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(SNP005) Sallie Atkins interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley

Sallie Atkins

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATORS: Mrs. Sally Atkins
Mrs. Lela Dodson
Mrs. Buelah Atkins

INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Smith

PLACE: Sperryville, Virginia

DATE: February 27, 1979

TRANSCRIBED BY:

Peggy C. Bradley

COMPLETED DATE:

January 21, 1983

D.S.: We are interviewing Mrs. Sally Atkins, and Mrs. Lela Dodson, in the home of Mrs. Buelah Atkins. And all three are going to tell us quite a bit, I am sure. Ah, Mrs. Dodson, what was your maiden name?

L.D.: Lela Atkins.

D.S.: You was Lela Atkins?

L.D.: Yes.

D.S.: And, where did you ---. Ah, where was your home place? Where did you live? In the mountains?

L.D.: Well, I lived back up there in the mountains on the Hazel.

D.S.: On Hazel Mountains?

L.D.: Yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Near the top?

L.D.: Near the top.

D.S.: Near the top.

B.A.: That was after she was married though, you see, Nannie.

D.S.: Oh. When you was growing up, where did you live? When you was a little girl?

L.D.: Well, I lived in the park up there, just --.

B.A.: A little down below the "turn bridge".

D.S.: O.K.. And, Mrs. Atkins, where did you live when you was a little girl?

S.A.: Right with her. Right in a old one room house. We was raised.

L.D.: (laughing) Yes, sir.

D.S.: At the same place. Uhhuh. And, what was your maiden name?

S.A.: *Sally*
Atkins.

D.S.: Oh, I see. O.K.. Fine. Now, ah, did you have ---? Are you two sisters?

L.D.: Yes.

D.S.: Ah! That is just beautiful. Great. Well, ah, was there many children in your family?

S.A.: Seven of us in all.

D.S.: Seven? Uhhuh. What? As you was a child, what are your recollection, -- ah, what, what did you ~~do~~^{do} as a child?

S.A.: Well, we worked in corn fields, milk cow, feed hogs, chickens.

D.S.: Uhhuh. How many hogs did you have?

S.A.: Well, most time we didn't have but two, sometimes four.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Uhhuh. And how many cows? Do you know?

S.A.: Three or four.

D.S.: Three or four?

S.A.: Yes.

D.S.: Well, you had a lot of extra milk didn't you?

L.D.: Well, we would feed it to our hogs, you see, what we didn't use.

D.S.: O.K.. Did your mother make cheese, and --?

L.D.: Yes. She made cheese; she made butter.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Clabber?

L.D.: Yes, indeed.

D.S.: (Laughing) And Clabber.

L.D.: Clabber milk, and it was good too.

D.S.: Sure! How do you make that, do you know?

S.A.: Well, you just put some in a bag and hang it up and let it drip until it get dry. Then you take it out and put you some cream and some salt in it.

D.S.: Ah, and how long does it keep?

S.A.: Well, it don't keep but so long, you see.

B.A.: Weren't aim fer it to keep so long. We'd soon eat it up, you know. Make some more.

D.S.: (Laughing)

L.D.: *Med lots to* Feed a big family.

S.A.: That's right.

D.S.: How did you eat it? Just eat it, or put it on things?

S.A.: You just-a put it in a bowl, put you some cream over it and a little salt.

B.A.: I never did put no salt, I always put sugar on mine.

L.D.: You did? Well, we always used salt.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yes.

D.A.: Did you ever buy it out of the store? Cottage Cheese?

D.S.: Yes. Well, that's not the same thing, is it?

L.D.; Yes it is.

S.A.: Just the same thing.

B.A.: Well, sure, that's the same thing. Of course, this would be, what we fixed was home made.

S.A.: Be the same thing.

D.S.: I hadn't realized.

B.A.: But now, of course, I don't know how they fixed thern you know. Just like she said, you know, I would kind of, sometimes sit mine on the stove for a little bit, get it good and clabbered ---

S.A.: Yes indeed.

B.A.: -- put it in this cloth and hang it out, like she said, let it drip good, then --.

D.S.: Ah.

B.A.: Yes, we used it a lot at home when we had cows.

D.S.: Ah! Gosh! Ah, you said there were seven children, what were their names?

S.A.: Blanch, and Lela, and Lee, and me, and --

L.D.: and me -

S.A.: Dolly and Monroe.

D.S.: Two boys then?

L.D.: Two boys.

D.S.: Two boys and five girls.

S.A.: That's right.

D.S.: Were the boys given more jobs to do than the girls?

L.D.: Yea.

D.S.: They'd have to do what? For instant?

L.D.: They'd have to plow corn, ah --

S.A.: Hoe corn, get wood.

L.D.: Anything mostly.

D.S.: Yes.

B.A.: Tend gardens.

S.A.: Tend gardens.

D.S.: Yea. How big a garden would you have? You, have you any ideal? Just seemed big, huh?

L.D.: Yes.

S.A.: Just about, well, it wouldn't be a acre.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

S.A.: But we tended big corn fields, would go in them on Monday mornings and work in'em til Saturday night, and then go back in'em Monday mornin' again.

D.S.: Oh boy. Big corn fields ~~was~~ ^{were} so you could have corn meal;
would you take the corn then down to the mills.

L.D.: Yes sir.

D.S.: Where was the mill?

S.A.: Right above ~~Big~~ ^{Brush} Spring, up here.

D.S.: Right above ~~Big~~ ^{Brush} Spring.

S.A.: Yes sir.

D.S.: Uhhuh. O.K.. Ah, would you pay the miller or would he
take ten percent of, of --?

L.D.: He'd take toll out.

D.S.: Uhhuh, Yep. Right. So, in other word you didn't need much
money, did you?

(All three talking at one time in this section:)

L.D.: No, you never got much money.

S.A.: You didn't have money.

B.A.: No use talking about money in them days, you made your
own way.

D.S.: Yea.

B.A.: Course you didn't have to pay much for stuff, you could've
get a pound of coffee for ten cents.

S.A.: Ten cents.

B.A.: Get a couple cans of ~~simons~~ ^{galmers} for a, two cans fer a quarter.
Went down there, I bought many a'cans up there at Paul
Will Atkins's, two fer a quarter. When I used to wash them
ole CC clothes.

S.A.: Yes.

D.S.: Yea.

B.A.: Wasn't much money then.

D.S.: No. No.

L.D.: We lived in hard times.

D.S.: Well.

S.D.: Our parents payed rent out of our, a dollar a day maybe, work. Worked.

D.S.: Worked. They payed rent? In other words you didn't own the property?

L.D.: No.

D.S.: Who did you rent it from?

L.D.: Eddie Clark.

D.S.: Eddie Clark, the same one?

S.A.: Yea, the same one, that -.

D.S.: Eddie Clark must have owned a lot of land?

(All three ladies said the same thing at the same time)

L.D.: He did, he owned it all practically.

S.A.: He did, he owned it all practically.

B.A.: He did, he owned it all practically.

S.A.: Man, when he was living one thing an another, it looked, he had it looking like something. It weren't all in mountain like it tis now.

L.D.: He had it looking good.

D.S.: Yea. Ah, you were allowed to plow wherever you wanted on this land you owned.

L.D.: Yea.

S.A.: Yea.

D.S.: Was it rocky?

L.D.: Yes indeed it was rocky.

B.A.: Yes, it was rocky.

S.A.: Yes.

L.D.: Maybe you could stand up sometimes, maybe you'd sit down some. (All laughing)

B.A.: Now that weren't our land, you see, that was somebody else's land.

D.S.: Now he didn't mind you cutting down any trees, anything of that kind? He didn't say you could cut so many trees?

L.D.: No, we got our wood off of him, just --.

D.S.: Yea. Did anybody peel any bark from the trees? To sell to the tanneries?

S.A.: Well, yes indeed.

L.D.: My daddy did.

D.S.: Where did he take the bark, do you know?

L.D.: I don't know where he would take it. But anyway, I would carry his dinner when he would be back in there peeling bark.

B.A.: Peeling bark.

D.S.: Was there a Tannery down here at Sperryville?

L.D.: Yes it was.

B.A.: Well, that's what he did, that's what I kind'a think maybe he did.

L.D.: Yes, that he took it down there. It was a Tannery down in Sperryville.

D.S.: I know there was one at Luray, I was wondering if he had to go all the way to Luray.

S.A.: Well, I don't just know.

L.D.: Well, I don't know.

D.S.: Well, how would he take the bark? Did he have a horse and wagon?

S.A.: Horse and wagon.

L.D.: Horse and wagon.

D.S.: Then you had a good road to your home?

L.D.: Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. That's good.

B.A.: Well, they didn't live very fer off the road, you see they kind'a lived, but now, of course, when they go to work they had to go --.

L.D.: That's right.

B.A.: They had to go right smart way to work.

D.S.: Yea.

B.A.: That tending that corn, one thing another.

D.S.: Sure. What toys did you have as ~~you~~ a child?

: Ah! Shucks.

S.A.: Stick candy with rings on it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

S.A.: It was so many of us ^{know} you, they couldn't afford it.

B.A.: That's what I told you when you asked ~~me~~ about toys.

D.S.: Right.

L.D.: Course, now, we were given one little piece of something one time.

S.A.: Yea.

D.S.: Yes, but no corn husk dolls? Or anything like that?

L.D.: No.

S.A.: No.

D.S.: No. Uhhuh. Did the boys played marbles?

S.A.: Yes, I think they did.

D.S.: Uhhuh. And, did you all pitch horse shoes, or just the boys?

S.A.: Just the boys. We never got in games like that, ^{not} the girls.

D.S.: (Laughing) Did your mother make your clothes or did you buy them?

L.D.: We had most ^{of} them made.

D.S.: Most of them were made.

S.A.: Made up.

D.S.: Did you ever raise sheep?

L.D.: Huh-uh.

D.S.: No. Some people did.

B.A.: Oh, sure, yea.

D.S.: Yes, then their women would spin. Did you know if your grandmother spin or anything like that with wool?

L.D.: No.

S.A.: No, don't think so.

D.S.: No. Do you have any idea~~x~~ where your family came from?

L.D.: Deed I don't.

D.S.: Nobody knows where their families came from (laughing).

Well, it would be so nice if you could say, "Well, I know we came from so and so." Suddenly they ~~was~~ ^{were} there in the mountains.

L.D.: That's right.

D.S.: Were your grandparents there?

L.D.: Yes.

D.S.: Do you know if your great-grandparents were there?

L.D.: I don't remember.

D.S.: O. K.. Alright. What sort of house did you have? You said it was a one room house.

L.D.: Old log butted house, dobbed with mud.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

All three ladies talking at one time at this point:

S.A.: One room down, one room up.

L.D.: One room. When it would come a snow, and blow --, the snow would blow in our faces.

S.A.: Shingle roof.

D.S.: Yea, like you was saying Mrs. Atkins ----.

B.A.: Well, sure, we'd have to sweep it out before we would make a fire. If you didn't ---.

L.D.: Mommy would sweep the steps down before we could come down.

S.A.: You come down, sure, that's right, sure.

D.S.: Yea, right. Now how about your meals. You said you had about four hogs. That wasn't many for a large family like that?

S.A.: It wasn't.

L.D.: We raised potatoes, soup beans, and canned a lot of stuff. That was our meals.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you grow cabbages?

S.A.: Well, yea.

L.D.: ~~D.S.:~~ Yes, we growed cabbages.

D.S.: Ah, were they easy to grow? Did they grow well?

L.D.: Yes they did.

B.A.: Huh, they growed a heap well then than they do now, you have to keep stuff on everything now, kind'a keep bugs --.

D.S.: Yea. That's right. Ah, how did you take care of the vegetables in the winter? ~~Some~~ you had over the winter.

L.D.: Well, you taken care of the potatoes, you taken out and bury them, fix them so they wouldn't freeze.

D.S.: Trenches. You would dig a trench? Would you put turnips in there?

S.A.: Yes indeed.

D.S.: Cabbages?

S.A.: Yes indeed.

D.S.: Apples?

S.A.: No.

L.D.: No, put apples in another place.

S.A.: You'd put the apples in another place, where they wouldn't freeze, you see.

D.S.: Where would you put them?

S.A.: Ah, we'd put them in a cellar, or something you know.

D.S.: Did you have a cellar?

S.A.: Well --

D.S.: Root Cellar. Did you have a root cellar?

S.A.: Huh?

D.S.: A root cellar.

S.A.: A root, yes. When you lived down here on the road, but you'd keep the apples sometimes sitting in the house, sometimes in the winter keep them from freezing, cover them up.

D.S.: You dried apples too, didn't you?

S.A.: Yes.

L.D.: Dried apples.

D.S.: Was that a hard job?

L.D.: No, wasn't so hard. No, indeed, wasn't a real hard job. Put your apples up.

S.A.: You could sit down and peel them.

L.D.: Put them out in the sun then to dry.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Leave them outside over night, or would you bring them in?

S.A.: Well, if it clear, you'd leave them out, if it looked cloudy, or anything, you'd have to cover them up.

D.S.: Yea.

L.D.: To keep the rain --, from raining on them.

D.S.: How long did it take to dry them? Might want to do it myself sometimes.

L.D.: I'd say, three days.

S.A.: Three days. Just on how good the sun shines.

D.S.: Yes. Sauerkraut. Did you make sauerkraut?

L.D.: Good lord, yes indeed. Make ten big barrels.

D.S.: Just how much salt would you put in it?

S.A.: Now, I don't know about the salt, Mama would always put the salt in. Don't know about that.

D.S.: When you got married, did you ~~went~~^{move} far away?

L.D.: Yes, I moved up on the Hazel. From down here our house was at, then I moved up on the Hazel.

D.S.: How did you meet your husband?

L.D.: Just going to church and places like that.

D.S.: Uhhuh. O. K. . Let's find out about school. Ah, when you were little, where was the nearest school?

B.A.: Right up there below the old "turn bridge". Just that old school house use to be there.

L.D.: We use to go to school there. (laughed)

D.S.: Yes. How far was that from your home?

B.A.: Well, it weren't too fer from her home. When she lived at -- ; Well, I had to come out from around ~~Big~~^{Busch} Spring Church and go up to it.

D.S.: Yes, uhhuh.

L.D.: I lived closer than she did.

B.A.: She weren't too fer from it, the school.

D.S.: Did you go through all eight grades?

L.D.: No, I didn't.

D.S.: Why?

L.D.: I didn't like school and I just didn't. You didn't have to go then and I didn't.

D.S.: How about you?

S.A.: I didn't either.

D.S.: No. Church. What church did you go to?

S.A.: ^{Big} Spring.

D.S.: ^{Beach} Big Spring.

B.A.: Rite up there use to be church up there too; at the school house.

S.A.: Up at the school house, yes indeed.

L.D.: Right up there where we went to school they use to have church up there.

S.A.: Sure, sure.

D.S.: Yea, O.K.. Now, when we were talking about apples before, I forgot to ask you; when you made applebutter did all the neighbors get together?

B.A.: Absolutely!

S.A.: Well, yes!

L.D.: Yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh, it was sort of fun, wasn't it?

B.A.: Yes, we had lots of fun at them applebutter ^{boiling} ~~lawls~~ (Laughed)

L.D.: (Laughing) I say we did.

D.S.: (Laughing) Could you describe the fun? What you did, why it was fun?

- S.A.: Well, sometimes some of them would go to sleep, and we would sneak up on them and put a little applebutter on 'em and make them mad.
- D.S.: (Laughing)
- L.D.: They would bump the old kettle and they would kiss one nother., it was right smart fun that way.
- D.S.: Sure. Did you do it during the day or at night?
- S.A.: Well, sometimes we boil all day and all night. Big boilings.
- D.S.: No wonder people went to sleep.
- S.A.: Ain't that the truth. That's the way they did it.
- D.S.: Would everybody bring in some food, so you'd have something to eat ^{while} ~~why~~ you --?
- S.A.: No indeedie, we'd make our own food.
- D.S.: Uhhuh.
- L.D.: Fix our own meals.
- D.S.: Uhhuh, great. Ah. Did you make sorghum?
- B.A.: 'Lasses. Y'all, did y'all make 'lasses?
- S.A.: No. No. Ole Sam Pullen use to make 'lasses, us^d to live ^{with} Uncle Vernon.
- B.A.: Uncle Vernon use to make it, right up younder where we lived. I use to ^{help} ~~hope~~ skim that ole 'lasses many'a time. Ole Tom Hawkins, I believe the one, use to make molasses.
- L.D.: He use to live on the Hazel.
- D.S.: That was good, wasn't it?
- S.A.: Yea.
- D.S.: Better than you can buy now.
- B.A.: Yes.
- S.A.: Yes, a whole lot.
- B.A.: It's so strong now.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Did most people have a horse or a mule?

S.A.: Eddie Clark wa about the only one had any horses around much. You could always get them and work them.

L.D.: Yea.

D.S.: Uhhuh. You could borrow their horses?

L.D.: Yea, tend your garden or plow your corn field or something like that.

B.A.: *ud* Hubbard, didn't he always have horses?

S.A.: Yes, *ud*. Hubbard always had horses. And, some

B.A.: Other people use to have horses.

D.S.: You use to have to borrow the horses to pull the wagon with --?

S.A.: The plow.

D.S.: To pull the wagon with the ~~park~~, peeled bark.

S.A.: Yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yes.

B.A.: What about Uncle Jones, did he have horses?

L.D.: Yes, he had some too.

S.A.: Yes.

D.S.: Did you let your cattle wander or did you keep them fenced in?

L.D.: They was fenced in very close, but not too close. They could wander around more than one.

D.S.: And the hogs?

L.D.: Oh, they kept the hogs in the pen.

D.S.: Did you have any chickens?

L.D.: Not very many, but quite a few.

D.S.: Would you sell any of the egg, or hens?

L.D.: Why yes! They would sell the eggs, butter too.

B.A.: Raised chickens and sell them too. Take'm right over here at Mrs. *Estus* store.

S.A.: Absolutely.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Have you any ideal how much you would get for a dozen of eggs?

S.A.: Huh!

D.S.: Don't make me drool, but how much? (Laughing)

L.D.: Fifteen cents a dozen.

D.S.: Fifteen cents a dozen. But you could buy a whole lot with fifteen cents.

S.A.: Butter, how much would we get for a pound of butter?

L.D.: A quarter.

S.A.: That's what I kind'a thought, for a pound of butter.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Ah!

S.A.: We had a tough life.

D.S.: Yea.

S.A.: But the Lord kind'a been good to us, he let us stick it on. Hasn't he?

L.D.: Yea.

D.S.: Yea, he sure has been.

S.A.: We really worked, all of us.

D.S.: You was talking about putting applebutter and playing jokes on people, what other pratical jokes were there you would do? Would any of your brothers play jokes on you at any time?

L.D.: Yes indeed.

D.S.: What for instance?

L.D.: Well, they would get out and make like and say they was going someplace, to see girls. Sometimes we wouldn't believe it. (laughing)

D.S.: (Laughing) Yea, Uhhuh. Did you have any jokes played on you? Mrs. Atkins?

S.A.: No.

D.S.: When the first tourist started coming up on the drive, or just walk up, what was your reaction to them? Or, didn't you ever see any?

L.D.: Never seen any as I know of.

D.S.: Did you ever see any tourist?

S.A.: Any what?

D.S.: Tourist? You know people just coming in to see the mountains.

B.A.: Ah, of course, they would keep traveling on, they wouldn't stop with us or nothing.

D.S.: You never thought anything about them?

L.S.: No indeed.

B.A.: No indeed, we just ---.

S.A.: They weren't too much bad --

L.D.: Bad people. (Laughing)

S.A.: -- people, when we were growing up.

D.S.: Did your family, when they went to the store, or when you went to the store, did you pick up a newspaper? So you know what was going on.

L.D.: No, we didn't.

D.S.: Nope, you didn't care?

B.A.: You reckon there was papers much going around then, much in our days.

D.S.: Y e s .

B.A.: We didn't get'em. I get'em now though.

D.S.: Yes, right, you sure do. Ah, did anybody in your family have a camera to take pictures, or anything of that kind.

L.D.: None I know of.

D.S.: Did any of you do any drawing or any ^{out} work of any kind?

L.D.: No.

D.S.: No. You were too busy, weren't you?

L.D.: Yes.

D.S.: Roughly what time would you get up in the mornings?

L.D.: When you had to go to the corn fields you got up plenty early.

B.A.: You'd had to get out, as the ole saying, you'd work from sun up to sun down.

L.D.: That's right.

B.A.: Them days.

D.S.: Yea. You could start out with a big breakfast and then go out to work.

L.D.: Yes then --.

S.A.: Then you'd might have to tend to your chickens and things before you'd got out.

D.S.: Yea. right. So, you'd be up before the sun rose. So you'd have breadfast so you could be working.

L.D.: Yes, sun up to sun down.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Would you go home, stop work, go home and have dinner?

L.D.: Most of the time. Some of us would stay at home and have the dinner out.

D.S.: Uhhuh, Yea.

L.D.: Fix dinner till they come home.

D.S.: What would be a typical dinner that you'd have?

L.D.: Well, potatoes, beans, meat, eggs.

D.S.: Very good.

B.A.: Corn, anything we'd have, you know.

L.D.: We just used.

D.S.: Eating was good then wasn't it?

S.A.: Better than it tis now.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

S.A.: Yes, sir, to me it was. Don't know weather my taste just changed or what. (Laughed)

D.S.: Was anyone in your family a cobbler, to make shoes?

S.A.: Yes, my granddaddy was.

D.S.: Your granddaddy was.

S.A.: Yes sir, he made shoes.

B.A.: Uncle Chellie, that's exactally right. He lived right up there below where you talking about the ole school house below the "turn bridge."

D.S.: Uhhuh, and he made them for the whole family?

L.D.: Yes indeed.

S.D.: Made them for anybody wanted, I reckon.

L.D.: Wanted or needed them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did he charge for them?

L.D.: Oh, yes. That was his business.

S.A.: That's how he made his living.

D.S.: Have any ideal how much those shoes cost?

S.A.: Huh! Well, they weren't be too much.

L.D.: About a dollar and a half, maybe a dollar and a quarter, something like that.

S.D.: I just don't remember, but I know he use to make them. Fix shoes for people.

D.S.: Yea. Did you wear shoes all summer?

L.D.: Yes indeed.

D.S.: You did!

S.A.: Most of the time we went barefooted.

D.S.: Yep. Uhhuh, yea, and saved the shoes for winter?

L.D.: Yes indeed. Uhhuh. Yep, because that was an expensive thing, wasn't it?

S.A.: Yes it was.

D.S.: Sure. Ah, you had a doctor that would come to your home if you was ill?

L.D.: Yes, Dr. Smith.

D.S.: Dr. Smith.

B.A.: Yea, but they wouldn't come now.

D.S.: No. (Laughing) No. Would he come on horseback?

S.A.: Yes he would.

L.D.: Yea.

D.S.: Do you recall any particular illness that was in the family?

S.A.: Oh yes.

D.S.: What?

S.A.: My brother had pneumonia ... just the doctor told us that if he lived by twelve o'clock one night he'd make it ... expecting him to die any minute.

D.S.: What did he give for medicine, do you remember?

S.A.: I don't know ... he gave him medicine but what it was I don't know.

D.S.: Yea. Do you know any of the herbs your mother used?

S.A.: For children?

D.S.: For anybody.

S.H.: Uh, Watkins linamint,

D.S.: Sarsaparilla tea?

S.A.: Yes indeed.

D.S.: What was that used for?

B.A.: Vick salve.

S.A.: That would be for colds.

B.A.: For colds weren't it? I rubbed some of that ole Watkins grease on my throat last night before I went to bed.

D.S.: (Laughing)

B.A.: Did you ever see any of that?

D.S.: Yes (Laughing). You showed it to me the last time I was here. Uh, was sarsaparilla tea taken in the spring?

S.A.: Yes.

D.S.: To thin the blood?

S.A.: Yes.

D.S.: Horsemint tea did you ever use that?

S.A.: No.

D.S.: No. Uh I'm trying to think of some of the other teas. You ever had sassafras tea?

L.D.: Hoarhound... hoarhound tea.

D.S.: Hoarhound tea...uhhuh...yea.

L.D.: That's good for a cold.

D.S.: Yea...yea...that is.

S.A.: See bout that towel and wash rag ... see if it's dry... hand it over here.

B.A.: You see how I dry my things, don't you?

D.S.: Uh, that a way ... that's a good ideal....when you have ...

B.A.: Sure. Is it dry?

S.A.: It'll be alright. I expect you better let me ... here..
lay it back up there just that way. Don't want it to get
too hot.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Uh...when you got married did your husband build
a house?

E.D.: Had his home already built.

D.S.: Oh. Uhhuh. Did you go..Uh...where was you married, in a
church?

E.D.: No, we was married at Flint Hill.

D.S.: You were?

E.D.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: How did you get there, by horseback?

E.D.: No...went in a car. My husband had a car.

D.S.: Wonderful. Did you go anywhere on a honeymoon?

E.D.: (Laughing) No..No.

(All laughed)

D.S.: Did you mother make any special big dinner that day, or ..
anything of that kind?

L.D.: No, we didn't make no further a'do over that than anything
else.

(All laughed)

B.A.: They do these days though, don't they.

L.D.: Just fixed us something to eat and that was it ... I was
thankful to get it.

D.S.: That's right. How about Christmas ... Did you celebrate
Christmas at all?

L.D.: Oh yes!

D.S.: How?

L.D.: Well, we'd go places ... we'd go among people where we knew.

B.A.: We wouldn't have no flang-dang....no dances or nothing like that though. Not like these big parties

S.A.: Why I never was to a dance in my life.

B.A.: Drink coffee or all the such a'carryin on as they do now.

D.S.: Yea...right. But, did you shoot off any fire crackers?

S.A.: I never.

B.A.: What about your daddy? Would he shoot the ole gun at Christmas?

S.A.: Oh, yes.

B.A.: Well, my daddy use to do that too ... what at Christmas ..

L.D.: Every Christmas morning.

B.A.: Christmas mornin'.

L.D.: They'd shoot their gun.

D.S.: Shoot their guns. (laughed) That seems to be traditional to celebrate Christmas and visiting people.

S.A.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Did you do a lot of visiting ... like at the evenings?

S.A.: Yes I did.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

S.A.: Next door neighbors had children.. we visit each other and had a good time.

D.S.: Sure...great. If you went to someone's house to visit them and they were busy like stringing beans or shucking corn, what did you do? Sit and watch them?

S.A.: Huh!

B.A.: Helped them.

L.D.: Helped them.

D.S.: Helped them, right. (laughed) What about if someone was sick if a neighbor was sick?

S.A.: Go and do what you could do for them.

D.S.: Uhhuh...right...yea. People were much more neighborly, weren't they?

S.A.: Oh Lord! Now, now is so much different.

B.A.: When anybody would get sick one would go stay one night with them.....

S.A.: One the next

B.A.:one the next. It ain't like it tis now, you don't have to take them to the hospital or put them in nursing homes, and plenty....she stayed. Did you stay over there with Ida until she passed away?

L.D.: I sure did.

B.A.: Her Aunt, you know, what....Lindon, you know....that's the way you use to do..when people was... But, of course, weren't places for sick people then like they is now. Is it?

D.S.: That's right.

B.A.: But they stuck to'em.

D.S.: Uhhuh. They took care of their own.

B.A.: That's right.

D.S.: What about those old people who's mind had gone a little bit?

S.A.: Well, the very best you could.

B.A.: The best you could...keep'em at home.

L.D.: Yes sir, keep'em right at home.

S.A.: You know poor ole papa's mind weren't

L.D.: Well, you know Mama's weren't.

S.A.: And, but, they said it weren't anything they could do.

You know, had to keep them

L.D.: Had to do the best for them.

S.A.: But, of course, now Papa, he didn't last more than a month after he go did he?

L.D.: No.

S.A.: After whatever happened to him. He lived 91 or 92.

D.S.: Oh, Boy. Yea.

S.A.: And he went out he was over at Lindon's , staying over there he went out, or something, you know, something happened to him. You know, there was a tree standing in the yard, you know, he happen to get holt of this tree and they went out and got him before he ever fell or anything. Of course, he never did get well no more, his mind. They stuck with him. I would go over there and stay some nights with them, helped them out....of course, the brothers would go too.

D.S.: Uhhuh. What would you people do if anyone in your neighborhood had long fingers? Did any stealing.

S.A.: Any stealing!

D.S.: Yes.

S.A.: Like stealing stuff?

D.S.: Yes.

S.A.: Well, they didn't do none of that stuff.

L.D.: No.

S.A.: But youngsters.... you don't have to have long fingers... they really do it now don't they?

D.S.: They sure do. Thing was if you needed something someone, if had it, they gave it to you. Isn't that right?

B.A.: Sure.

S.A.: Right.

B.A.: Go ask them fer it sure.

S.A.: Even if you needed some money and didn't have it, go ask them to lend it to you until you got some and they'd do it.

D.S.: Yea.

S.A.: Jim Atkins, down here, Mutt's laughed that was that stove that did that. Mutt's brother, was so good to me about things like that. Jim, you know

D.S.: Yea.

S.A.: They were really good to me, them people was.

D.S.: That you know Ah, you walk,....you did a lot of walking, that's for sure.

S.A.: Huh! Sure, we had to walk.

L.D.: The only way we got there. (laughed)

D.S.: Uhhuh.

B.A.: She talking about walkin' up on that Hazel. She had to walk up on that Hazel.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Speaking of Hazel, did you ever gather nuts?

S.A.: Use to gather chestnuts.

D.S.: Yea.

L.D.: Yea, and ~~walnuts~~.

D.S.: Walnuts, Yes. Would you sell the walnuts?

L.D.: Yes indeed

S.A.: Yea, and crack 'em.

L.D.: That's the way we would get our clothes in the fall of the year, gather up ~~walnuts~~ ^{WALNUTS} + crack 'em

B.A.: That's right.

L.D.: ~~Walnuts~~ ^{WALNUTS} and crack 'em and chestnuts.

D.S.: You'd crack the walnuts and take the meat out?

S.A.: Yea.

L.D.: That's right.

D.S.: That's a lot of work.

L.D.: It's a lot of work ... that's what you'd have to do to get them.

D.S.: Again, do you know how much you'd get for the walnuts?

L.D.: Well, not too much then, a quarter a pound the most.

B.A.: Back then, that's right that's right.

S.A.: Twrent no use talking about back in them days, what we got fer anything we had.

D.S.: What about huckleberries, did you gather huckleberries?

B.A.: Yes indeed.

S.A.: I never went but one time in my life.

L.D.: I never went but one time either and that was after I was married.

S.A.: On white rock and we went early that morning and picked all day long hard as I could nary got a water bucket full, and I never gone back no more.

D.S.: You know some people use to dry huckleberries. Did you ever dry huckleberries?

S.A.: No.

D.S.: Did you dry cherries?

S.A.: Yes, dried cherries.

L.D.: Yes.

D.S.: Did you have a large orchard?

L.D.: No, we just had our orchard that ole Mr. Clark, Ed Clark, had. He just let us use the apples and things.

D.S.: And, you had a cherry, cherry orchard?

L.D.: Yes.

D.S.: Peaches?

L.D.: No, we didn't have peaches.

B.A.: Then, of course, other people, friends, had cherry ~~yes~~ trees at their homes, we would go their homes and get some cherries.

S.D.: Pick cherries.

D.S.: Yes, Uhhuh.

B.A.: Of course, and we lived up there where *Ida* lived, see, we had a cherry tree.

L.D.: Yes, I know you did.

B.A.: Apples all lined the garden, you know, sunday sweeten, the other ole sweet ones, but you never see any of them now.

D.S.: Yes. How about Miloms, did you have any Miloms?

S.A.: Yea. I believe we even had an ole Milom tree.

L.D.: Yes, we had Miloms around, yea.

D.S.: They are good apples aren't they? I have two on my property.

S.A.: You do. (laughed)

B.A.: Now where did you say you live at?

D.S.: In Luray. Uh, so with your apples you would dry them, make applebutter, Did you make cider?

L.D.: No.

D.S.: Did you make apple wine?

S.A.: No.

L.D.: No indeed, we never made it, only what we just had to have to eat.

B.A.: That's right.

D.S.: Yes. But no cider? Uh, Now let see..... What I have not asked you. Because there is Oh, about hunting. Did your brothers hunt at all, and your father?

L.D.: Yes indeed. My father and brothers ^{all} both hunted.

D.S.: What would they hunt?

L.D.: Well, squirrels, rabbits, coons

S.A.: Groundhogs, coons, opossums

D.S.: What would you do with them?

L.D.: We would eat them. (laughed) That's what we'd do with them. Was glad to get them.

D.S.: Sure. It was almost like a necessity, wasn't it?

L.D.: Yea.

S.A.: Yea.

D.S.: Uh. Which did you prefer to eat; the squirrels, the rabbit, or what?

S.A.: The squirrels, I'd take it, but the rabbit was alright, the coons too, the opossums

D.S.: Did you use the skin in anyway, the pelt?

S.A.: No.

D.S.: No. You never sold that.

L.D.: No.

B.A.: Well, that weren't goin' on in them days, don't reckon, but really goin' on now, ain't it?

D.S.: Sure. How about fishing? Was ^{there} ~~it~~ any fishing in that area?

S.A.: Yea, sure.

L.D.: Trout, eels, and fish.

S.A.: No, there weren't too many trouts, but of course, now there was some ole timey trout that didn't die, I reckon.

L.D.: Yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Was eels you'd eat those?

S.A.: Yea.

L.D.: Yes sir, and they were real good.

D.S.: Yea, How would you cook those?

L.D.: Well, clean them, you'd take ... fry them.

D.S.: Slice them up?

L.D.: Yep.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Fry'em in butter or?

S.A.: In lard, butter, or ever what we had.

B.A.: Meat grease, anything.

L.D.: Any kind of grease we..just fry them.

D.S.: Did you have a special day that was laundry day?

L.D.: No indeed.

D.S.: Just whatever?

L.D.: Just whatever day we could -- and wash.

S.A.: Is that stewing too hard?

L.D.: That would be it.

D.S.: How would you do the laundry? Was it a lot of work?

S.A.: Tote your water up and use your wash board. Scrub them like we do yet. We do yet.

D.S.: And then did you boil them at all?

S.A.: Yes.

B.A.: Boil them in lye. Did y'all ever boil them in lye?

L.D.: Yes.

S.A.: Yes, I quit~~ta~~ that. We got our kettle over there now where we used to boil them in.

D.S.: You got them clean, didn't you?

S.A.: Yes it did.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

B.A.: You know that Clorox, will bleach so now ^{doesn't} does it?

L.D.: I know it.

B.A.: Do you use it?

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Uh, clothes were pretty sturdy clothes so they could put up with this scrubbing. Then you had to iron them.

S.A.: Yes indeed. With an iron like that.

D.S.: Yea. You made your own soap?

S.A.: Yes, mommy made soap.

D.S.: That wasn't too hard a job was it?

S.A.: No.

D.S.: Did you ever use that soap for anything like poison ivy?

S.A.: No, I never.

D.S.: I could teach you something. It is good for it.

S.A.: Is it?

D.S.: Yep. (laughed)

S.A.: Well, we'll know what to do when we get it.

D.S.: Yea. Sure. I learned that from a family that lived in Dark Hollow, that it was good for poison ivy. Did you have much poision ivy around?

S.A.: It was right much around, but I never take it.

D.S.: Uh, how about rattlesnakes?

S.A.: Oh, plenty of them.

D.S.: Yea Yea (laughed). Were you ever bitten?

S.A.: Uh-Uh (no).

D.S.: Was anybody in your family ever bitten?

S.A.: My daddy?

D.S.: What did you do when he was bit?

S.A.: Well, Dr. Smith just come up and give him some shots,
medicine, and some stuff.

D.S.: Oh, you didn't use anything like snake root?

S.A.: No.

D.S.: Poultice? O.K. What was the name of your nearest
neighbor?

S.A.: Nearest we had when we lived up in the park, in the one
room house was Ella Rawford and Jim Rawford, our nearest
neighbor then.

D.S.: Ella what?

S.A.: Ella Rawford.

D.S.: Rattleford?

S.A.: Ral Ravelleant?

D.S.: Ral /... Rav Ravellent?

D.S.: Revellent -- Ah, That's and odd name, isn't it? I hadn't
come across that name Revellent. When you knew the
park was coming in what was your reaction?

L.D.: Well, I can tell you, I didn't hardly know what.

D.S.: Was your husband still alive?

L.D.: No.

D.S.: No.

L.D.: He'd been dead years and years.

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D.S.: How had you managed up there by yourself then?

L.D.: I didn't stay up there after he died, I come home.

D.S.: Uhhuh..... Yea..... Your mother and father ^{were} ~~was~~ still alive?

L.D.: Yea.

D.S.: Did you ever have any children?

L.D.: Yes.

D.S.: Where are they?

L.D.: One living in Baltimore, the twins I had died. They are buried on the Hazel.

D.S.: What happened?

L.D.: I don't know, just one of those things.

D.S.: Oh! I'm sorry. Were you up there in 1917 when the flu epidemic came through?

L.D.: I reckon we was.

D.S.: Do you recall any problems with that?

L.D.: No.

D.S.: None of your neighbors got it, or anyone in your family?

L.D.: No.

D.S.: That's good, because that really wiped out an awful lot of people.

L.D.: Yes it did.

D.S.: Yep. Uh, you went to church every Sunday?

L.D.: Yes, most of the time. When we were children we went to church.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you sing the hymns?

L.D.: Yea, we'd help them sing.

D.S.: Was it a good minister that you had?

L.D.: It sure was.

D.S.: He came every Sunday?

L.D.: Yes he did.

D.S.: Did he live up there or did he come from Sperryville?

L.D.: He lived on the Hazel.

D.S.: Oh! Wonderful. Did you play any music? Any of you have a banjo or fiddle or *Jews* harp?

L.D.: They had an organ.

D.S.: I mean in your home?

L.D.: No.

D.S.: No. None of you ever sing any songs?

L.D.: Uhhuh.

4/2 D.S.: O. K. ... You use to walk ^{*all*} around a lot, went visiting a great deal. Uh, ... were ... were the people in your area mainly related to one another?

S.A.: Yes, most of them.

D.S.: O. K. So you'd have an Aunt or Uncle as your near neighbor?

L.D.: Yes, most of them.

D.S.: That made it nice.

L.D.: Yes.

D.S.: Friendly group, didn't it?

L.D.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: You didn't have any argunments or did you?

S.A.: No, had no trouble with 'em.

D.S.: Say, ~~uh~~, another family wanted to come in there, what would have been your reaction? Let's suppose.

S.A.: Well, I guess they'd come ... that's all I know.

D.S.: Would they been ^{*acc*} ~~ex~~cepted?

S.A.: Well, sure.

D.S.: Did you ever go over to Skyline or those places?

L.D.: No.

D.S.: Did you know about Skyline?

L.D.: Yes, I know about it.

D.S.: O. K. ... You didn't get newspapers, so how did you learn things went on?

L.D.: Well, just whoever knew it would talk.

D.S.: (Laughing) ... Was anybody in your family in the Civil War?

S.A.: Monroe was he weren't

B.S.: He weren't in That wasn't the old Civil War ... the old back war weren't the old Civil War, you know. They

L.D.: He weren't in that was he? He was in Your man was in that.

S.A.: Yes, Frank was in the first

D.S.: The first world war.

S.A.: Sure.

D.S.: Uhhuh. But you don't know anybody in the Civil War?

S.A.: No, I don't.

D.S.: Because that was going on all around you. (laughed)

S.A.: Yep.

D.S.: (laughed) Yea. Did Monroe have to go over seas?

S.A.: Yes.

D.S.: What did he have to say when he come back home?

S.A.: Well, he wouldn't talk about it very little bit. Uhhuh.

D.S.: Do you know if he liked France or anything?

S.A.: He liked his friends, but he didn't like that army.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Yea. So he came back home and picked up where he left off?

L.D.: Yea, Uhhuh.

S.A.: That's right.

D.S.: Bet you all were mighty glad to see him, weren't you?

L.D.: Yes we was.

D.S.: Can't you think of anything I shouldn't be doing all the questionings and you saying yes or no. You should tell me something.

S.A.: I told you all I know. (laughed)

D.S.: Well, this has been very, very wonderful, and you don't know how I appreciate your taking the time to do this. I am just going to scan down and see if I Ah, one question I forgot to ask you. You said you did a lot of canning. Uh, did you process the cans or did you just cold pack them.

S.A.: Well, sometime we cold packed them, sometimes we didn't.

D.S.: Sometimes you processed?

S.A.: Yes.

D.S.: O. K. What would you process?

S.A.: Tomatoes, beans, corn

B.A.: Apples

S.A.: Apples, cherries, blackberries, things like that.

D.S.: Did you string beans along?

S.A.: Yes, I ^{we seen them} rather string them along.

D.S.: Yes. Uh, did you ever shell beans?

S.A.: Yes indeed.

D.S.: And then dried them. Uhhuh.

B.A.: We mostly let them dry and then shell them.

S.D.: Oh, you hulled them.

D.S.: Oh, that's smart.

S.A.: Sure.

D.S.: It's a lot easier, wasn't it?

S.A.: Yes.

B.A.: Then they'd would be alright, you see.

D.S.: You use ~~tho~~ beans ... cook some ham in with them, that would be a meal within it self.

S.A.: Yes indeed.

D.S.: Was there ever any problem getting things like salt, sugar, or coffee?

S.A.: Not as I know of.

D.S.: Would you buy extra just before winter came?

S.A.: Yes, sometimes we would, sometime we wouldn't. Just buy what we need.

D.S.: Yes, Uhhuh. Because you might have been snowed in and not able to get out.

S.A.: Yea.

D.S.: Well, I think this has been just wonderful. You really added a tremendous amount to our knowledge.

S.A.: Huh! Well, I done the very best I could.

D.S.: Well, I sure do Thank-you very, very much.

S.A.: You are welcome.