D.S.: No. How about it, if your father told you to do something did you ever say, 'I wouldn't'?

L.W.: No, I didn't but I know some boys to say, 'I wouldn't do it.'

D.S.: Really?

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Well, what happened to them?

L.W.: They'd get a brush on them. (Laughed) They didn't listen.

D.S.: (LAUGHING!)

L.W.: Didn't promise it to them either. If they promise you one, you're going to get it.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: You better mind your parents.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: I remember one time, I was a boy, just a boy. My Father was working on a sawmill and I had to carry his dinner to him everyday, ... right good way, about 2 miles or more... I had to carry it. My Mother fixed his dinner, he'd go on to work in the mornin' and I'd carry him is dinner

ever day. ... A family across the creek, living alone side the road in a little log house had some children, alone my age, some boys and girls. And, I stopped there one day. I had been goin' and comin' pretty good, had no trouble. I stopped there one day and got playin' with them ... and I got home and my Mother said, 'Where you been so long?' I said, 'Mama, I just stopped over there playing with them little ole Wallace children.' She said, 'I didn't send you to play with them Wallace children, I sent you to carry your Daddy's dinner and I've been looking for you to come back here.' I stayed for about 2 hours, I reckon before I got home. (Laughed) She said, 'Never mind, I'm goin' brush you ... to count on that. I'm goin' to give you a brushin'!' When she said, 'Never mind, you can count on it' you might not get it that day, she is goin' to give it to you and when she gives it to you she bring thoughts what she is goin' to give it to you for.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Children mind people, parents in those day. Didn't they?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Parents say they are goin' to do something, they done it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Children better do what they told them .. when I come up.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: That's right, yea.

L.W.: They don't do it now!

D.S.: How about if all you children had all the seats in a room and some grown ups came in? Would you stand up?

L.W.: STAND UP! You better stand up!

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Had a dinner on Sunday or something like that, then children didn't rush to the table before the grown people got there.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Know better. We'd be out in the yard playing, didn't come in the house until the grown ups finish eating.

Then my Mother or Father come and say, 'Come on in and eat your dinner', then children didn't look for nothin' else.

D.S.: Yea.

O.W.: But now, the children be the first ones at the table, got the best food on the table and pick over the meal.

D.S.: (Laughed) Yea.

L.W.: Certainly right.

D.S.: What kind of games would you play?

L.W.: Well, we played baseball or ball games, something like that.

D.S.: Hide-n-seek?

L.W.: Hide-n-seek.

D.S.: Chase the fox?

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea?

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Ride a bicycle. Had a race tract for a little ole bicycle or something like that.

D.S.: Oh! Listen to him bragging that he had a bicycle!

M.W.: Uhhuh. (Laughing)

L.W.: Had a little ole something we called, like a bicycle, you know. We had a lot of fun off of that.

D.S.: (Laughing) Yea. O.K.. Uh, ... nobody had any dances?

L.W.: Oh yes, they had dances.

D.S.: You said that there was no music!

L.W.: Well, they had....

M.W.: They didn't have any music, you know, at apple butter makings or anything like that.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Uhhuh.

M.W.: But they would have, they called them that day, a party...

L.W.: Party, yes.

M.W.: Yea, they had parties and they had music then. Yea, they had Victrola music or somebody played.....

L.W.: Playin' a banjo ro something like that.

M.W.: ... some type of music.

L.W.: Some type of music. Uhhuh.

D.S.: Uhhuh. What kind of dancing was it, Square dancing or ...

L.W.: Square dancin', a whole lot of it Square dancin'.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Call and all that stuff.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Swing round in a ring, , changing partners  
and all that. (Laughed)

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. You'd get up early in the morning?

L.W.: Yes'am.

D.S.: About what time?

L.W.: Well, we'd get up ... aaah shucks, we'd get up in the  
mornin' about 5 o'clock, something like that.

D.S.: And then?

L.W.: Get up earlier than we do now. (Laughed)

D.S.: (Laughed) Yea. And so, then you had certain things  
you'd have to do before you went to school?

L.W.: Oh, yes'am we had certain things. We'd come from school  
and have certain things we'd have to do even.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: In the evenings.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: You didn't go in, throw you books down and go on and do  
nothin'. You had certain things you had to do.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Now they come in and they ain't got nothin' certain to do.

D.S.: I KNOW!

L.W.: They ain't got nothin'.

D.S.: Yea. Uh, ... did you ever play any practical jokes on  
anybody?

L.W.: I didn't do that, no.

D.S.: You didn't?

L.W.: No.

D.S.: Did anybody play any on you?

L.W.: Oh, yes. Yea, played on me but I never did play any jokes on anybody.

D.S.: Such as what? What was played on you?

L.W.: Well, tell just kind of ole tales, you know, different jokes. I can't remember now exactly what they did.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Had a big laugh off of it.

D.S.: Yea. How about ghost stories. Did you ever tell any ghost stories at night?

L.W.: My Father had.

D.S.: Can you remember any.

L.W.: I remember he'd set around the fire at night and he would have one of us sitting on his knee, you know. ... It would be a cold night like this. He'd say, 'This would be a good night for ole bear walk'. (Laughed) We'd say, 'Crazy as a hog, ain't no bear comin' out tonight'. He'd say, 'Yes, they will too'. We'd settle there and get so screed around, you know. Run around the fire place ... He'd tell them ole jokes, you know, about different things, what would happen and all that stuff.

D.S.: Yea. (Laughed)

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you ever see any bears when you were little?

L.W.: No, I never did see any.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: My Father made us so screed of seeing them we didn't want to see any. (Both laughing) That's right.

D.S.: Did you ever do any hunting?

L.W.: Oh yea, I done a lot of hunting.

D.S.: What would you hunt?

L.W.: Ma'am?

D.S.: What would you hunt?

L.W.: Hunt rabbits, squirrels, possums, coons, all that stuff.

D.S.: Ground hogs?

L.W.: Ground hogs, that's right.

D.S.: And, you would eat them too, wouldn't you?

L.W.: Oh, yes!

D.S.: Good food.

L.W.: Good food. Got so now they wouldn't eat a rabbit. When I come up as a boy, if you got a rabbit you had something.

D.S.: Yea. Did you ever sell any rabbits?

L.W.: Yea, I've sold some rabbits. You could sell them.

D.S.: How much would you get for them?

L.W.: Twenty-five (25) cents a piece, that was good then.

D.S.: Hey, that was VERY good! (Whistled)

L.W.: Yea. I use to catch a whole lot of them in a trap. Trap rabbits, you know. I put traps.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Trap rabbits. If you caught a rabbit in them days I come up, you had a real meal.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: They were real meals. Now you don't trap or kill them. Poison wouldn't let you kill them.

D.S.: Yea. Well, there are a lot of them.

L.W.: Yea, I done a lot of hunting.

D.S.: Twenty-five cents a rabbit, most of them got 15!

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: You'd take these to that store her ... or where would you sell them?

L.W.: You sell them around these stores around here.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Somebody would want a rabbit, you sell it to them.

D.S.: Was Anderson's store still here?

L.W.: Yes. Been there for years. Been there for years.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

L.W.: Been there for years.

D.S.: Is that the one you always used?

L.W.: Yes'am, we used that store.

M.W.: When you was a child you used the store down in Batesville.

L.W.: Yes, Batesville section.

D.S.: Oh! Oh!

L.W.: Batesville section, down North. We used that all the time.

D.S.: Not a thing now but ole logs.

M.W.: Yes.

L.W.: But Batesville is where I was raised at come up here.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Pick up Chestnuts and sell them for so much a pound.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Three or 4 cents a pound.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: We'd buy our shoes sometimes just pickin' up Chestnuts, just selling Chestnuts.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Yea.

D.S.: That was terrible when that blite came through.

L.W.: Yes, you use to be a lot of Chestnuts. We'd sell them for 3 or 4 cents a pound.

D.S.: Right. How about the drought, because the drought came along right after the Chestnuts were gone.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Did that affect your farming at all?

L.W.: Oh, yes'am, you couldn't raise nothin' with the drought. Certain you can't.

D.S.: How did you all manage?

L.W.: Best way we could.

M.W.: Raise things on the creek bank.

L.W.: Creek bank.

M.W.: If you had a creek running through your field you growed things as close to that as you could and that would help supply water.

D.S.: OF COURSE!

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Yes. And, most of the homes were close to a creek, weren't they?

M.W.: Yes.

L.W.: Farm near a creek.

D.S.: Yea. They couldn't raise that much.

M.W.: No, it wasn't but still, you know, it was a help.

D.S.: Sure.

M.W.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Right. None of these big corn fields.

M.W.: No, not like that.

D.S.: No. ... Is there anything you want to tell about your childhood that I haven't asked?

L.W.: I don't remember what you asked.

D.S.: Oh, did your mother make your clothes?

L.W.: Oh yes, she made clothes, ... make shirts, pants, all that stuff.

D.S.: Overalls?

L.W.: Overalls.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: I remember when I was a boy, going to Sunday school. In them days, as a boy, when I was comin' up, you know young people was not allowed to put on long pants at a certain age. ... Couldn't put on long pants. You had to wear these little ole pants up to your knees and a blouse down over them. Put on a blouse, you know. I remember I had a pair of them ole blue jeans or something like that, you know, red blouse, red printed blouse like a stripe go through it, make it like a candy stripe. And, I wore that to Sunday school aaah, for a long time.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: You had to be near 21 years old before you put on long pants.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Better be.

D.S.: Did you pick huckleberries?

L.W.: I picked some, yes.

D.S.: Did you ever know of people starting fires deliberately so they would have a crop of huckleberries?

L.W.: No ma'am, no I don't but I know brush fires that got out and burned over mountains, you know.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: Then a crop of them come in there then. I don't know nobody starting any fires. Fires that would get out, forest fires, like that.

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: Get on a whole lot of land, then huckleberries would come in there.

D.S.: Yes.

L.W.: That's right.

D.S.: Yea. This has been very, very fascinating story that you have told.

L.W.: Yes ma'am.

D.S.: Wish ... I wish (Tape ends)

Afton, North, did you ever visit anywhere along in there?

L.W.: Up along Afton, yes'am I knew some people along up near Afton.

D.S.: Yes.

L.W.: I visit up there, I knew some of them.

D.S.: Are any of them still alive?

L.W.: No ma'am, practically everybody at least a lot of people along the side of the mountain coming down from the

Blue Ridge to here....

D.S.: Yea.

L.W.: But all are gone away now; sold out, all dead and all like of that. But, I visited around up there because colored people lived up there.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

L.W.: I use to visit up there.

D.S.: Yea. O.K.. Trying to get more names. Well, I sure do Thank-You very, very much.

L.W.: You're welcome, Mrs. Smith.

D.S.: And, remember you can tell you children that they can always