Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Cline
Part of the Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection, SdArch SNP-028
(SC# 4030)

Interview conducted at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cline between New Hope and Grottoes
By Amanda Moody
c. 1978

Transcribed by Allie Giroux and Victoria M. Edwards, 2009

Key
[AM:] Interviewer, Amanda Moody
[I2:] Interviewer 2
[MC:] Interviewee, Mr. Cline
[HC:] Mrs. Hazel Cline
[UM:] Unknown Male, apparent friend of Clines

{*} Unable to understand word
{**} Unable to understand more than one word
{—} Speaker is cut off or makes abrupt change in sentence

Interview corresponds to 028Cline (amended file)

Total interview length: 01:00:59 min.

[Begin audio file, 0:00:01]

MC: Must have been thirty or forty or something like that.

AM: Ok, I’m at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cline, and are we in New Hope now?

I2: Yeah, more or less.

AM: Between New Hope and Grottoes. And, now you had some land in the area of Jarman’s Gap is that right?

MC: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

AM: And you would have pastured cattle all through the pasture fence area on up to Black Rock Gap?

MC: I have yeah, we have yeah.

AM: And that would have brought you through the—now did you live up in Jarman’s Gap or did you live down here?

MC: Lived here.

AM: Lived here, so your land was mostly for grazing your cattle. When you brought the cattle up you did you bring them up the Black Rock Road?

MC: Exactly. Yeah.

AM: From Harriston up around Horse Head.

MC: That’s right.

AM: So that would have brought you past Black Rock Springs.

MC: Right up there yeah. Yeah.
AM: So now, you remember it was the hotel operating and so on when you would go by there?

MC: No, that’s the part that’s blank for me no not when I drove cattle. This hotel was out of the picture long, long ago. I believe it was standing when I used to go up there on outings.

AM: Mm-hmm. What kind of outings were these?

MC: Oh just young people go up there on Saturday or Sunday and picnic.

AM: Go up in the buggies?

MC: Mm-hmm.

AM: How long did it take you to get up there from here around noon?

MC: Oh, about two hours. Yeah.

AM: Just two hours? That was a pretty good road.

MC: It’s a good road, yeah, it was good road from here to—that was always a good road across Black Rock Gap because, good mountain road. There were so many mountain people lived back in there and they kept that road up. Sanderses and Harrises and Vias and Marshalls and all those people now, their descendents live out here around Harriston, Crimora.

AM: Now when you went up on picnics where—did you have the picnics right there at the springs?

MC: Yeah. These people that had cabins up there, they’d go up there, the men, they’d go up there and clean up all around on the side of the mountain and, they kept it real nice. You’d go up there and—

AM: So most of the trees were out of the area?

MC: Trees?

AM: The trees were mostly cut down?

MC: Oh, no, it was just, well yeah, sure, some of the trees were, but it was spotted with trees. It wasn’t all grown up in brush like it is now. I’m sure, I haven’t seen it for years. (chuckle)

AM: It’s quite grown up

MC: Yeah it was a nice clear place, lots of shade, nice place to have a picnic. The Beard children would go up there to the cabin and stay over Saturday, Sunday, take me along with them, I remember that very well.

AM: Did they have grandparents that would stay there all through the summer or just different people would go up and stay two weeks and then come back?

MC: That’s the way it’d usually work. They had parents that would go up there and stay, grandparents too probably I don’t know about that, but most of these cabins belonged to two or three families. One family would use them, y’know, one family and then another. I know the Beards and Mowrys (?) had a cabin and I’m pretty sure that the Shavers (?) and Wamplers had a cabin.

AM: About how many cabins were up there?

MC: Oh well. (chuckle)
HC: I asked you that last night, didn’t I?

MC: We talked about that last night, I don’t know. I suspect it was dozen.

AM: About when was this that you would go up?


AM: Now can you describe the area a little bit? You were talking about a ten pin alley before I turned on the tape. I wonder if we could go over some of the things that were up there when you would go up on picnics.

MC: Well the places they had, I suppose this ten pin alley was in operation when the hotel was there. I don’t know who, somebody I think from Grottoes had a kind of a company or something that put this thing up, these buildings.

AM: Was that Bob Miller?

MC: I don’t know who, don’t know anything about that. Wouldn’t know. But this ten pin alley was there and you had to pay a small amount to play. I remember that.

AM: Did you used to play?

MC: Yeah, I played. The only time I ever did play, I reckon. (laugh)

AM: Oh really?

MC: Yeah.

AM: There was only one ten pin alley when you went up there?

MC: Yeah, one ten pin alley. They had a hall where they cooked I don’t know what you’d want to call it but, a dining hall that fed people there.

AM: These are the people, not the people in the cottages but other people?

MC: That’s right. People would come in—people would come in, come in on I suppose I don’t know, but I just judged come into Harriston on the train and then hire somebody to take them up there on a horse and buggy and they’d go up there and spend the weekend, week or two weeks.

AM: Uh-huh. So it was like a hotel building up there, too.

MC: It was a hotel, yeah at first. And then it fell through I don’t know why, after they had the fire and it burned and fell through, why, it just never seemed to grow back again.

AM: Do you remember any conflict between two different people over the spring water? Between maybe the company and another fella, that might have been earlier then you went up there.

MC: No, I don’t—I do know that some of ‘em round here tried to get up a stock company and sell stock in that water, spring but that fell through. I don’t know enough about it to say anything about it.

AM: What can you tell me about the water itself, was it one spring or many springs?

MC: Oh, yeah, half a dozen just like the one you see there in that picture.

AM: All walled up like that?

MC: Yeah, scattered and they come right around in a kind of in a half moon right around
AM: Now how was the road? Was the road in a loop? Did the road go around the cabins or how did it work?

MC: No, it just kind of go in a flat place there and just to clear it off space.

AM: Where were the springs, were they above that road or below it?

MC: Above the road, above the cleared place. There was a stable there, and I don’t think I can’t tell you where that was but I know it was a stable there where they kept horses. People would go up on their horse, stay over a week or something like that, take feed along just keep their horse there with them. Horse and buggy of course could go and come.

AM: The hotel building, did that have two stories or three stories or?

MC: Two I suspect, I wouldn’t know much about that, I wouldn’t say much about that, but I’ve seen it. That’s the reason I asked you when it burnt (chuckle) whether I could really say. I got a picture of it in my mind but.

AM: It wasn’t this building was it in these pictures? That might’ve been earlier, I don’t know.

MC: Yeah. [they apparently look at the pictures for a few seconds in silence] That upper one there, which is the first one?

AM: I think those are both the same buildings and there’s another one on the back too, of the same building, I believe.

MC: Different. But, that upper building there is in my mind, that’s my picture of it.

HC: Now those steps there, do they go up to this building here that’s in that picture?

AM: Steps in this picture. Someone said they were steps going up to the spring. Could that be possible or was that earlier?

MC: Not to me, no.

AM: Well here’s another picture that has a different building in the background it looks like after a fire, that lower picture.

MC: Hmm. [another long pause of apparently looking at a picture]

HC: You said something about people all around here getting in their buggies and going out there when they heard about the fire, I was interested to know how they got word.

MC: Well, I guess somebody come out here, I remember that very well that. See, people living around here, that live close here, that had cabin and when fire broke out there the word got here and I know the men just took off to the mountain. I remember that quite well, but I don’t know which fire it was.

AM: When was that fire? That you remember?

MC: That I don’t know.

AM: You don’t remember how old you were?

MC: They saved some cabins—no, I tried to think about putting something together last night to come up with how old I was, but they saved some of the cabins. I know the Beards saved their cabin. Some of the cabins burnt, hotel burnt.
AM: What time of year was that? It wasn’t during the summer, though?
MC: Yeah, it was in summertime.

AM: Oh it was? So, people were up there the time it was burning, they were staying up
there?
MC: That’s what I think anyway, in the summertime, I think it was in the fall of the
year, but—I don’t know. I better not say it was summer but I somehow or another think it
was summer. Anybody know any of those people?
HC: Yeah, it’s the Mowrys. This is Frank and this is Rob Mowry and that’s Virginia
Mowry. It’s the Mowrys and they were standing on the site of the hotel, I believe, and
this picture was taken right after the fire. And this was one of the buildings that was
left and Mrs. Mowry, I believe, identified this as Blackwell’s. (?) No, wait a minute
—Blackwell’s cabin, the cabin Blackwell had was saved and so was Millers Hotel and I’m
not sure which one was his, we thought maybe you’d know.

MC: No.
HC: You don’t know. This is more Mowrys. These are Mowry pictures, here.
MC: Yeah, I don’t recognize them there.

I2: We were wondering if you recognize any of these cabins? There’s not much showing,
but could you tell?
MC: No, no, I was just too young. I don’t, I guess—

I2: Well, now this could have been 1908. Maybe that after that some ways, I don’t know.

MC: Must have. (laughter) Indeed I don’t know, but they have to be.
I2: Now these pictures could go back.
AM: They could be earlier, yeah. Earlier then you remember.
MC: But I remember cabins sitting around up on the circle like you see here.
AM: Tell me about the water itself. Did people use that water just to drink or did they
use it for illnesses or?
MC: Well, I guess lots of people hauled water out there and made trips up there
especially to get water because they felt it had healing qualities or helped with kidney
problems and so on.
AM: Were specific springs good for specific things or the water was pretty much the same
from all the springs?
MC: It was different, I know that. They had different springs and different kinds of
water.
AM: What color was the water, what was in it?
MC: Well she asked me that last night and that I don’t know, except I know the rock
around these springs were usually tinted with brown, kind of a blackish brown. Some sort
of mineral but I wouldn’t say that I believe it that that thing was known for its
different kind of waters, springs. That’s the main reason I guess that people went up
there, come and went up there and spent the summer. People that were, could do such
things would go up there and spend a month, six weeks in the hotel. It’s like people go
back to, what you call, back here, the—

HC: Hot springs.
MC: Hot springs, back there. If this thing hadn’t had fell through for some reason or
another (chuckle) we could have the hot springs right here with us today. But it fell
through and nobody ever developed it anymore.

AM: You don’t know when it fell through, was it in the twenties?

MC: It could have been the teens or early twenties. I’m thinking the teens.

AM: So when you would go by there later on with your cattle, there wasn’t anything there.

MC: Just began to, yeah, just began to fall apart. Buildings fell down and people lost
interest in it. And why the families quit going up there and keeping their cabins up,
people just come to a period in history that that didn’t appeal to them and they just
dropped it that’s all.

AM: Could the fire have to do with that? Lot of people burned out and just didn’t
bother building?

MC: Oh yeah, sure, yeah. That would be discouraging and after the fire when the thing
looked pretty—it looked pretty grim, when you’d go by there. See you’d go up to there to
the springs, and you’ve been up there?

AM: Yes.

MC: And the road goes up there and you turn to go in to the left of the spring and right
short to round up the mountain you go on across the mountain and you’d go up there and
make that turn and go around there, look over in there, it just looked pretty grim. You
could see rubbish and buildings they fell down, where they had burned. But we went up
there after everything was pretty well gone, and we’d go up there and have picnics. The
ground kind of stayed open around in there people would go in there with—got cars when
cars come along and got to go in there. And I know people would go up there and have a
Sunday picnic or a Saturday picnic or something or another. It stayed open there for a
good while. There’s one problem, I told Hazel last night, there’s one problem we always
had, when I’d get the cattle up there, and I’d make that short bend, you couldn’t keep
them from going in there to the springs, and getting them to head up that mountain was
something else.

AM: How about that. They’d go right on in. Was there more than one road going up to
Black Rock Gap at that point, was there one above the hotel and one below it? Do you
remember?

MC: Not that I know of.

AM: When you’d go up for picnics did you ever go up to Black Rock?

MC: Oh yeah, yeah. Hike up there, several times I know we hiked up there. Beard
children would go up there.

AM: Did you go up with the buggies or did you walk?

MC: No, walked.

AM: Walked.

MC: Yeah, that was something else. There was a path went right out behind the cabins,
we’d go right straight up the mountain because of the Black Rock and then of course we’d
go out and go up the road and up before you cross the mountain and take another path
there go up to the Black Rock which wasn’t near so steep.

AM: Another path from the gap?
MC: Yeah, from the road. I imagine it's about the same as the Appalachian Trail.

AM: But there was—yes, yes, I know what you mean. Was there another path that was different from that that went straight up those rocks?

MC: From the cabins yeah.

AM: That never went to Black Rock Gap?

MC: No it didn’t go across the mountain—

AM: Wasn’t that pretty much crawling over rocks?

MC: Oh yeah, yeah. But in younger days like you people, why, we didn’t mind it, y’know?

AM: I’ve done it, it took a long time.

MC: Yeah, we didn’t mind it then, this ** on. Yeah, we didn’t mind it then. It’s a good ways up there, I know that.

AM: Yeah, was there, when you get up there do people cut their initials in those rocks?

MC: Oh, yeah, everybody’s up there, I reckon.

AM: Can’t see any initials now.

MC: (laughter) Wore off sure now? (?)

I2: Yeah, it is. We kept looking for that.

MC: Oh, Lord, yeah you can see everybody up there on those rocks.

AM: Was the—if you took that road that you say goes where the Appalachian Trail is now, was that logged over or was that grown up in trees, back say in the twenties?

MC: Most people that lived on across the mountain, that was their main way out, they come out by Black Rock Spring. All those people back in there those. There was, oh, just worlds of people lived back in that mountain before we pasture cattle, they had themselves way out, they come across the mountain there and come down by Black Rock Spring.

AM: Did they ever stop at the spring?

MC: Oh, I don’t know about that, I would think so.

AM: What can you tell me about any of the people, specifically? Did you know them when you? [trails off]

MC: Oh, yeah.

AM: What kind of people were they?

MC: Nice people. One family who lived in Harris’ house up is up close to where Elly Lou’s (?) people pastured.

AM: On Pasture Fence Mountain?

MC: On what?

AM: On Pasture Fence Mountain, Mr. Harris?

MC: I don’t know about that
AM: I think I talked to his grandson.

HC: Richard, Joe Harris.

AM: Yeah.

MC: Well any rate, north of them on top of the mountain in some hunt club owns that now.

AM: White Hall Hunt Club.

MC: It was a family of Vias. And I had a feeling that this man had gotten a sale on all that they had over to Harrison’s and is one of their families. (?) But my dad’s mother would go over there and have Sunday school and though it was Sunday school on Sunday morning they’d go over Saturday evening and stay all night and they most always go up to the Vias.

AM: Remember which Vias?

MC: No, don’t know that.

AM: Now your mother and dad were involved with the Wayside Church there?

MC: That’s right, dad, my dad had Sunday school there.

AM: Did he go up once a month, then?

MC: Twice a month for a number of years, every other Sunday.

AM: And the Vias all came down to the church service.

MC: Vias, yeah the Vias, and the Marshalls lived right up there, they were nice people.

AM: Somebody talked about a preacher named Cline.

I2: I remember talking I think so, they went up there if I remember right.

MC: Well that might have been, I don’t know who it would have been but—

HC: His daddy wasn’t a priest.

AM: No? Well maybe it wasn’t. We got it confused.

MC: Well, the Harris people, they were nice people. All those people.

AM: Was there a school a little up the river from church, do you recall?

MC: Well, I don’t know about that. I don’t know.

AM: Do you remember—you talked with the Vias and so on?

MC: Oh yeah, stay all night, eat there with them, talk with them, played with the children, I’ve been trying to think, there was a boy my age I’ve been trying to think of his name and I can’t come up with it at all. I haven’t heard of him for years.

AM: Joe Harris’s grandson talks of someone named Hesbiah.

MC: Well, that would be because they lived just about as close as from here down to Emma Lou’s, is where these two houses, right on top of the mountain.

AM: What were the houses like, were they big houses?
MC: Oh, well Via house was a big house, bigger than the Harris house. They were just good common houses. Not as big as—yeah, good average house and right good houses. Those mountain people built, in that day, built real good houses.

AM: Did the Vias raise a lot of apples?

MC: I wouldn’t think so. I don’t know, I wouldn’t think so, I don’t remember that. (chuckle) I know we ate groundhog for dinner that didn’t appeal to me.

AM: Oh my goodness!

MC: Anyway. I liked everything else and but I couldn’t eat that groundhog. (laughter)

AM: Did you ever hear about any moonshining among the Viases?

MC: Yeah I heard about it, but not at that time.

AM: Might’ve been earlier, perhaps?

MC: I’ve heard about it since, but no. No, those people back at that early day didn’t, they didn’t engage in moonshining. They didn’t have to because they could go right up here at, up the road here and buy it and didn’t have to moonshine then. I don’t, I don’t think so. My dad thought a lot of those people back there, and they were just honest and straight people you could depend on them. I don’t know, I imagine that some of them come out and helped Elly Lou’s dad to harvest. I know they did us. Those boys, Harris boy and Via boys would come out here and stay three weeks, two weeks or whatever we needed and help with the harvest work.

AM: Oh, I didn’t know that.

MC: And that’s why, that’s why I think I ought to come up with them boy’s name but I can’t do it. Just don’t know.

AM: Do you remember a Tom Via by any chance? It was the, let’s see, the older ones I think were Bob and Dan and Will. They would have been older by that time. Do you remember when they moved out? I guess the park got some of that land. Remember how they felt about that?

MC: Well, they began to move out when the park began to make it so they couldn’t already get across the drive, they had to have all kinds of problems to get across with their wagons and so on to get out. They saw this thing coming, the government taking over the land, so they got out and then I think that pretty soon after that we began to get a few factories in the area and the young people come out and got a job in the factory and life began to get better so they, they left the mountain. The main reason they left was on account of the park taking over their, their freedom and their tramping grounds.

AM: Do you remember much resentment over that?

MC: Oh yeah, yeah. Nothing real mean like, but they resented it sure.

AM: I would think they would.

MC: Everybody did yeah. The older people, of course, died an awful lot as is and these younger people then they, they moved out.

AM: Changed to a different lifestyle, I guess.

MC: Yeah, yeah.

AM: What about the church services? Was there music up in the church and so on, was it a regular type of service up there?
MC: Regular service, those mountain people could out-sing all of creation. Yeah, and they had. (trails off)

AM: Did they have any piano or organ or anything?

MC: I think it was an old style organ in that church. Just a little old organ. I sort of believe it was. Couldn’t say for sure but I think so. You see that church belonged to Middle River and the Valley congregation. Middle River church would take one Sunday and the Valley would take another.

AM: Oh, I see

MC: That’s the way it worked. And they had service there from spring to the fall.

AM: So there would have been service every Sunday with the alternating churches?

MC: Yeah, there was service every Sunday yeah. And then go on down that hall a little further and you come to a place they called Sugar Hollow. There was a church down there that was interdenominational. Little River had one Sunday there. My dad went over there quite a bit, helped with Sunday school work and so on.

AM: Was there any kind of help to the people, did they need any help from the church other than just the service?

MC: Well, no.

AM: There wasn’t anything?

MC: I don’t know about that.

AM: They were pretty self sufficient?

MC: Yeah, it was just a spiritual help to those people. They, yeah, they took care of themselves. They were a thrifty people. Yeah. Oh, of course I know some of the families here, somebody was in need over there, would help them out but I don’t remember that happening very much in my time going over there. I guess I went over there, let’s see, we got our first car somewhere along in ‘15 or ‘16 I believe and maybe earlier than that, but along about there. And if you could drive then you didn’t have to have any permit or anything so I learned to drive the thing right off and went over there a few times and took dad over in the car. But along about that time, church service people began to get out of there. I don’t know when the park comes along, about 1920, though.

AM: Well things were starting in the ’20s it wasn’t really until ’35 and ’36 that most of the construction went on down at the south end. I don’t think the drive opened at the south end until about ’38.

MC: But we had our problems with them up to then.

AM: It was all in the making even in the ’20s, people knew it was coming. [MC also makings sounds of agreement]

MC: And that’s when those people began to get out of the mountain, yeah.

AM: And that sort of— [MC also began talking at the same time]

MC: Excuse me.

AM: Did that put an end to the church services too, the park?

MC: Yeah, yeah. That’s the reason I was thinking about Jeannie Sanders over here, Jeannie was, Jeannie’s older than I am by a number of years if he’s still living but he was a boy there and his home was right above the church there by a quarter of a mile.
And he went backwards and forwards to Harriston time after time with the team I know.
And he knew Black Rock just couldn’t help it because he was born up by Nethers.

AM: I’m interested in music. Did the either the people at the hotel or the people living up in the mountains get together for dances or singing or anything?

MC: I don’t know about that. I don’t know we’d just be up there, I don’t remember ever staying up there a week or anything like that, I would just go up a night or two. I imagine they had all kinds of big times going on, alright. I don’t know about that.

AM: Was there, at Black Rock, was there any kind of store where they could get little things they needed or did they always have to go into Harriston?

MC: Don’t know about that, I don’t know. Do you all know anything about that? You ever hear anything about that?

UM: Most likely there would’ve been a little something, but I don’t know.

HC: Somebody said Mr. Miller had some things he sold, a little store, with canned goods. You remembering?

MC: I would just think so but I don’t know anything about that.

HC: They had a post office. We know that because some of the things we have are post marked Black Rock Springs and in a county survey that was made, I don’t remember which year but it wasn’t terribly far back, that we have at the library Black Rock Springs was listed with a post office.

MC: Well, that’s further back, I didn’t know that. I’ve been trying to find in insurance histories, the insurance companies here. I thought maybe I’d find where that Crawford was insured but I didn’t come up with anything. East Augusta has back by 1817, ’18 or somewhere along in there it started but they don’t have anything about that and I don’t have anything on West Rockingham. But it’s pretty likely that property was insured if you can get a hold of a record on that somewhere.

I2: That’s right, I never thought of it, the insurance hand notes. (?)

AM: That’s interesting, that’s a good idea.

I2: It looks like East Rockingham would’ve had it. So many people.

MC: Yeah pretty likely because it’s down that way. I don’t know, but I just figured that if anybody would put up a thing like that, cabins, and a hotel, and stores, things that went with it that he’d have it insured. It’s not in, it’s not in East Augusta, I went and looked through their books. They didn’t have anything for that, to that, record in ’08. (?)

AM: Is there something else you can think of that I haven’t asked?

I2: You’re doing pretty well, I think.

MC: I’m sure I don’t, couldn’t give you anything you didn’t already know.

AM: Well, I didn’t know much about, I think a lot of the people we talked to were there maybe a little bit earlier around 1900, 1903. I didn’t even know it was still going in the teens really.

HC: This gives you a good picture of what was there a little bit later which you need.

AM: Yeah, well, as you say there was was only one ten pin alley and one hotel building but I think at one time there may have been two sets of buildings. I guess somebody put somebody out of business maybe.
MC: I don’t know about that, could’ve been.

AM: But you don’t remember a Mr. Miller up there?

MC: Is that the Miller from Grottoes? The Miller family from Grottoes?

AM: They were from Grottoes.

MC: No, no. It, there’s something there about it, but I don’t know. There’s been too much water over the dams since then, just washed that stuff away. (chuckle)

I2: How about Mr. Blackwell? He was a caretaker there I think. Did you know him?

MC: No, no, not at time being, no. I knew an old man Blackwell down the other side of the church but I don’t know anything about whether he had any family up there or not.

I2: How about the cemeteries? Why don’t you ask him?

AM: Oh yeah, there’s a cemetery up in Via Gap there that I guess that would’ve been where the Vias buried their kinsfolk. Did you ever go up there?

MC: I don’t know, no, not that I know of, I don’t know.

AM: Do you remember any other cemeteries?

MC: No, there was nothing there at the church, I don’t think. Where the church was I don’t think there was anything there. But I was thinking about that this morning, there’s got to be a burying ground there somewhere.

AM: Yeah.

MC: Up on Jarman’s Gap where we pasture, where we had land, it was a church up there on top of the mountain there at Jarman’s Gap where we went in to our pasture, what you called it, but that was a right good sized church. And the Barren Ridge people and Mount Vernon people and some of the other denominations had services up there at that church.

AM: We got history on that church. Where did I—we got that history about the church up there on Jarman’s Gap.

HC: We’ve got a couple books here, but I don’t know. They were interested Black Rock Gap, anyway.

MC: Yeah I know, but there’s a cemetery up there on that mountain.

AM: Which mountain is that?

MC: Jarman’s Gap, up Blue Ridge, up back of Dooms.

AM: Okay.

MC: Just stones stuck in the ground all around there. And there’s bound to be the same thing down there at Wayside at Black Rock Gap, but I don’t know anything about it, I didn’t have any cause to go there I guess, I don’t know.

I2: Exactly where was that church? I’ve never been able to pick up the foundation.

AM: I haven’t, either.

MC: Ooh. [Makes groaning noise, sounds as if he’s getting up]

AM: There’s a cabin down there out in the pasture, but that’s all I’ve seen.
MC: Hand me a pencil, mom.

HC: [Lots of clattering noise] Let’s see. I’ve got (trails off)

I2: Who lived in that house right by the mountain?

MC: At the?

I2: Foot of the mountain, right there at Warren’s Road (?) where you come down from the Skyline Drive.

MC: Who lived in it?

I2: Yeah, who lived in that one, one right there close to the church?

MC: That’s a strange thing but I can’t call a name now but there’s a family lived there, they couldn’t get interested in church, didn’t have any interest in church. And were not too nice of people, I remember that, but who it was I don’t know.

AM: Marshalls by any chance?

MC: No the Marshalls, the Marshalls moved out, the Marshalls was, they were good church people. You know, it’s just one of those things but I remember that family.

AM: Could it be Sypes?

MC: No, no. Anyway, it changed then in later years. I think that the Marshes back here lived in that house later, later years.

AM: Who’s that? Morris?

HC: Junior Marsh.

I2: Marsh, Marsh. We’re gonna go talk to ‘em there see what we can find them. (?)

MC: Yeah, you see—well now I hadn’t thought of those boys.

I2: Yeah I had, I asked Isabelle if I could talk to Robert this evening. I’ve tried to call him all day but I can’t get him but I hope were gonna find him after a while.

MC: Junior’s the oldest, isn’t he?

HC: No, Junior is younger.

I2: Dewey I think, is it Dewey? Dewey is the oldest but then Robert I guess, but Robert is who I was thinking about.

MC: Oh yeah, they’d know more about the thing than I do, they come out by there, oh yeah. The road goes down, down the mountain there, you know, and [sound of pen clicking] let’s see, creeks running along here [sound of paper being drawn on] something like this and this road comes down the mountain and turn across this creek and come back. That church set right in here just before you cross the creek you didn’t cross the creek you just came round back in there and the church sat right in there.

I2: Oh, I was looking in the wrong place for it, I see. You come down the road here and now here’s your creek and here’s your road.

MC: Just before you’d cross the creek—

AM: On the other side, okay.

MC: It’s high, the road is built up pretty high here you’re just about level with the
top of the church, I believe along right there on the road where it ends. And the church is set right back in there. And then these people with the houses right back here behind the church, these people that I was speaking of, and then you come down to this place so far here and take right up over the mountains and Elly Lou’s people where they pastured come on down here to Sugar Hall way.

AM: Did you go down the Moorman’s River when you were going to Jarman’s Gap? [A radio had snapped on during the name of the river, quickly turned off with a chuckling comment from HC]

MC: No, when we go to Jarman’s Gap we go over at Dooms.

AM: I see.

MC: No that’s where I—We made some trips up through there but that wasn’t a good road at that time from go on up to Jarman’s Gap, but there is a road up there.

HC: Well see, this is where the church and this is where the house is.

MC: Yeah, you come to the church and then the house.

I2: Well, I kept looking over here for it, that’s the reason I had trouble.

AM: As you’re going down you got that on the right side of the road?

MC: Yeah, as you go on down toward the, go on down the mountain before you get to the flat, before you get to hollow, just right before you cross the creek.

AM: Right, that’s the exact same place that Mr. Harris has it marked on here just to the right of the road before you cross the creek.

MC: That couldn’t be anything else. (chuckle) I know that, and what always interested me as a youngster, you know you’d ride along up here in the bogun (?) up there above that old church. It was just that much higher.

AM: Yes, that’s right that road goes up there steep.

MC: Yep, you’re up high, just look right over top the church, then the Marshalls right up here and the Vias up here and the Harrises here and—

I2: The Marshalls lived in the house where I took you.

AM: Right.

I2: By Miss Jones.

AM: Right.

MC: And on up there, I can’t think of the people that lived on up that ridge—

I2: Were more houses up here?

MC: Yeah, there were a few more houses up there. They had to be because they had oh, they must’ve had sixty seventy-five people there at church—

AM: Oh, really?

MC: On Sunday. Oh yeah, there was—

AM: All mountain people?

MC: Yeah, yeah all mountain people.
AM: Folks from the hotel didn’t go over, did they?

MC: Beg your pardon?

AM: The people didn’t go over from the hotel to the church, did they?

MC: I wouldn’t think so no, no. That’s right smart step across the top of that mountain there. Oh I don’t know about that, I wouldn’t say now, but I don’t think so, no.

AM: But sixty or seventy just of the mountain people? Lot of children?

MC: Yeah, yeah. Let’s see there was, you was naming the Via children boys while ago and there’s some girls in that family, I’m pretty sure. There was Harrises had quite a—oh and another family back up here, Ed Harris. You talk about house on back up here, but he really, his way out was across the Grottoes Gap but they come down here, they come down here to church.

AM: Ed Harris?

MC: Ed Harris, yeah

AM: He lived up on the Jones Run, didn’t he?

MC: I don’t know. He lived on up the hollow there.

AM: Wouldn’t he have been Joe Harris’s father?

MC: Brother.

AM: Brother.

MC: That would be my guess, Ed and Joe would be brothers or cousins or somewhere in there because they’re about same age. The one I’m thinking about anyway. But his, to go to his place you went, usually you would go to Grottoes and go up that road, I can’t call that-

AM: Madison Road.

MC: No.

MC: Brownskin.

AM: Brownskin

MC: Yeah, Brownskin. Yeah.

AM: Right. What did the people, come all dressed up to church from their mountain homes, or did they come in their regular-

MC: Good clean clothes. Nice work clothes or a little extra clothes, yeah right. But not like they dressed out here in the valley but they wore good clean clothes, yeah.

AM: Did they have nice gardens up there in the mountains?

MC: Oh yeah, oh yeah, all kinds of gardens and corn patches and grow a patch of corn or two up against the mountain somewhere, get corn to feed their horses. They lived good, they raised a couple hogs and those people lived good. They all knew how to take care of themselves.

AM: They didn’t get into feuds or anything with each other did they?
MC: Oh yeah, I would think so, (laughter) but I don’t know too much about it now. If they were human I guess they would’ve had some of that, but I don’t believe those mountain people did I don’t know.

AM: Just regular people.

MC: Yeah. You’ve heard them talk a lot about Mote Marshall haven’t you?

I & I2: Oh yes.

MC: Mote was a little bit from south after he got out into the valley, he’s one of the Marshalls right above the church there and he’s all right. Yeah, those people have come out there have all made good. Davy Sanders, you know Davy lived here at New Hope, he come out here and work for my dad two years in nineteen, I would say about 1918 ’19, something like that, his home was back up there in the back of the church. Well, he come out here and stayed here at the house and stayed here and work by the month, two years and after that, then he never went back to the mountain, I don’t know where he went from here but he got another job, and he married out here and stayed out here.

AM: So you were—

MC: And that Jeannie Sanders across that I was talking to you about, was the finest man I think that I always heard everybody speak so well of him over in the mountain when he was a boy and he come out over here and he really done good as a man. Let’s see, I saw Otis, I believe he had a boy named Otis and Oliver. They’re both in the phone book.

AM: Well this is all so interesting to me because when we take people on walks around the area, around Black Rock Gap and Black Rock and Browns Gap, visitors to the park are interested in finding out about the people who lived in the mountains and what it was like and the people that visited Black Rock Hotel so we use information like this to tell them because I can’t make it up and a lot of the stuff, you know, we’ve been told up there has been passed down and so on and I like to come down and talk to people and really hear it like it was. So I appreciate the information, it will be of use to us.

MC: Well, if we can be any help to you all or anybody, why, we enjoy having the prudes (?) do it too but I just know so little about, looking back it seems I know so little about Blackrock Springs and I can just see it up against the mountain there. When it’s clear I look out, look right out there through Horsehead I often think about those cabins. I remember a hotel sitting up there but what, when, I don’t know, I’m just sure I do, could have dreamed it.

HC: I don’t think you did. (laughter)

AM: No there was one up there.

HC: The pictures show it.

MC: I went across there so many times with dad mother too lots of times, he’d go usually, Some of the men would go with him or I’d go with him for company, ten eleven, twelve years old, and go with him for company. I knew those people I respect them. They had, those people were a better class of people then we had up on Jarman’s Gap when we’d cross up there

AM: The mountain people?

MC: Yeah, they were just different. We had nice people up on Jarman’s Gap, too where we owned land, but these people down here Wayside, Blackrock they’re just different, different people, that’s all

AM: Were they better off in wealth or what was the difference?

MC: Oh, (laugh) well yeah they lived a little better, they dressed a little better, just
a little better, but if you get around here and talk to some of these people that come out from up there I think you’ll agree that they come from a pretty good stock of people. They were just well thought of people.

AM: Do you know anything about the area where the Loft Mountain Campground is? I think Pattersons had it, owned it, and I don’t know who lived up there possibly McCallisters or Frasiers. Do you know anything about that area, it’s further north?

MC: No, no I don’t. I don’t know. I’ve heard of that and heard of those people up in there, but I don’t know. Have you talked to Charlie Patterson, Sr.?

I2: Yes, we, I took her to see him last year. And he told us quite a bit, gave us quite a bit of information.

MC: I thought about him last night. I would think so. Yet, they’ve been so interesting in Jollett Spring and I thought maybe he wasn’t much interested in Blackrock but I knew they pastured over cross along there.

I2: Yes, Mrs. Patterson’s people have had a cabin up there.

MC: Is that right?

I2: Yes her side, the Mulrers.

MC: The Mulrers. Yeah I would expect so, yeah I’d expect so.

I2: People came here from Washington.

MC: Oh yeah, oh yeah, I used to hear dad talk about people something you know for people here in the community, just come like things were then to have somebody to come from New York or Philadelphia or somewhere and go up Blackrock Springs spend the month or a couple weeks, that was something then.

AM: Quite a place, yeah.

MC: Yeah it was same as a flying machine.

AM: What were some of the family names around Jarman’s Gap?

MC: Let’s see. Don’t believe my mind will work.

HC: That graveyard where the P* has some of the names on them.

I2: Fishers, Browns, these are the ones that I know.

MC: McDaniels.

I2: Moore maybe? Maybe not

MC: Well, people lived back on Earl Spitzer’s place, there were two houses back there. I just hadn’t thought of those people for a long time.

HC: Who was that fella in with Mr. Grove. Isn’t that the name of the people who lived back in there?

I2: Hale?

HC: No. Somebody owned a partnership with them.

MC: Craig.

AM: Yeah.
HC: That’s the name.

MC: Craig, yeah there were a good many Craigs back up there. You probably never hear much of them coming out of the mountain but they did. Mr. Dudley, Hank Groves’ mother was a Craig from up over on top of the mountain, if I’m not mistaken. I wouldn’t, I wouldn’t put that out but I’m pretty sure that that’s—anyway the place back around the other side of the mountain when Charlie went over to Groveses, we pastured that for a long time, belonged to Craig and Groves. And Mr. Groves inherited his part of it somewhere or another through the Craig family, I believe that’s the way it was. They were nice people up there, y’know, but they just didn’t have the thrift and the go that the people down at Blackrock had just, different type of people. And yet they had a big church up there and a bigger congre—more people attended. But they didn’t have, I would’ve took my chances with the people down at Blackrock Gap or down at Wayside I believe.

HC: There was a family of Fishers that lived right there you know where we came out, our gate.

MC: Yeah there were a lot of Fishers up, did you name Fishers while ago?

I2: Yes I said Fishers, I taught Fisher children at Crimora.

HC: They seem like some okay folk, I reckon. That house is fallen in, now. I remember the one winter they said they didn’t have anything to eat and they lived practically off nuts that they got off the mountain.

I2: They were poor when I had them too.

MC: Those people didn’t, weren’t as thrifty as the people down that way.

AM: Tommy and Timmy maybe, Luanne, the older man.

I2: Tommy and Nellie I know that one’s wife was Nellie, she died not long back.

HC: And then the gravestones where that come out those pastures right there top of the mountain have a lot on them, you can make out some names on those. On back in the trees there not on any pastures, right there at the road before you turn in there to the briar pasture, is that where it is? I believe it is.

MC: Mr. Tribbles’ home was up there where Black Anna (?) lived at least the Tribbles go across the mountain and stop there on top of the mountain and moved there a while and then come along this way. There are a lot of people buried there on top of the mountain, there must’ve been a world of people lived up on top of that mountain years back. People that really come on out you see. Then when the Tribbles got out of that place moved I guess, the older people passed on, Mr. Tribble and some of the girls, come on out this way, when they left the place to Black Anna (?) and her mother Julia, that’s the way they got, way they got there

AM: Who was that again?

MC: That’s up on Jarman’s Gap, I don’t know what the woman’s name was that—

I2: Rogers?

MC: Rogers?

AM: Yeah I heard John Dooms speak of her.

MC: I don’t know what her mother’s name was I don’t know, we called her aunt Julia, that was all I ever knew.
HC: She worked for Tribble, didn’t she?

MC: She nursed Mr. Frank Tribble. She raised him yeah, right up there on top of the mountain. They tell me now, I don’t know if I told you or not but they say now that, what that’s fella’s name, has built—

HC: Bob Walter?

MC: Walter, yeah, Frank le Vincent (?) has built a mansion up there on the Tribbles place, I don’t know I haven’t seen it.

HC: Will have to go up and see.

I2: Hmm I haven’t seen that.

MC: That’s one of the Barger (?) girls married a Walker. Not Barger, Tribble girls. Hattie Barger’s sister married a Walker and they live in Crozet. But anyway this boy and his sister were the two of them, inherited the Tribble place, Andy (?) left it to him and he had been in Washington a long time and the government office down there, still is perhaps. The girl lived in New Jersey, she was an artist wasn’t she? And so I suspect he’s fixing to retire up there on the mountain, I don’t know, maybe he already has. You all hear Spitzer (?) say anything about the mansions built up on their place, reckon do you? Balter (?) say they’ve, I know there was one built up there before we couldn’t go up there and they say there’s several more up there now, people from Charlottesville. See you can get in from the other side of the mountain without the drive, the drive, the parkway is just down over the top of the mountain this way and those people from Charlottesville building up in there that’s not our (chuckle) that’s not what you’re after, though.

AM: I’m interested in the whole area.

MC: Something if you’re interested in parkway that’s part of it too, I guess.

AM: Well you certainly know the area very well.

I2: Well, I’ve been to Anna’s, we all went to Anna’s I guess one time or another.

MC: Oh yeah, the colored lady...

I2: And really this has been just in recent years, I went a year or two before she died, we went back to see her, this was while daddy was still living must’ve been about 1969 or ’70, somewhere along there, I want to say late ‘60s, and she was so glad to see us that day in that spring and the house and everything, looked just like it had, we walked up to the top of the mountain, old nigger lady at this point, her son was there that day.

AM: I can remember John Dooms talking about her.

I2: I think she was buried up there, wasn’t she?

MC: No, no, she was buried down on the other side.

HC: She wanted to be, but it was so icy and the roads were so bad going through there and they worried themselves sick about her because she wanted to move but I don’t think she ever got it accomplished.

I2: That’s a shame, I know she wanted to be buried up there.

MC: Yeah her mother is buried on top, right up on top of the mountain.

I2: Right, I know, yeah I’ve been to that grave. This is not far off Mount Carolina drive, going to Jarman’s Gap Road it’s the first road I guess after you go start down the fire road on the east side.
MC: Yeah, I expect it is, yeah.

I2: Just in there, just real close, easy to get into Skyline Drive and someone suggests that I interview Miss Minnie Barger who lives in Waynesboro, now this would be the people who owned that property. She’s in her eighties.

MC: She’s living then?

I2: Yes she’s still living and they suggested we go see her.

HC: Was anybody living at the Barger place?

AM: The Barger place over at Pasture Fence?

MC: No, on the farm.

HC: I don’t know, we was coming up there yesterday, couple days ago, and I wondered about that.

I2: But Lois Corner, I was talking to Lois Corner and she suggested we go and talk to Miss Minnie Barger.

MC: Yeah, yeah I know her, she would be up there with Hattie every once in a while, I don’t remember but she’d come up there sometimes.

HC: You talking about Anna? She could play the guitar and oh boy, she could sing and play that guitar.

AM: Guitar?

I2: And those biscuits that she baked.

HC: Oh yeah. She baked us some wedding biscuits, in June, we had the wedding back there. Great big ones, not little tiny ones, but big ones. (laughter)

I2: She made a biscuit of a biscuit.

MC: She didn’t feed you ground hog either. No, she was—good eating that woman did.

AM: Anything else you remember about the area that’s interesting?

MC: No, I better quit now.

AM: Okay, well I certainly appreciate all the information.

[End audio file, 01:00:59 min]