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(SNP006) Louise Wood Austin interviewed by John D. Dooms

Louise Wood Austin

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ORAL HISTORY TAPE# 1
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

- Louise Wood Austin - Sequa Hollow (S. Moormans River Fire Rd)

John Dooms

TRANSCRIPT FROM ORAL HISTORY TAPE #1

NARRATOR: LOUISE WOOD AUSTIN
INTERVIEWER: JOHN D. DOOMS

As part of an oral history program in Shenandoah National Park we have undertaken the job of conducting personal taped interviews with former residents and persons associated with the early history of Shenandoah National Park. The following taped material will be used by us as historical source material for in-park, non-profit use. Much of this information would be used to support the interpretive program of Shenandoah National Park by providing accuracy as it pertains to names, dates and historical events of Shenandoah National Park. Full rights as to the use of this taped material shall remain with the individual being interviewed.

This is an interview with Louise Wood Austin for the Oral History Program in Shenandoah National Park. My name is John Dooms and I am with Mrs. Austin at Jarman's Gap, formerly known as Wood's Gap in the south section of Shenandoah National Park. The date is December 1, 1975. The time is approximately 1:00 PM. As some background information: Gene Wilhelm, Jr in his publication, Folk Culture History of the Blue Ridge Mountains, refers to the Michael Woods family and that they established themselves on the east base of this Gap as early as maybe 1734. Today, I will be talking with Mrs. Austin about her recollections of her family, home and early life in Sugar Hollow.

I: I wanted to ask you —Sugar Hollow— how it got it's name?

N: From the maple trees

I: You had a lot of maples?

N: Uh huh, maple trees.

I: Well, we're now at Jarman's Gap... did you always know it as Jarman's Gap or was it another name?

N: Yeh, I always knew it as Jarman's Gap but I always heard my father say the name was changed from Wood's Gap to Jarman's Gap.

I: Why did they call it Jarman's Gap?

N: Some Jarman's lived over next to Blairpark Crossing.

I: Which crossing?

N: Over next to Blairpark Crossing...and they were named after them, I think...now I think I'm right on that or some Jarman's owned the land that was once owned by the Fretwells up here, I believe.

I: Where was that land exactly in relation to this gap right here?

N: Right back here behind us...right back behind us.

I: Uh Huh. Where were you born?

N: In Sugar Hollow.

I: You were born in Sugar Hollow?

N: Uh huh.

I: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

N: I had one sister and five brothers. One brother died before I was born. He was just a little fella. He had diphtheria, pneumonia, the scarlet fever.

I: How old was he when he died?

N: He was almost seven years old.

I: Who is your oldest brother or how does it go down?

N: Arthur..Arthur Olen Wood was my oldest brother...he was the one that died when he was a little boy and then Lertie was next and then Russell, Sidney, Helen, Paul and me.

I: Were you all born in the house?

N: Uh huh, we were all born right in the house.

I: Did a doctor come up?

N: No, a midwife

I: Who was the midwife? Do you remember?

N: Lord, I don't remember all of them

I: You had different ones?

N: Uh huh.

I: No kidding! Was it because they didn't have any doctors that you had midwives or just it was sort of the custom?

N: Well, they were the closest ones by. They lived in the neighborhood.

I: Oh, I see. Well, here at Jarman's Gap, you know, Mrs. Anna Rodgers used to live up here..did she ever come down and assist at anything like this?

N: No! No!

I: Hmm.

N: Mary Wesley was a colored midwife...she delivered some of us and a Mrs. Craig lived near us..Mrs. John Craig..she delivered some of us. The rest of them I don't remember. She was a white person.

I: Where was the uh...you said that your oldest brother died...where was he buried? Was there a cemetery?

N: He was buried at Whitehall at Mr. Moriah Methodist Church.

I: Is that the church you all attended?

N: No, that was were my mother attended church before she was married.

I: Was there any church down here that you all attended?

N: We used to go to the Brethren Church up on top of the mountain up here and we used to go on down..further down in Sugar Hollow.

I: Is the Brethren Church up here where you go across to Anna Rodgers?

N: Uh huh, yeh.

I: There's a cemetery there. Was there any cemetery in Sugar Hollow?

N: Uh, only the one up on the mountain I was telling you about and there were some people buried up in the orchard above our home but I don't think you could even find it now.

I: Did they have stones placed there?

N: No, they just had, you know, rocks with stuff engraved on it.

I: Who were they, do you remember?

N: I don't even remember. It was a very small cemetery.

I: Well, where were your parents buried? Down at Whitehall?

N: Uh huh at M^r. Moriah.

- I: Were you all...was it customary then, as today, to have the children baptized as soon as possible?
- N: No.
- I: I see. You know, I'm just wondering about the children...seven children... What about childhood ailments such as rashes and croup and teething and such things like that...how did you take care of those sort of things?
- N: My mother was a home doctor. She had a medical book and whenever we'd get something she'd look it up in there and fix up something for it.
- I: What did you do for teething, for instance?
- N: Oh, we'd just chew on spoons and things.
- I: Do you remember anything specific about what your mom did...any of her home medicines...as a child?
- N: No. I remember she'd make us take sulphur and molasses every spring.
- I: I wonder if you could just kind of reconstruct for me a little bit on who your parents were and...did you know your grandparents and great grandparents—their names?
- N: No. I knew my grandmother on my mother's side.
- I: Well, who was your father and mother and maybe we can...
- N: My father was Joseph Franklin Wood and my mother was Winkie Watts Belew.
- I: I wonder if you could tell me...your grandparents...who your grandparents were?
- N: Uh, I can't think of grandfather Belew's name.
- I: Well how about the Wood
- N: He was Alexander Franklin Wood and she was Martha Ballard Wood—she was a Ballard before she was married and...
- I: You were telling me a story about how they were married...
- N: Well, my grandfather and my grandmother weren't married then..that's the Woods..and they were in a fight in the Civil War somewhere and my grandfather saved my grandmother's brother, Lewis Ballard, and he laid him up on a bank and he said, Alex, I have five sisters at home and you can have any of them you want when you get back. So he came back and married Martha.

I: That's interesting. You don't remember which battle..they say in which battle that was?

N: No, I don't.

I: Well, that's interesting. The Ballard's..were they from this area, too?

N: Yeah.

I: Do you know where they lived?

N: Well, my grandfather liver here.

I: Grandfather Ballard?

N: Uh huh, great grandfather Ballard..lived here.

I: Same house?

N: Yes. He built it and then when he died my grandfather Wood and mother got it.

I: I see. So then the house right here we are looking at in front of the boxwoods right here was built by a Ballard.

N: Yes.

I: Do you remember his first name?

N: No, I don't.

I: That was uh...could you describe the house a little bit..the size and rooms and how many?

N: Well, it was a great big square house with a chimney on each end with a fireplace in every room and then it had a little porch between that and the kitchen and dining room..there was a room up over the kitchen and dining room and two rooms up over the porch and there were four rooms in the big part, the front part of the house.and two big halls.

I: Well, how many rooms...

N: Let's see..nine rooms.

I: That was a big house. Do you remember..I saw a picture of it and it seems to me it went horizontal..the boards and...

N: It was weatherboard.

I: Do you remember..have you heard from grandfather Ballard..if he had help building it..was it customary then?

N: I don't know.

- I: How about the fireplace..What was it..stone, rock?
- N: It was stone. We had a big, great big rock fireplace in the kitchen and there was tongs that hung down that they cooked on the fireplace back in the old days.
- I: What else could you tell me about the house? I'm sure you had some nice memories of that big, old house.
- N: Well, in one room in the front part of the house my grandfather had it built especially for square dancing..and they used to have a lot of square dances in there and even after I was a child I can remember they had square dances.
- I: Well, when you had the square dances who played the music?
- N: Ah..Ebb and Fount Taylor..they were two slaves that worked for my granddaddy Wood. One played a violin. One played a banjo.
- I: Did you have anybody else..anybody in the band or anyone that called the figures?
- N: Well, I remember when I was a child my father used to call the figures.
- I: When did they have the dances? On Saturdays..or special occasions or...
- N: Special occasions.
- I: What kind of occasions were they?
- N: Oh, like anniversaries or Christmas time or something like that... I think that probably before I was born that they had then any time.
- I: Do you remember what that house was made of? What kind of wood? Whether it was oak..chestnut..or any of those.
- N: I think it was poplar..the inside.
- I: I wonder if you could tell my while we're sitting here a little bit about houses such as hog pens, Still houses, cellars and that sort of thing..where they were located and what kind you had.
- N: Well, the Still house was located over down in there and that belonged to my grandfather Wood and you had to have a license then to make it and everything..and..right across here was a buggy shed, a workshop.. and right down there was a blacksmith shop. (see drawing)
- I: Who did the blacksmith work?
- N: My father.
- I: He was a blacksmith?
- N: Uh huh.

I: Did he do it for other people?

N: Yeah.

I: Well, this is a Gap. Was there a lot of traffic coming down through this road?

N: Not too much. I think they had more in my father's time than they did when I came along.

I: Did you ever hear why the Ballards or the Woods came up in here to live and when and where?

N: No.

I: Do you know sort of where they are descendants from?

N: The Woods were from Scotland..and.. the Belew's were French.

I: How did you know..did you hear the Wood's were from Scotland..was there anything..an old bible?

N: Well, my father had this friend in Waynesboro and he had a Wood coat-of-arms and he give my daddy one of them and he told him they came from Scotland.

I: Did the Woods or Ballards play any instruments when you had the dances?

N: No. My father played a banjo. My sister played a mandolin and my brother played a mandolin. My sister played the organ and I had a brother played an organ. The rest of us..we just danced.

I: You said they had a Still house here and what did they make mostly in the Still house?

N: Apple brandy, I think.

I: Was there an orchard here? Did your father have one?

N: Yeah. Up in here above the house was a big orchard and back up where the barn is..across from that was a big orchard.

I: Did you use all the apples yourself or did you ever take them to market?

N: No. My daddy shipped them.

I: You shipped apples? How did he get them out of here and where did he take them to?

N: Horse and wagon.

I: Where did he go with them?

N: Waynesboro.

I: He went to Waynesboro. Do you remember who he sold them to?

N: No, I don't. He sold them to some man in Philadelphia.

I: And you made brandy out of some of them?

N: No, he didn't. My grandfather did.

I: Did your grandfather plant the orchard originally?

N: I imagine he did...or my great grandfather.

I: Do you recall how long it took your daddy to make the trip with a wagon load of apples to...say, Waynesboro and back

N: All day.

I: He would make it in a day?

N: Uh huh.

I: Well, when you had to trade or buy groceries or buy things where did you go generally?

N: We went to Waynesboro or Dooms.

I: What was in Waynesboro as far as a place to shop, to trade?

N: Oh, there were a few grocery stores there and a few clothing stores. There was a drug store. Fishburne's Drug Store, I think, was there then and Ruby's Store and I don't remember the others.

I: Well, if you went to Dooms where did you go there..what was there?

N: Dooms Store..I don't know whose store it was. It was just groceries at Dooms.

I: Do you recall when you did make the trip to the store what types of things generally you had to get?

N: Sugar, coffee and things like that. We raised everything else.

I: How did you preserve your potatoes and whatever you grew in the garden?

N: My father used to bury them in the ground.

I: I want to ask you about your garden..you say it was right here along this wall..do you remember how big it was?

N: I guess it was about a half an acre.

- I: And do you remember what all he planted in there?
- N: Oh, everything.
- I: How about any grains?
- N: Well, he planted eating corn in there—sugar corn, green beans and potatoes, butter beans and tomatoes—everything.
- I: And how about hogs or livestock..did you have any of that down there?
- N: Yeah, we had cows and horses and hogs.
- I: Do you remember how many cows and what kind they were?
- N: No.
- I: How about the type of hogs..were they Yorkshire or do you remember any?. I'm not trying to tell you which ones they were..just give you an idea..do you ever remember what types of hogs? Is
- N: I don't know about all but most of them were red.
- I: Were they? How many would you...Well, did you butcher?
- N: Well, we used to butcher nine hogs in the fall. My daddy always said he butchered one apiece for us—there was eight in the family—and one for company.
- I: Well, what did you do with the meat? Did you smoke it or how did you prepare it?
- N: We'd salt it and let it cure and then he'd smoke it.
- I: How about a cow..did you have any milk cows?
- N: Yeah, we had milk cows.
- I: Did you ever do any milking?
- N: Yeah.
- I: I want to ask you what were the things...First, I want to ask when you were born..do you remember what year that was?
- N: 1909.
- I: 1909! And how old were you when you left here, do you remember?
- N: I was 22. I left when I got married.

I: Well, let's see..you were one of just a few girls.

N: I was the baby.

I: Well, how many girls were there in the family.

N: two.

I: Two?! Well, what kind of chores did they have you doing as a girl.

N: Well, tell you the truth I lived on a horse. My father and myself were gone all the time on a horse. I used to help him drive the cattle and all that sort of thing.

I: Where did he drive cattle? Whose cattle?

N: Well, this cousin of his, a Ballard in Ivy used to bring his cattle up and put them in a pen at our house and he'd sell them to a man in Augusta County. We'd ride down the hollow further and meet him and help him drive the cattle up to our house. And then the man would come over from Waynesboro over in the valley the next day and pick the cattle up and drive them on over.

I: But you did have everyday chores, didn't you besides riding the horse with your dad?

N: Milking.

I: What else did you have to do?

N: I used to have to help in the garden and pick apples and cut corn.

I: How about churning butter..did you ever do that?

N: Yeah, I hated it. Wash dishes.

I: You know alot of places they have names of fields..like if there was quite an area people would name their fields. Do you remember any?

N: One we passed up on the right way back here where I said I remembered it was all a big field that was called Goins Field and I can't remember who it was named after. But I believe it was named after some colored slaves that cleaned it.

I: Did your grandparents have any slaves?

N: Uh huh, yeah.

I: He did. What about everyday things like some of your tools..like brooms was something I was always interested in..did you buy something like a broom or...

N: Yeah, we bought brooms.

- I: Let's see, you said you had a Still house down here and it was your grandfather's and do you recall where he would market his produce?
- N: I think he sold it to the local people in Waynesboro.
- I: How about anything like an industry around here, like any mills.
- N: No.
- I: None in the hollow?
- N: No. One way down there on the other side of Carr's..there was one way down there.
- I: Where is Carr's?
- N: You know, the Carr you said you knew that used to tan hides.
- I: Yes, well, what city exactly was that?
- N: Well, it's still in Sugar Hollow.
- I: Is it? It's still in Sugar Hollow?!
- N: Yeah, that's still in Sugar Hollow. Sugar Hollow runs all the way to Whitehall.
- I: There was an old mill down there. Do you remember the name of that mill?
- N: No I don't. It was a corn mill. My daddy used to send corn down there and have it ground for corn bread.
- I: Do you remember how much he charged him to grind it?
- N: No, I don't.
- I: Did your father do much blacksmith work?
- N: He did right much. Like when they's sell timber in here to people, you know, to get the timber out..he used to shoe all their horses and keep up with that sort of work.
- I: There was no other little mills or sawmills or anything down in Sugar Hollow?
- N: No.
- I: You know, on the way down you mentioned the names of some ridges and...
- N: Ivy Hill..that was the only one I mentioned. And then when we got on down below that up on the right hand side was where John Craig used to live.
- I: What can you tell me about John Craig as far as the number of...

N: Well, he was a Civil War veteran.

I: For which side?

N: For..us..and he really didn't do anything because he was wounded and he got a pension from the government.

I: Did he have a large family?

N: Yeah, he had a right large family. He had alot of girls. He had two boys. I don't know how many girls he had. They were beautiful girls.

I: You don't remember where he was wounded?

N: No, I don't.

I: Well, how many miles up was that. It's not very far?

N: I bet it's about a half a mile.

I: So that's close neighbors for you?

N: Uh huh.

I: How about on down the hollow here..

N: About a half mile down here a family of Ballards lived. They were cousins of my father..old man John Ballard and Ellen Ballard.

I: How many children did they have?

N: They had a large family,too. I think they had four or five girls and maybe the same in boys.

I: Anybody on down below there..do you remember their names?

N: No.

I: When you went to church did you say you went down that way?

N: Uh huh. We didn't belong to the church but they were the closest church.

I: How about a school? Any schools up in the hollow here?

N: There was a little one-room school right back up here called Bellwood School. And there was one way down the hollow.. I forgot the name of that one.

I: How many rooms?

N: There wasn't but one room in Bellwood School and wasn't but one in this was down here.

- I: Who was the teacher? Do you remember?
- N: Well, the first teacher was Miss Pauline Hamilton from Shadwell and the next one was Miss Delma Thacker from Schuyler, Virginia. And the other one was Miss Lucy Duncanson.
- I: How many grades did they have in that one room, do you remember?
- N: All grades. Primer clear on up.
- I: Who paid the teacher, do you remember?
- N: She was paid in Charlottesville..the state..
- I: The state paid her? Where did she live?
- N: They stayed and boarded with us.
- I: Do you have memories of the school that you'd like to relate or anything that happened there? I'm sure you had to walk to it.
- N: Yeah, we walked. I remember the first day I went to school the teacher asked me to say my ABC's and I wouldn't do it and I had to stand in the corner. I knew them but I wouldn't say them.
- I: Well, when you had these dances how far would people come to go to these dances at your house?
- N: Oh, they'd come from Waynesboro and everyplace..Charlottesville.
- I: Were they friends of your family?
- N: Uh huh.
- I: How would they get over here—horse and buggy?
- N: Horse and buggy.
- I: Do you remember any cars coming down in here?
- N: Yeah, cars used to come down in through here.
- I: What year was that? Do you remember?
- N: Oh gosh, it was back in the twenties.
- I: Was this a main road then or just a secondary road?
- N: Well, yeah, this was a main road.
- I: From where to where?
- N: From Waynesboro to Whitehall.

- I: What about to Charlottesville?
- N: You could go on to Charlottesville from Whitehall.
- I: Was there another road to Charlottesville from Waynesboro, too?
- N: No. Except the one that goes across the Blue Ridge Mountains, Route 250.
- I: Do you remember how many acres the Woods owned down in here?
- N: No, but it was quite alot.
- I: Do you have any estimate?
- N: I don't have any estimate at all.
- I: Whatever happened to all that blacksmithing equipment and stuff when you all moved out of here?
- N: They just left it, I imagine.
- I: Can you give me any information about when the Park took over and what happened there and the feelings at that time and what was offered as far as payment?
- N: Well, we didn't own our place. It belonged to the Weyers Cave Bank and we had lived there so long that they called us squatters because we hadn't paid any rent in all those years and they couldn't put us out. And it was ours as long as my mother lived and it went to the Park after she died.
- I: So were you allowed to live here then until your mother died?
- N: Uh huh. But they had left here when they died.
- I: What year..do you remember what year? Well, you were already gone by that time, right?
- N: Yeah, but my mother and father lived there until 1943.
- I: So then there was no payment for the property?
- N: No.
- I: To anyone?
- N: No.
- I: Do you remember how Mr. Ballard acquired the property? He was the original owner, I assume..you said
- N: I don't know. I imagine he was.

- I: It's kind of interesting, you know some relatives of mine—most of them. How did you all meet since you're on the east side of the mountain and most of my relatives are on the west side. Do you remember exactly how that happened and how you got to meet each other?
- N: Well, your grandfather and my father were real good friends and I don't know how they met. I guess he just met him around Dooms and became good friends and we used to go over and spend a Sunday with them and they'd come over and spend a Sunday with us.
- I: How did you get over there?
- N: In a surrey and two horses pulled it.
- I: All seven of you?
- N: No, just the younger children would go. The two older ones would stay home.
- I: Well, did they ever come over here? And you say it was on Sundays mostly? How about all those dances I've been hearing about that you used to walk over to?
- N: I don't know. Did they walk to them?
- I: Well, I don't know whether they walked but I've heard that they used to come over at night and almost spend all night.
- N: Well, they did. Practically everybody stayed till daylight.
- I: So you danced all night?
- N: Uh huh.
- I: My goodness. What can you tell me about those dances? The two persons you said were slaves..did they always play or later years...
- N: Yeah, they always played for the dances that my father had.
- I: Well, where did they live? Where did these two people live?
- N: They lived over on Route 340 above Dooms.
- I: Oh, they did?! And they would come all the way over here?
- N: Uh huh. Ebb and Fount Taylor.
- I: Their names were Taylor?
- N: Uh huh. Ebb and Fount Taylor.
- I: You were telling me about a lady that lived up on top of Jarman's Gap there. Can you tell me something about her and where she lived?

N: Do you mean Carrie Walton?

I: I guess so.

N: Well, she didn't live up there. She'd just come up there and spend some time in the summer. It was just a cabin.

I: Where did she live?

N: She lived over near Madrid.

I: I see.

N: She owned grazing land up there.

I: Most of the people that lived down here like the Ballards and the Woods.. how did they make their money besides that they were pretty self-sufficient, I assume, as far as food. But what did they do to make money. You mentioned they took care of cattle. What did the Ballards do down here?

N: Well, old man John Ballard had a distillery, too. He had a distillery. He ran a distillery.

I: How about lumbering? Did you ever sell any of that?

N: No. We used to sell export logs?

I: What are export logs?

N: I think you make veneer out of them, don't you?

I: I don't know.

N: I think so. They're great big logs and I think they scoop them around and make veneer out of them someway.

I: About another question..You said this was Sugar Hollow and it was called that because of the maple. Could you tell me about if you all ever made maple syrup.

N: No, there were just alot of maple trees in here and that's the reason they called it Sugar Hollow.

I: Did you ever watch your father or grandfather distill anything?

N: No. My grandfather died real young.

I: When someone really did get sick where would you go for a doctor?

N: Waynesboro.

I: Do you remember the doctors there?

- N: Well, when my grandfather Wood died my husband's father was our doctor, S.A. Austin. He was here when he died. That's who they usually got.
- I: How would they get up here?
- N: Ride horseback.
- I: Would he generally stay awhile?
- N: He'd spend the night.
- I: Do you remember whether you had to pay him in cash or other things?
- N: It didn't make any difference to him. He used to write prescriptions for poor people and they'd tell him they didn't have money to get the prescription filled and he'd give them the money to have it filled.
- I: I was wondering about things like surreys and wagon wheels. Do you remember where your folks bought those surreys? It would be comparable to buying a car today, I guess.
- N: I think my daddy bought his surreys from..I'm not sure..but I think Mr. Frank Harper had a place in Waynesboro and I think he bought it there.
- I: What about wheels and stuff like that?
- N: Well, you'd get those there, too.
- I: When you had a funeral, do you remember where you'd get the casket?
- N: Well, I never had any while I was growing up. Cause when I was growing up practically everybody had moved away from here except for us.
- I: You don't know what the caskets in those days were made of?
- N: No, I don't.
- I: How about...
- N: My grandfather Belew, his name was Thomas Belew and herename was Amanda, he used to make casketS.
- I: Where did they live?
- N: They lived at Whitehall and he made caskets, my grandfather Belew.
- I: Did you ever hear what they were made of?
- N: Wood.
- I: I mean what kind.
- N: No, I don't but I've heard my mother say she helped him line them.

I: What did you line them with?

N: I don't know.

I: You don't remember how much they cost, do you?

N: No, I don't. I remember hearing her tell about this old fellow lived near them came up here and asked my grandfather to make him a casket and when it was finished he came up and got over in it to see if it fit.

I: What did you line it with? Did I ask you that?

N: I don't know. I don't know what they lined it with.

I: Generally then as far as a center or as far as a shopping place would you say you used Whitehall or Waynesboro the most?

N: Waynesboro.

I: Waynesboro. Was that further than Whitehall or the same distance?

N: I imagine it'd be the same.

I: What was the reason for going to Waynesboro rather than Whitehall?

N: More exciting.

I: Much bigger then.

N: Yeah.

I: I think I asked you..this was sort of a main road at one time--Jarman's Gap--did you ever get alot of people traveling through that would stop.. as far as traveling preachers or...

N: We used to have alot of Syrian peddlers that would come through.

I: What were they peddling?

N: Bedspreads, sheets, jewelry and that sort of stuff.

I: Did they generally stay at your place?

N: If they'd get there late we'd let them stay.

I: So them did you run sort of an inn here?

N: No.

I: But, I mean, it was pretty hospitable in those days?

N: Yeah.

- I: How many horses at one time would your father have?
- N: I don't remember. I imagine about eight at the most.
- I: There was a story that you related..The Civil War..about they called this house here a special house. Would you tell us a little bit about this?
- N: Well, the Yankees used to come up through here and they'd stop up at our house and my grandfather would feed them. So, they would tell the other Yankees about it and they'd come stop at the big, white house in Sugar Hollow and they'd get them something to eat. So they did and my grandfather never had anything destroyed or bothered with at all.
- I: After your folks moved out of the park, did you recall what happened to the house or do you recall how long they gave them to move out and the circumstances there as far as time?
- N: They didn't given them any time to move out. They could live there as long as they lived. But..at my mother's death the Park took it.
- I: And your father lived longer than your mother?
- N: No, my mother lived longer.
- I: Where did your father die?
- N: Waynesboro. They were living in Waynesboro.
- I: And where did you say they were both buried?
- N: Mt. Moriah Methodist Church in Whitehall.
- I: How about your great grandparents..they in the same place or a different place? I mean your grandparents.
- N: Well, on my mother's side they were buried in a private cemetery between Mitchum's River and Whitehall on that road. And then my grandfather and grandmother were buried over here on the mountain in that cemetery I was telling you about we'd have to come in from Whitehall to get to it.
- I: Is that a different cemetery from where your parents were buried?
- N: Yeah.
- I: It is different? Was there a church beside that cemetery?
- N: No.
- I: Who else besides the Woods..are they Woods or Ballards you're talking about?
- N: Woods and Ballards are buried up there and I couldn't tell you who else.

I: There was a lady that used to live up on the hill here that we talked about..Anna Rodgers..what kind of..she was a little ways away bu t yet she was close. What is your earliest memory of her and what association did you have? She was a colored lady?.

N: Well, when my mother and father used to go away they used to get Anna to come and stay and keep us children and we all just loved her. She was real good to us. And she used to come help when we killed hogs.

I: That's interesting..killing hogs. How many..did the families ever get together on things like that or...

N: Help each other?

I: Yes.

N: I don't think so. Not in my day they didn't.

I: Well, how about at hog killing time?

N: No.

I: You had to do it yourself, right, except for maybe Anna would come down?

N: Uh huh.

I: How about the Craigs up here..would they ever come down?

N: No.

I: You all were on pretty good terms?

N: Oh, yeah.

I: Was there much pasturing from cattle up in this area?

N: Oh, yeah. Alot of pasturing. This whole surroundings in here used to be nothing but fields, corn fields and that sort of thing.

I: Even on the ridges?

N: Uh huh.

I: So right now how would you describe the difference of what we are looking at today?

N: Well, it's just nothing but woods. I It's hard to even tell.

I: I'm looking at that old rock fence over there. That's alot of back-breaking work into that. Can you tell me something about the fences.. how many you had here and why they were built, maybe?

N: Well, the one we had was around the back part of the garden.

I: Where else did it go?

- N: It just went up back of the garden and on up below the barn.
- I: Did you ever help piling those rocks up or was it already built when you were there?
- N: No, it was already there.
- I: Well, we've been down in Sugar Hollow for about an hour and a half now and I certainly appreciate you coming along and we located your home place and talked a little bit about what was there. I'm just wondering what you think of that place now and after today being down in there and what your feelings are it?
- N: I don't miss a thing.
- I: You don't miss a thing?
- N: No. I don't like it now and I didn't like it then!
- I: Well, it's changed though, hasn't it?
- N: Oh, really! I could hardly find it.
- I: Well, one of our main things today was to find it and to see how it has changed and we've done that and I've enjoyed the information and I hope that I can get together with you again soon and talk a little bit more about it. I don't think we'd have to go back down there again but it certainly was quite a trip and I'm sure that old road brought back some either good memories or some rough memories of getting in there.
- N: Well, I was glad to do it and I enjoyed it very much.
- I: Well, thank you very much.
- N: You're very welcome.
- I: This concludes my first tape as part of the oral history program in Shenandoah National Park. The objective of the taping with Mrs. Wood was to locate the original Wood homesite in Sugar Hollow, to get an idea of the locations of the buildings, but, also to reconstruct a little bit the history of the family. We've accomplished this. I hope to interview Mrs. Wood rather Mrs. Austin at a later date and get more of a feeling of her personal feelings about life in that part of the park in it's early days. I also plan to interview her older brother, Lertie, and other members of the Wood family to get a more varied description and account of the life in Sugar Hollow and a feel for the life and the lifestyles in a gap of Shenandoah before this became a National Park

ORAL HISTORY TAPE # 1
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

BIG MEADOWS LIBRARY
SHENANDOAH NAT'L PARK
LURAY, VIRGINIA 22835

GENERAL TOPIC OF INTERVIEW: Location of Wood Homesite in Sugar Hollow.
Recollection of family and life in Mt. Home.

DATE: Dec. 1, 1975

PLACE: Sugar Hollow (S.N.Pl.)

Length: 45 minutes

PERSONAL DATA:

NARRATOR

NAME: Louise Wood Austin
ADDRESS: 765 Pine Ave
Waynesboro, Va.
NAME, ADDRESS OF RELATIVE:
James Chadwick Austin (Son)
765 Pine Ave. Waynesboro, Va.
BIRTHPLACE: Sugar Hollow
BIRTHDATE: July 10, 1909
OCCUPATION: Housewife

INTERVIEWER

John D. Dooms
Rt. 3, Box 138 C
Elkton, Va. 22827
LENGTH OF ACQUAINTANCE: 3 months
OCCASION FOR THE INTERVIEW:
To locate and describe homesite.

INTERVIEW DATA:
SIDE 1

ESTIMATED TIME SUBJECT COVERED IN APPROXIMATE ORDER:
ON TAPE: *

- 00 Through
- 01 Purpose of Shenandoah National Park's Oral History Program. Rights and privileges of the Narrator.
- 02 Place, date, time and names of Interviewer and Narrator. Background Information: Gene Wilhelm Jr. Folk Culture History of the Blue Ridge.
- 03 Origin of names: Jarman's Gap, Wood's Gap, Sugar Hollow.
- 07 Birthplace, Brothers & Sisters, Midwives, Childhood Ailments, Cemeteries.

* Tape time based on time-segment index (using a clock).
DO NOT USE DIGITAL COUNTER ON TAPE RECORDER.

TIME-SEGMENT INDEX

ESTIMATED TIME SUBJECT COVERED IN APPROXIMATE ORDER:
ON TAPE:

- 10 Parents and Grandparents. Marriage of Alexander Wood to
 Martha Ballard.
- 00 Through
- 04 Description of the large house and the location of out-
 buildings (Blacksmith shop, Still house, Buggy shed).
 Square dances in the home.
- 05 Origin of Wood Family. Instruments played by members of
 the family.
- 09 Goods produced by the family: apples, distilled beverages,
 livestock, vegetables. Waynesboro market place.
- 00 Through
- 03 Birthdate, childhood chores, slaves.
- 05 Industry in Sugar Hollow.
- 09 Neighbors. John Craig (Civil War Veteran). BellWood
 School and School Teachers.
- 00 Through
- 02 Country Dances. Transportation in 1920's.
- 04 Property ownership. Weyers Cave Bank. Park Service
 Takeover in 1943.
- 09 Social Gatherings. Ebb and Fount Taylor. Medical
 Assistance.
- 00 Through
- 03 Wagon Maker (Frank Harper. Casket Maker (Thomas Belew).
- 06 Travelers that visited: Yankees, Peddlers. Life-time
 stay authorized by Park Service. Family cemeteries.
- 09 Anna Rodgers. Butchering, Pasturing, Fences.

TIME-SEGMENT INDEX
ESTIMATED TIME
ON TAPE:

SUBJECT COVERED IN APPROXIMATE ORDER:

- 00 Through
- 01 Narrator's personal feelings about return visit to Sugar Hollow.
- 03 Interviewer's closing remarks.

ORAL HISTORY TAPE# 1
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
SHENANDOAH NAT'L PARK

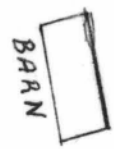
BIG MEADOWS LIBRARY
SHENANDOAH NAT'L PARK

NARRATOR: Louise Wood Austin
INTERVIEWER: John Doms

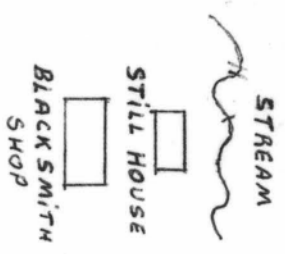
LIST OF NAMES, DATES AND OLD-FASHIONED PHRASES:

Jarman's Gap	Mr. Carr's
Gene Wilhelm Jr.	Whitehall, Va.
Michael Wood Family 1734	Ivy Hill, Va.
Sugar Hollow	John & Ellen Ballard
Blairpark Crossing	Bellwood School
Fretwell's	Pauline Hamilton
Arthur Olen Wood	Miss Delma Thacker
Lertie, Russell, Sidney, Helen, Paul, Louise	Lucy Duncanson
Anns Rodgers	Waynesboro, Va.
Mary Wesley	Charlottesville, Va.
Mrs. John Craig	Doms, Va.
Mt. Moriah Methodist Church	Weyers Cave Bank
Joseph Franklin Wood	1943
Winkie Watts Belew	Surrey
Alexander Franklin Wood	Carrie Walton
Martha Ballard Wood	Madrid, Va.
Lewis Ballard	Export Logs
Ebb & Fount Taylor	Dr. S. A. Austin
Fishburne Drug Store	Mr. Frank Harper
Ruby's Store	Thomas Belew
July 10, 1909	Amanda Belew
Goins Field	Syrian Peddlers
	Big White House

BALLARD - WOOD HOMESITE SUGAR HOLLOW



BARN

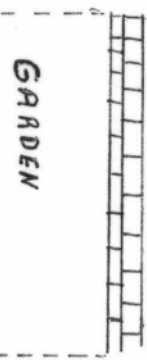


STREAM

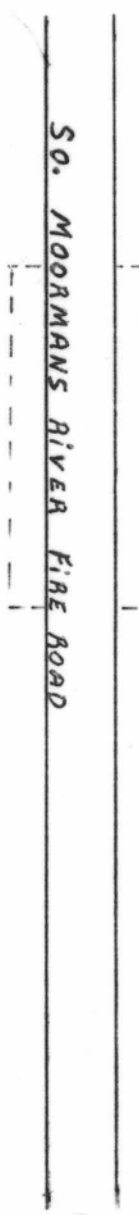
STILL HOUSE

BLACK SMITH SHOP

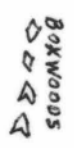
ROCK WALL



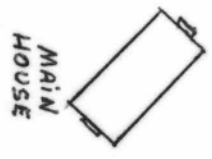
GARDEN



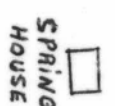
SO. MOORMANS RIVER FIRE ROAD



BOXWOODS



MAIN HOUSE



SPRING HOUSE



SMOKE HOUSE



CHICKEN HOUSE

TO JARMAN GAP
←

TO CHARLOTTEVILLE RESERVOIR
→