

9-17-1979

(SNP107) Edith Samuels interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, transcribed by Peggy C. Bradley

Edith E. Samuels

Follow this and additional works at: <https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/snp>

Recommended Citation

Edith E. Samuels interviewed by Dorothy Noble Smith, September 17, 1979, SdArch SNP-107, Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection, 1964-1999, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the JMU Special Collections at JMU Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Shenandoah National Park Oral History Collection by an authorized administrator of JMU Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact dc_admin@jmu.edu.

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

NARRATOR: Mrs. Edith Alger Samuels
INTERVIEWER: Mrs. Dorothy Smith
PLACE: Jolliet Hollow - Page Co.
DATE: September 17th, 1979

TRANSCRIBED BY:
Peggy C. Bradley

COMPLETED DATE:
August 3rd, 1983

D.S.: We are interviewing Mrs. Claude Samuels, who at present lives in Naked Creek. Where were you born? Where did you live when you was in the mountains?

E.S.: In Page County on the Blue Ridge Mountains.

D.S.: Where? Around Tanners Ridge or Big Meadows?

E.S.: No, it was on further over before you get to Tanners Ridge. Just a few miles this side of Tanners Ridge.

D.S.: A few miles west of Tanners Ridge?

E.S.: East.

D.S.: East? Oh, up that way?

E.S.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Ahhh, OK. Now, what was the ground like; was it rocky?

E.S.: Yes, rocky, and a lot of trees. It was a wonderful place.

D.S.: What was your maiden name?

E.S.: Alger. Edith Ellen Alger.

D.S.: You ~~was~~^{were} an Alger, great.

E.S.: Yea.

D.S.: Would you happen to know what your mother's maiden name was?

E.S.: Meadows.

D.S.: Meadows?

E.S.: Uhhuh. Josephine Meadows.

D.S.: You know there are so many Meadows in this area, I'm wondering how they all got here.

E.S.: Well, they are French. They came over on the Mayflower, I guess. You know the Meadows are French?

D.S.: No, I didn't know. No.

E.S.: And we all are a little related. It is way down with some of the people, but they are related.

D.S.: That makes it nice, doesn't it? You meet a lot of cousins.

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: (Laughing)

E.S.: A lot of them.

D.S.: And all of you lived in about the same area?

E.S.: Yes, maam.

D.S.: How much land did you have?

E.S.: Seventy-two acres.

D.S.: Seventy-two acres, and was it mostly woods or was it mostly cleared land?

E.S.: Well, mostly woods. We sold a lot of timber off of it and paid for the land.

D.S.: ^{you} He did? Where did ^{you} he sell the timber?

E.S.: Uh..., ^{we} he cut logs and sold it to a friend.., to..uh....., I don't remember the man's name.

D.S.: Make weather boarding or?

E.S.: Yea. Make lumber and... well, to sell, and that's how we made a living like that and farming.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: We had big corn fields, we had two gardens, we had five or six hogs, and butchered around three or four every year, and had four and five cows, and two milk cows especially, and a lot of chickens. Well.., we just had it wonderful.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Sure you did.

E.S.: We did.

D.S.: With all How many children was in your family when you was little?

E.S.: Well, it was seven, but my Mother and Dad, .. uh....., ^{we} they didn't live together. And, my Uncle didn't have any children, so he begged Mommy to give me to them.

D.S.: Oh! I see.

E.S.: So, it was just one in my home. Aunt Minnie, and Annie Meadows and Ulysses Meadows and myself. So, I got to be sixteen and I married Claude Samuels.

D.S.: You married at sixteen?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: You.., you was impatient (laughing) or either very willful.

E.S.: Yea.

D.S.: Uh....., your mother and father didn't get along. Now, that is unusual, most mountain families were very close.

E.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

D.S.: Did you hear of any other family that didn't?

E.S.: Yes. There was some of them that didn't live together.

D.S.: Well, how did your mother make out then, with her gardens and so forth?

E.S.: Well, I was two years old when they gave me away, and I don't remember too much about Mom and Dad.

D.S.: So the home you are describing was your uncle's?

E.S.: Uhhuh. Ulysses Meadows' place.

D.S.: OK. Was that a log house?

E.S.: Dotted with mud, like a lot were.

D.S.: Sure. Did any snow come in at any time? (Laughing)

E.S.: Some time.

D.S.: Yea. Was the roof a shingle roof or?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh. The shingles sometimes let in snow too, didn't they?

E.S.: Really. Yes.

D.S.: I've even heard of foot prints even in the house.

E.S.: We had it. One place we lived we had a skim of snow in the upstairs.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Oh, then you lived in different places up there?

E.S.: Yes. We lived five miles on the other side of the Blue Ridge Mountains one time. It is just woods in there now, no one lives there.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: The older folks died out. And, I didn't go~~x~~ to school until I was nine years old.

D.S.: There was no school near?

E.S.: It was no school over there. So, we moved over here on this side of the Blue Ridge when I was nine years old. We went to a school closing and I went two days before I was nine. And, then I went on through the eighth grade. I went six years, started in the second grade.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: And, I went six years and I didn't miss but one day. I was sick that day. I asked them to get me up, but they didn't, so, I was sicker yet when I woke up. I was in the bed sick.

D.S.: Oh. Uhhuh.

E.S.: I really liked it.

D.S.: Where was this school?

E.S.: Well, its..., from here it is up on top of the mountain, up close to where Owen Meadows lives. The furtherest house up is Owen Meadows.

D.S.: Well, now that was quite a long walk for you to get to school, wasn't it?

E.S.: It wasn't very far, we lived above the school house and it was just a jump down to it.

D.S.: See, you still have me living over there in Page County.

E.S.: We are in Page County now. We are in Page County, you left Rockingham down here at the bridge.

D.S.: Then why did you have an Elkton telephone number?

E.S.: I don't know.

D.S.: (Laughing)

E.S.: We do. We have an Elkton one. I think in the first, beginning Page paid Elkton to put this line in.

D.S.: Oh, I see. Uhhuh. So, you..... Well, then, the home that you are describing I am sorry, I'm vague..... Your uncle's home was up above here.

E.S.: Yes, on up.

D.S.: OK.

E.S.: Have you ever been up on top of the mountain?

D.S.: Oh, yes. That almost runs into Big Meadow.

E.S.: Well, it is right many miles from Big Meadows, but it is toward Big Meadows.

D.S.: Uhhuh, yea. Right.

E.S.: Uhhuh. Yea, a lot of friends lived up there. Several Meadows families, some Lams, and

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Lams and Meadows was about all there were.

D.S.: Yea. Thomas.

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: And, did you know the *Caldens* Gerbins?

E.S.: No, I didn't.

D.S.: Uh..... Alright now, the school. When you moved here so you could go to school, is that why they did it?

E.S.: Yes. Up there in the Park, they moved from where they were because it wasn't any school at all.

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: So I could get to go to school some, and I'm so glad they did!

D.S.: Yea. Right. Was school in the winter?

E.S.: Uhhuh. Nine months.

D.S.: Nine months? Was it a one room school?

E.S.: Yes, and she had from the primer to the eighth grade.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: She helped the primer, first, second, and on down.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: And lots of days she would have me to help the younger children. She told me, she said, "If I had known you knew as good as you did I would have put you in the third grade to start".

D.S.: Oh, yes. How had you learned, had your aunt taught you?

E.S.: Oh, yes. I could do a lot of things before I ever went to school.

D.S.: Yes?

E.S.: Ride horse back, milk cows

D.S.: Well, I imagine that your being the only child there were a lot of jobs you had to do to help your aunt and uncle.

E.S.: Yea, they kept me busy, right much.

D.S.: Yea. You would get up about what time in the morning?

E.S.: Well, I always got up about seven-thirty.

D.S.: Oh, you slept late. You were spoiled. (Laughing)

E.S.: Well, yes. I believe so, but they never would let you sleep too late.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: They didn't let you stay up over nine o'clock when your boyfriends were there either.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: You went to bed early and you got up early.

D.S.: Sure.

E.S.: That's how country folks lived.

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: Yea, that was wonderful then. You look back over the days you didn't realize then how good you had it.

D.S.: Right. If they told you to do something and you didn't want to do it, what would you do?

E.S.: You did it!

D.S.: (Laughed) You didn't postpone it?

E.S.: No, you didn't.

D.S.: (Laughed) Uh..., the discipline was good, wasn't it?

E.S.: Yes. Yes it was..

D.S.: Why do you suppose that was? Was it that you respected them or was it just.....?

E.S.: Well, I think time has changed things in younger people. In them days you worked and stayed at home, and you listened real good, and you would go when they would let you go.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Helped with the work. It was wonderful days. I would go back to them any time.

D.S.: Sure. I agree.

E.S.: It was nice. Yea, all the mountain people I knew worked and had plenty.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Now with your gardens, uh..., you raised beans, would you dry them?

E.S.: Yes, and can them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Uh..., did you ever have any beans you just let dry on the vines?

E.S.: Yes, and shell them out. Well, eat them just like brown beans today.

D.S.: That's right. Yea.

E.S.: The pinto beans.

D.S.: Yes, sure.

E.S.: Yes. We would sell eggs. Well, we made a lot of butter too. We had one neighbor had a big family, didn't have but one cow, we gave them a lot of butter.

D.S.: Ahh, yes.

E.S.: Yes, Aunt Minnie was very generous to people.

D.S.: With three cows and only the three of you, you would have to have extra milk then.

E.S.: Yes, we had more than we needed. Well, we gave milk to the hogs, too. See that fattened your hogs too.

D.S.: Oh, sure. You didn't let your hogs run loose?

E.S.: Well, some, but we had them in a pen, the ones we were fattening to butcher.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Around Thanksgiving we would butcher every year.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Now, when the hogs run loose, and everybody let their hogs run loose. How did you know which was yours?

E.S.: Well, they would always come home. We never did lose any, never had any stolen, or anything. People lived neighborly and loved one another then.

D.S.: Yes. You said the hogs came home?

E.S.: Yes, they would just go so far up to the hickory trees and things, but they would come back.

D.S.: Why?

E.S.: I don't know.

D.S.: Would you feed them?

E.S.: Yes, feed them in the evenings. That was to keep them coming back and not go someplace else.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. You would feed them what? Like cornmeal or?

E.S.: Corn or have corn ground up into meal, make a slop.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yes.

E.S.: They really liked that.

D.S.: You would feed your corn to your chickens?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Did you get much for your butter and eggs?

E.S.: No. The eggs was about twelve cents a dozen.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Ten cents sometimes.

D.S.: Where was the store you used?

E.S.: Just up the road here, just about half a mile from where we are living now.

D.S.: Whose store was that?

E.S.: His name was William Meadows.

D.S.: Right.

E.S.: They called him Buzzy, all the time.

D.S.: Yes, that was Buzzy Meadows, right. Uhhuh. He had a nice store didn't he?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Did he have material there?

E.S.: Yes. Yes, I am pretty sure. Uhhuh.

D.S.: And shoes?

E.S.: Yea. See, he had everything mountain folks needed.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Because it is six or eight miles from where we lived to the store.

D.S.: Right.

E.S.: And I carried a basket of eggs and go down and get it full of things we needed

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: and take it back home.

D.S.: Sure.

E.S.: I liked to do that.

D.S.: Yea. People didn't mind walking did they?

E.S.: No.

D.S.: Would he give you cash when you took your things in or did he give credit?

E.S.: Well, usually....., usually we would trade the eggs for, like baking powder or soda or thread, to make comforts and

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.:or things like that with.

D.S.: Did you have quilting bees?

E.S.: Well, a lot of folks did, but we didn't.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: But I have made comforts, like that.

D.S.: Uhhuh. The tie kind.

E.S.: Uhhuh.

D.S.: Yes. And warm weren't they?

E.S.: Yes. Yes, they were.

D.S.: Did you ever use feather ticking for beds?

E.S.: Yes. I have slept under a feather tick when I was a child.

D.S.: Did the feathers separate?

E.S.: Well, they were just real fluffy, they were always loose in there.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Our feather ticks were made out of goose feathers.

D.S.: Those stuck together better, didn't they?

E.S.: Well, they stayed more fluffy. Chicken feathers packs up and make it more tighter.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: I don't like those pillows.

D.S.: No. Huh-un.

E.S.: But we had some ^{with} had chicken feathers in them.

D.S.: And, did you go bare foot in the summer?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: It was fun wasn't it?

E.S.: Well, I never liked to go bare footed.

D.S.: No?

E.S.: I never liked that, but what could you do.

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: But you had to nearly, to save your shoes for the winter time.

D.S.: That's right.

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Would you have Sunday shoes?

E.S.: Yes. Everyday shoes and Sunday shoes, and clothes.

D.S.: Did your uncle....., was he sort of like a cobbler, so he could repair shoes. Put another sole on or?

E.S.: No, he mostly made his living by farming.

D.S.: No. I mean, like if your shoes wore out

E.S.: Oh, yes.

D.S.: could he repair them?

E.S.: Well, yes. Uhhuh. Sew them, put on a heel sometimes, sometimes a half sole, they call it.

D.S.: Yea. The men, a good bit of them, were pretty handy, weren't they.

E.S.: Yes, they were. They did seem like much more than anyone does today. People are getting away from working.

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: They really are.

D.S.: How about shoeing your horses. Where would they be shoed?

E.S.: Up there in our yard, in the barn yard, between the house and the barn.

D.S.: Did he do that too?

E.S.: No, we got a man to come up and do that, and his name was Nathan Watson.

D.S.: Oh!

E.S.: He was a young man, but he had learned to shoe horses.

D.S.: So, he would come around?

E.S.: Yes. You'd have to pay him a little something.

D.S.: Yes. Oh, sure.

E.S.: But everything was so reasonable then, less than it is today.

D.S.: Did you raise wheat?

E.S.: Well, when I was much younger, six or seven years old, we raised wheat, and rye, and corn.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: We was living at Aunt Minnie's mother's place at that time.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: But, we decided to move over where I could go to school.

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: I'm really glad they did. I got a good education, I think, for the way it was.

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: We couldn't go no farther then the eighth grade.

D.S.: That's right.

E.S.: Because they sold the school house to a man, a neighbor over here. He built him a house out of it. So, that was the end of the school days.

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh.

E.S.: But, if I had ^{had} an opportunity to went on to school I could have had it much better.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: But what you learned when I went to school it sticks with you.

D.S.: Yes it does.

E.S.: And done real good, and that was a good grade.

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: In my time.

D.S.: Yes it was.

E.S.: Eighth grade was a good grade.

D.S.: Sure. Did you have to help in the garden?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: (Laughed) That was a lot of work, wasn't it?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Was there many rocks? I asked you that before, but I wanted to

E.S.: Yes. Well, some of the places was much rockier. Up where the timber was and all, and out where the apple orchards was more rocky. But, well, I guess we threw them all mostly out of the garden.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

E.S.: He, Uncle Ulysses, would plow it with the horse, I would pull weeds, and Aunt Minnie would hoe it.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: That's the way we did.

D.S.: Yea. Now..., your corn, was there a mill anywhere around here?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Where?

E.S.: Uh....., I guess this one down at ^{VERBENA}~~Veberna~~. Do you know where ^{VERBENA}~~Veberna~~ is at?

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Because there was no mill no place close but that one.

D.S.: How did you get your corn there?

E.S.: He would put We had great long white bags.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: At the time, and he would put corn in that. And he would put a clean blanket on the horses' back and lay this big bag of corn on and take it and have it ground, and bring it back as meal.

D.S.: The blanket was to keep the horse's hair?

E.S.: The saddle from there.

D.S.: ...from getting into the meal, wasn't it?

E.S.: Uhhuh. And on the bag. And, they would sweat sometimes, to keep the sack from getting dirty.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Yes. We all lived clean and decent.

D.S.: Oh, yes! Oh, I knew that.

E.S.: Mountain people did.

D.S.: Yes. The people didn't have horses, carried the meal? I was wondering?

E.S.: Yes they did.

D.S.: Yes. When you didn't raise wheat, you had to buy your flour, right?

E.S.: Yes. Well, we had a lot of eggs. We had a lot of eggs and when we butchered we would sell hams.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: And-a....

D.S.: How would you cure the hams? Salt, pepper, sugar?

E.S.: Just salt.

D.S.: No smoking? No smoking?

E.S.: No, we didn't smoke it. And I don't like smoke meat today. It's not from not being..... Whatever you had from a child you liked it.

D.S.: Right. Uhhuh. Lets just say that it's seven-thirty in the morning, and you are a little girl, and you are awoken, you go to have breakfast. What would you have?

E.S.: Well, we would have fried eggs, shoulder meat, and hot biscuits, and well, I usually would drink some coffee, but not as much coffee as I would milk.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: And I still like milk better today.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: I drink a lot of milk.

D.S.: Sure. Back to your shoes, I wanted to ask you. Did you ever wear the hobnails?

E.S.: No.

D.S.: Or those little plates that they had on the back of the heels?

E.S.: I've had them with plates on the heels.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: My Aunt sent for me by another man for a pair of shoes and that was the kind he brought me, and she was so *disgusted* ~~discussed~~ with them she wouldn't let me wear them for so long and so long. But, I remember they lasted so long.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: But they never got me no more.

D.S.: Was they slippery on ice?

E.S.: No. No, they wasn't, and they were pure leather, I guess. But they lasted and lasted, but it was the shoe. It was a shoe.....

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: A lace up shoe.

D.S.: Yea. Lace up shoes, they were good. They were excellent in case of a snake bite too.

E.S.: Yes, to pick berries in.

D.S.: Yes. Uhhuh.

E.S.: We picked a lot of berries.

D.S.: Uh..... Yes, berries... berries. You mentioned you had an apple orchard.

E.S.: Yes.

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

E.S.: We had some peach trees about,... about in the corn field..

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: We had plenty of peaches, all we needed.

D.S.: Anc cherry trees?

E.S.: Yes, and cherry trees.

D.S.: Were they wild?

E.S.: No. Wild cherries, you can't eat wild cherries.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Do you know the difference in a wild cherry and a?

D.S.: Yes, ^{only} honey. I heard the good cherry trees were growing wild through the mountains.

E.S.: Well, it might be a possibility now, but not then.

D.S.: Yes. Red-hearts?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: And black-hearts?

E.S.: Yes. Well, what all trees that are up around here now they are not wild. Yet.

D.S.: (Laughing) You started to say they are poisonous.

E.S.: Oh, a wild cherry tree is, yes.

D.S.: Really?

E.S.: They are small, you know?

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: Real small. I always heard they were. I never was allowed to eat them.

D.S.: Birds eats them, don't they?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Did you ever hunt morels or mushrooms?

E.S.: Oh, yes. I've gathered amany ones of them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

E.S.: Yes, in the apple orchards and up there where the few chestnut trees were, they were thick.

D.S.: Sure. Right. Well, you are too young to remember the chestnuts.

E.S.: I was six years old I picked up chestnuts in a chestnut orchard and bought the first coat that I ever had. It cost six dollars and it was a red coat with a little strip of fur around the collar. Just a little round piece of fur. That was the first new and store bought coat I ever had. The others were made. That's how people lived, but it was still better. Stuff getting so high, old folks on just a little disability, it's getting bad. It's getting bad.

D.S.: Sure.

E.S.: It's getting worse.

D.S.: Yea. Did your aunt make a lot of your clothes?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Yes? Did she have a sewing machine?

E.S.: No. She would Well, my other Aunt did, not the one I stayed with. Uh... Ellaluscious Meadows' sister, she could sew and make anything real pretty. They would buy the material, she would make my clothes.

D.S.: Oh, great.

E.S.: Yes, and she had three daughters and she made their clothes too.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you play? Have any friends to play with?

E.S.: Oh, yes. Lots of them, but you didn't play as much as you worked.

D.S.: (Laughed) I know that. But when you played, what did you play?

E.S.: Oh well, we played dolls sometimes, sometimes tag. When we went to school they had a game..., we always played, fox and dogs.

D.S.: Yea! Uhhuh.

E.S.: There was a girl that could run SO fast, she could out run me, but I was the next best.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: And we played that a lot.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: We played ball and

D.S.: Sure. So, you had dolls?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Rag dolls or

E.S.: Yes. Well, we had

D.S.: or store dolls?

E.S.: I had several store bought dolls. They were just like they are today, uh.... their heads, the rest was a stuffed doll.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yes. That's what I had. Yea. (laughed)

E.S.: Do you know Edith Nauman from Stanley?

D.S.: No.

E.S.: That was one of my school teacher.

D.S.: Oh, really.

E.S.: Yes. She's getting old. Her mother passed away this last June.

D.S.: Now, would she stay up there?

E.S.: She would stay up with Aunt Virgie, Harm Meadows' wife.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: That was my Mother's sister and my Uncle's, that kept me, sister. They all lived close.

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: Oh. My Mother went to....., she went toward Elkton and worked. Lived in this man's house and worked for him in the fields and did different things. My older sisters helped, and that's how they made a living.

E.S.: Then they finally grew up and got married and all went working in restaurants. My Mother died at forty-six.

D.S.: Oh?

E.S.: Yes. She had a stroke, she had high blood pressure.

D.S.: Ahh.

E.S.: And my Dad lived to be eighty-nine.

D.S.: Great.

E.S.: And he married several times after Mommy died.

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: Yea. He had two or three to pass away.

D.S.: Huh. Goodness, two....

E.S.: He out-lived three, I think three.

D.S.: Gee. (Laughed) Your apple butter boilings. Now, when you did apple butter boilings was it a party time or a business time, or just a job?

E.S.: Well, a party time.

D.S.: Party time?

E.S.: We had a good time.

D.S.: Did you have music while you was doing it, stirring it?

E.S.: No. But, we more..... everybody got together while you was doing it. Young folks was there and that's the way they did things.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Each one helped out.

D.S.: Sure. In other words, it was more fun because you were all together?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: That made your party.

E.S.: And came in..... Some boys and girls would come in, but they didn't mind. People are getting away from visiting now.

D.S.: Oh, yes. Did anybody bring any moonshine along?

E.S.: Some, they had some. Some people did.

D.S.: Was any made up in there?

E.S.: Yes, I reckon. I don't really know, I believe some people made it. We never did.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea. Well, it made sense because it was a money crop.

E.S.: Yea. They did. They probably made it to ^{help} keep their families.

D.S.: Yea. Sure. Now....., I want to ask you. How Mr. Samuels courted you?

E.S.: Well, he would always come up on Saturday evenings and stay until about nine and on Sunday evenings and stayed about nine and Wednesday nights.

D.S.: How did he meet you?

E.S.: Oh, I came down to church, passed our church on to another church, with some girls different times and we met at church.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you go to Rev. DuBousq's Church?

E.S.: Yes, I did ever since I was thirteen years old.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: He came down here way back during the depression and he lived on five dollars a month and raised three children. But, I tell you, if it hadn't been for his neighbors he'd never made it.

D.S.: He said they suppld them with vegetables.

E.S.: I know. It ain't many people would ^{NOT} give.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: People had enough to divide.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: They would go home with me a-many evenings and eat supper with us.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: And their names were: Dorothy, Frankie, and Alice.

D.S.: Uhhuh. So, that's how you met Mr. Samuels, you went pass Mr. DuBousq's church and went down to another church. (Laughed) OK.

E.S.: Yes. Well, we would do that on a lot of special occasions. Different things.....

D.S.: Sure.

E.S.: Funerals.

D.S.: Yea. When he come to visit you, was you chaperoned?

E.S.: No, I never was the type that I was shy, no.

D.S.: No. Was your mother....., or your aunt or your uncle always with you?

E.S.: Yes. Always, yes.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: When you went to Sunday School or wherever you went, they was with you.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Yea.

D.S.: What did Mr. Samuels do? Did he live down here?

E.S.: He lived right up here where this house is you just passed. In an old house that was torn down. His daddy worked at the stave mill, *all the* Samuels, worked at the stave mill.

D.S.: Up in Big Meadows?

E.S.: No. Just up the hollow here, in Weaver Hollow.

D.S.: Oh, I didn't know there was a stave mill there.

E.S.: Well, there use to be.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Yea.

E.S.: And he worked. That's how he raised his family. My husband's mother died when he was three years old. *An Aunt* take care of. And he was I was sixteen and he was twenty-one. Well, he was nearly twenty-one, but anyhow his dad had to go along.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: In them days.

D.S.: Sure. Well, then you were married. Did you stay with either of the families or did you just start out in your own home?

E.S.: No, for awhile we stayed with Aunt Minnie.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Well, James was eighteen months old, my oldest child, *then* when the Park took the land. We moved to the homestead. You know they built homesteads then?

D.S.: Ida?

E.S.: No, just down here a piece. It was several different places they called homesteads they let you build on.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: And we lived there for two years. The first work he ever had, when we lived on the mountain, he walked to Ida and helped work on those homesteads. For just not for very much a day.

D.S.: That was some walk!

E.S.: Yes. And up on Skyline Drive maybe after he got to the drive someone hauled him, I don't remember. We been living here for thirty-eight years. See, we have been married forty-four years, ninth of March.

D.S.: Yea. What was your Christmas like?

E.S.: Oh, real good!

D.S.: Yea. Did you have..... believe in Santa Clause?

E.S.: Well, for awhile.

D.S.: You Did?

E.S.: Yea. Yea for awhile. I think all young children do.

D.S.: Well, not all that were in the mountains. (Laughed) No. So, you would get some presents?

E.S.: Yes. Dolls, candy, coconut, oranges, and they baked a lot of cakes for Christmas. Always boiled a ham in a big ole kettle outside.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: That would hold us a couple weeks. I really thought Christmas lasted two weeks, but I learned it wasn't only for one day.

D.S.: (Laughing)

E.S.: Well, you do. When you have so much and all, so many things, and people in and out, you know?

D.S.: There was a lot of visiting went on.

E.S.: I know.

D.S.: Yea. Did you do the Kriss Kringlers?

E.S.: No, we didn't do that then.

D.S.: You didn't? Everyone in the mountains in this area did.

E.S.: No, I didn't. They didn't let me go like other children did a lot. Other children would go places, I didn't get to go.

D.S.: No.

E.S.: My husband told me the other night, he said, I remember I would go places and I would think about you home working.

D.S.: Oh!

E.S.: He said to me.

D.S.: Did you ever.....uh....., see much of your sisters and brothers?

E.S.: Not much. We just seemed like strangers, and they do today.

D.S.: That's ashame.

E.S.: Yes, it is. But we have gotten closer in the last thirty years, I'd say.

D.S.: How wonderful that your aunt and uncle was so loving and so sweet.

E.S.: Yes, they were. They couldn't have any children and they wanted one really bad. Mom and Dad seperated and then she gave me to them.

D.S.: Uhhuh. That was just great. Oh! Did you dry any of the vegetables or fruits?

E.S.: Well, we have dried apples and cherries. Beans.

D.S.: Huckleberries?

E.S.: No. Not huckleberries.

D.S.: Did you get many?

E.S.: We'd get some, but never dried any. Canned them and made preserves.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did you sell any?

E.S.: No. Never pick too many. My Aunt Minnie was a heavy woman and she didn't like to pick huckleberries. I could pick right good. (Laughed)

D.S.: (Laughing)

E.S.: I've always been thin. Weigh more now than I ever did.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Just like

D.S.: Great.

E.S.: Yea. Glad I could keep trim. I am sixty years old, I was twenty-first of last April.

D.S.: Well, you could fool me. You could pass for thirty or thirty-five.

E.S.: I had seven children, I washed their clothes, I didn't use pampers.....

D.S.: No.

E.S.:when I had children.

D.S.: No. (Laughing) No. Uh....., yea. You ^{was} still on the mountain when you had your first child. Did you have a doctor come?

E.S.: No. My husband rode a horse down... oh, about, well, I'll say fifteen miles or more, and called for a doctor. But, then he had to go back to the Skyline Drive and meet the doctor, and be there waiting for him with a lantern. And when he come from calling the doctor, he went up and told the doctor we didn't need him. So, he didn't come on down.

D.S.: Oh. Uhhuh.

E.S.: I had my first child. I had five children without a doctor, I mean I had four children without a doctor. Dr. Walff was there when my boy that is twenty-seven was born. Then my last two, David is nineteen, I was in the hospital, and Donnie is sixteen, I was in the hospital. Well, with the help of the Lord and faith in him, you don't need them doctors.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: You don't, you just The Lord just take care of you.

D.S.: Yea. Were there any problems, like the croop with your babies?

E.S.: No, they were good healthy children.

D.S.: Uhhuh. Did your aunt use any herbs that you knew of for like, if you had a cold? You said you was sick one time and couldn't go to school, what was it, a bad cold?

E.S.: Probably a migraine headache. I've had those since I was six years old. But, I don't have it now like I did. Since David ~~is~~ been born, he is nineteen years old, I haven't had them.... not as bad.

D.S.:

E.S.: They are really bad. That was worse than staying home having a child without a doctor. Oh, I had

D.S.: That's serious. Nobody knows why?

E.S.: No.

D.S.: Why did you have those? They usual are caused by tension, and a six year old child couldn't have tension.

E.S.: I feel like they could have come on, I remember well, I was just over two when Mommy gave me away. I remember seeing her go down the path, and people don't believe me, but it'm telling you the truth.

D.S.: Sure.

E.S.: And I don't know what brought it on, but at six years old I know I had them.

D.S.: New adjustments.

E.S.: Yes. They are something.

D.S.: Yea. ^{Maybe} ~~Need~~ be a child as sensitive as you ^{feel} ~~you were abandoned.~~

E.S.: Sometimes.

D.S.: ~~Either~~ your aunt tried to show ^{love}.

E.S.: Well, Aunt Minnie's sister, she was younger than Aunt Minnie, and we were real close, I really liked her. And, she went on a visit and she told me, said, now you worry about me when I am gone, just kidding, and sure enough I did, and I got sick and had a headache. I remember well. I cried because she was gone so long. I believe I feel like that brought it on.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: I really liked her and ^{everything}.

D.S.: Well, was there any other sickness beside your migraine, (Laughed) Oh, dear! That you know of in the area, did anybody have like, diphtheria, or whooping cough or....?

E.S.: Yes, I had the whooping cough.

D.S.: Alright. What did your aunt give you for that?

E.S.: Probably just cough syrup.

D.S.: Oh, uhuh. So, they didn't use any herbs that you knew of?

E.S.: Well, sometimes they would use gingsing, sometimes they would take this peppermint leaves and boil it and make a tea out of that. And ginger, make ginger tonic, they called it, out ginger, take put a little whiskey in that so much water, ^{or} ~~someway~~ another. Put sugar in that and boiled it.

D.S.: What was that for, whooping cough?

E.S.: For colds.

D.S.: For colds.

E.S.: I remember , I never had nothing too serious.

D.S.: So that was ginger, boiled up?

E.S.: Ginger, boiling water, put whiskey in it, and sugar.

D.S.: Did it help the cough?

E.S.: Yes, It was ^{all} the family used that... so....

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.:nine years old and up.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: One of our neighbors' daughter got a cold and settle in her eyes. That was Alfred Meadows' daughter. *She died while I was growing up.*

D.S.: Yea. Uhhuh. Well, why we are talking about someone dying. How were the funerals done? They didn't do embalming at that time, did they? They kept the body right in the homes, didn't they?

E.S.: Yes they did, and I am just trying to remember. At first, when I was real small, an old man died that lived close to us, and they got him, just come in and hauled him away on a wagon. I was real young, but next one I was about seventeen when my Mother's brother died, and they kept him at home.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: And he stayed there. He didn't get to go to the hospital either. He stayed there from the time he got sick and got buried. And they had the funeral there.

D.S.: Did they make their own coffins?

E.S.: No.

D.S.: Uhhuh. They bought them. Did they buy monuments or head stones?

E.S.: No, I don't think so.

D.S.: No, they used rocks?

E.S.: Sometimes.

D.S.: Yea. Well, they probably had plenty of rocks (Laughed) laying around, so why not make use of them.

E.S.: Yes. But, it's hard for people to go in and say where so and so has been buried.

D.S.: Yea, that's right. When you would go down to the store. You said you use to like to go down to the store.

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Why did you like to go to the store?

E.S.: Especially.. Well, some boys I went with and my son..., my husband, see he lived down here close to the store too. And, they would always walk back home with me and carry my basket of groceries.

D.S.: Oh! (Laughed)

E.S.: I always was the type always like to go and do what I can for folks, and do things for them. I always charged them... we don't have anything... But I *felt the spirit* very *of giving* , but we are making it.

D.S.: Sure. Uh.. after your husband finished building those houses, what did he find to do?

E.S.: Well, the Government put out a job *of* pulling gooseberries in the mountains. *Don't know* know whatever that is, do you remember that?

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: They said they were killing the white pines.

D.S.: They were.

E.S.: They did that... ahh, I don't know how many years, and then we moved here. And, I think he went to work at the stave for awhile. Then the next job he went to Harrisonburg to a poultry plant and he hung live chickens, five years up there. And they are just hard to manage.

D.S.: Sure. That was no fun. Shoo.., and that was quite a trip from here to Harrisonburg.

E.S.: *Wild it was.*

D.S.:

E.S.: No, we had three children, my Johnny was four months old when I moved here. And, he drew twenty dollars a week, and us four lived on that. Five, it was five of us, James, Geneve, Johnny, he was four months old when we moved right here. We moved here in two rooms and then he built the other two on.

D.S.: Yea. ~~Weed~~ That's the thing that is coming out so strong, and hard work.

E.S.: And faith in the Lord.

D.S.: Yea. Caring for each other.

E.S.: Yea.

D.S.: Because I have yet to hear of a family where if some in ^{body} the family was not quite right, mentally or was handicapped in anyway and they cared. Have you ever heard of any?

E.S.: No, I haven't, and I didn't see any that was like that. You know, I lived from nine years ^{old} on up, my time on up to know..., don't see very many country folks like that.

- D.S.: Yea. Well, there were some that ~~was~~ ^{were} handicapped.
- E.S.: Well, that's a possibility, but not any in our family like that.
- D.S.: Yes. I think that is wonderful you taught in the school. How about hunting. Did your uncle do any hunting?
- E.S.: Yes, he did. And some nights he would say to us, let's go up in the orchard and catch some opossums. Then they would pen them up for a long time, and they ate them in them days.
- D.S.: Oh, sure.
- E.S.: We would go up in the apple orchard and you would get two or three, because they were up there.....
- D.S.: (Laughed)
- E.S.: Waiting for the apples, to get the apples.
- D.S.: Sure.
- E.S.: Yes, we would go with them lots of nights. Lots of nights he would go coon hunting, we would stay at home.
- D.S.: Yes. Did he sell the coon fur?
- E.S.: Yes, they would skin it and sell the hides, we called it.
- D.S.: Yea. And did you eat the coon?
- E.S.: Uhhuh.
- D.S.: Nothing was wasted was it?
- E.S.: No, never wasted a thing.
- D.S.: Did your aunt make soap.....
- E.S.: Yes.
- D.S.:homemade soap?
- E.S.: Yes.
- D.S.: Did she make her own yeast?

E.S.: No, because she never baked that kind of bread. She always made warm biscuits.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: A lot of people did make the light bread.

D.S.: You say that you weren't thinking about being moved *out*.

E.S.: Yes, I was for a couple of years until we got back here. We lived in the homestead for two years. Which now I see what a bad mistake we made, we was paying for that place five dollars a month. But, anyway I was kind of depressed and upset and all and had to doctor right much and everything. I was just depressed. So, we moved to another place for one year and my husband's daddy then built this. He was his baby boy, in them days the baby always got something, more than the others.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: And he built these two rooms and there is seven-eighth of an acre here. And we got that for one hundred fifty-five dollars. See we *was* just charged what was in the material of the house.

D.S.: How nice.

E.S.: Yea, he had a wonderful father. He taught Sunday School and *all*. Yea, he was a good person. He died at sixty-three with a heart attack, and he had went to work that morning. But, it was snow right bad and they didn't know where to send him. He came back home and died up here.

TAPE 2
D.S.: Well, pick up news and hang around and talk with people and find out what was going on.

E.S.: Yes, lots of people. My husband, would go down a lot. His brother, ran, well he ran a store right below Buzz Meadows'.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Oh, Clint Lam, and he was my husband's half brother.., and he had a store. He would go down and visit a lot, and talk with his daddy and his other brother would be there, and he knew everyone.

D.S.: Sure.

E.S.: Yes. It is just a small hollow through here.

D.S.: That's right.

E.S.: And on the mountain we knew everyone.

D.S.: Sure.

E.S.: Just one big happy family.

D.S.: Right. Uh....., did you celebrate fourth of July?

E.S.: No, not so much, the poeple, see, nobody was working public jobs.....

D.S.: No.

E.S.: Everyday was just the same, you know.

D.S.: Thanksgiving?

E.S.: Christmas and Thanksgiving. Yes, we celebrated Thanksgiving.....

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: And Christmas.....

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: and Easter.

D.S.: Ahhh....., all three of them. How would you celebrate Easter?

E.S.: Well, we colored a lot of eggs and fix up a good meal and..

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: Children would play with our eggs, and all would get together.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Had a lot of company. Always had a lot of company.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: Been as many as fifteen at our house on Sundays and would eat with us to. Some families wasn't as fortunate as we were, and they would come see us. And, sometimes on Saturday, this woman was real nice, she could bake good cakes. She would come up and bake a couple of cakes and help with the work and things like that. Just for their dinner.

D.S.: Oh!

E.S.: And you could see everybody, just loved everybody.

D.S.: Yes. Right. Then so, the Park came in and sort-of changed it all, didn't it?

E.S.: Yes, it did. It was enough to get you get depressed a little while. I mean it was for me.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: You don't realize , you wasn't in the Park. You had all them friends and everything, and you moved where you didn't get to see them. Some we never visited. And, my best friend, I told you run so fast at school, moved to D.C.. She married one of those CC boys and moved to D.C. and it was.. ahh, thirty-six years later I saw her up on Tanners Ridge. I went up there when I heard she was coming in. I went especially to see her.

D.S.: Oh, my goodness! Yes, that being scattered away like you all were was too bad. They tried, I guess, to keep you all in the same area. They couldn't because some of you ...

E.S.: We decided, they let you go look at the houses. My uncle decided to go down here on the Hopkin's place, and there was two houses down there, he would take one and we would take the other. So, we still lived close together.

D.S.: Uhhuh. That was very thoughtful.

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Hearing your dog barked make me think. Did you have dogs and cats when you were in the mountains?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Did the dogs keep the rabbits out of your garden?

E.S.: Yes. We had beagle dogs, rabbit dogs.

D.S.: Oh, yes. Uhhuh (Laughed).

E.S.: Yes. Cats, I still like cats.

D.S.: Sure. Did the cows wander, did you allow them to just wander around?

E.S.: Yes, us children had long walks to get them.

D.S.: (Laughed) Did they have bells on?

E.S.: Yes. You had to do that or you wouldn't have found them.

D.S.: Yes. You knew the bells?

E.S.: Yes. You knew the sounds.

D.S.: I think that is beautiful. (Laughed) I love it. Birds. Were there many birds?

E.S.: Not many, no.

D.S.: Do you recall what kind?

E.S.: Well, we had Sparrows, those red Cardinals....

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: and Blue-birds, and the little Yellow Hammers,
they called them.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: Had yellow breast and black wings.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: And a lot of Robins.

D.S.: Uhhuh.

E.S.: There wasn't as many Black-birds then as there are today.
They are getting....

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.:many more today.

D.S.: Yes, and Sparrows. Strip corn fields.

E.S.: It was good there wasn't many then, we had to live off
what we farm and all, you know.

D.S.: Sure. Right. I've been doing all the questioning,
please, tell me anything I have missed. It was love in
the family, very much?

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: Your uncle and aunt got along well?

E.S.: Yes, they did.

D.S.: And most families did, didn't they?

E.S.: Yes, they did.

D.S.: It's ashame about your mother and father. Uh.., discipline
was good?

E.S.: Yes. They were very strick with the children.

D.S.: Yes.

E.S.: We need more of that today.

D.S.: Don't we ever. Yea. Well, I sure do Thank-you tremendously.

E.S.: You are quite welcome. I am glad you came up.

D.S.: You did mention you worked hard. You didn't say really say what you had to do. You had to milk cows, feed the pigs?

E.S.: Well, I never fed the pigs.

D.S.: The chickens?

E.S.: I would milk, feed the chickens, gather the eggs, and pull weeds in the garden, wash right many dishes and.....

D.S.: Cook?

E.S.: scrub, Yes, cook, when I was real young.

D.S.: How young is real young?

E.S.: Well, I could cook real good at eleven years old.

D.S.: Oh, sew. Could you sew?

E.S.: Well, I made comforts when.... I made one comfort before I went to school, nine years old. The doctor came up to see this old lady and he said I was doing real good. And hadn't had his....., pulled two of my teeth one time, everytime he would come he would say, I forgot my pliers, and OH, what a relief.

D.S.: (Laughed).

E.S.: So, he finally brought them and pulled two teeth and it wasn't as bad as you think. Always thinking of things is worse, I feel.

D.S.: You didn't have any dentist, that's right.

E.S.: No. The doctors taken them out. You didn't have no fillings either.

D.S.: No. But, the teeth were pretty good, weren't they?

E.S.: Yes. I had good teeth. I had fillings put in my teeth at twelve years old, and, let me see, I was about forty or better when I got my false teeth and the fillings was still in them. I was forty-five, I am pretty sure, when I got them.

It was just a wonder life. Everybody *was happy*.

D.S.: Dancing. Dancing. Did you do much dancing?

E.S.: They wouldn't let me go to any dances. They didn't believe in that.

D.S.: But, did the neighbors dance?

E.S.: Yes, they would have dances and everyone would go. But, I was married three years before I ever went to a dance.

D.S.: They were square dances, weren't they?

E.S.: Yea. Yea, my husband could dance, Yes he could, but I couldn't.

D.S.: And would they play fiddles.....

E.S.: Yes.

D.S.: and banjos?

E.S.: Yes, and would have a wonderful time. No one would have any trouble. No..., no trouble at all.

D.S.: Yea.

E.S.: But today you get a bunch together you don't know what happens.

D.S.: (Laughed) Right. Well, I Thank-you again very much.

E.S.: You're welcome.