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NAFOH Oral History Recordings

July 2023

Donna King and Spencer King, interviewed by Anna Mary Milam, Part 4

Donna King

Spencer King

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Interviewer's tape no.: 78.16

NAFOH Accession no.: T1317

Interviewer: Anna Mary Milam

Address: Box 150 Surry Maine 04684

Interviewee: Donna and Spencer King

Address: MRB Box 186 Veazie, Me.

Place of interview: King Home Veazie Date: Dec. 16, 1978

Other people present: Two daughters

Equipment used: UHER 4000 Report L

Tape: Brand: 3M AV 176 Size reel: 5" 1 mil/1.5 mil Speed: 1 7/8ips

Cassette: Brand: C-30/C-60/C-120

Amount of tape used: (Side 1): A11 (Side 2): app 1/4

Brief description of contents: Description of their home, changes which they made since they have owned it and recollections by Spencer of the house and general area.

TR-11

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			[Opening announcement]
			[Loud background sounds of VT]
	049	36	Other than the kitchen-family room the pattern is unchanged. Upon entry through the front door the room immediately on the left was a parlor with an archway. We turned it into a bed-room, by putting up a wall and a door. Their dining room became our living room.
		45	[Tape stopped to check if equipment is functioning.]
			We use the door leading into the kitchen, W Because it seems like the door to use, good Maine people use the kitchen door. Also its the door closest to the drive. The door to the connected structure is only used for service purposed...

veazie

TR-11

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			<p data-bbox="678 254 1536 537">We plan to tear down the connected barn, and build on a porch, mud room and provide entry that way, instead of the door now used. Our friends use the kitchen door, only strangers come to the front door.</p> <p data-bbox="678 573 1593 982">92 I think it's just a fake mantle in the bedroom the chimney is behind that and a wood stove was used. To my knowledge there was never a fire-place there. Part of the Closet was taken to make the bath room/. Structurally the existing bathroom is the same, <u>Spencer</u>'s grand parents had done.</p> <p data-bbox="586 1018 1622 1623">]13 The front stairs were re done by the grandparents I was told they went straight up, and I think they changed the pattern. Now there are three stairs, a platform and then a turn up the wall, to the 2nd floor. I don't believe there was a wall between the entry and the present living room. There have been no structural changes in the living room, the mantle in front of the chimney, as far as I know it was only used for a stove.</p> <p data-bbox="565 1654 1622 2022">]49 The stair well immediately to the right, entering the kitchen from the living room has remained the same. The one going up to the attic is the same but we have been remodeling the upstairs. Now the kitchen family room is one large room, however it was three rooms to begin with.</p>

TR-11

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
		166	<p>Immediately on the left was a small bedroom which the grandparents used, we used it as a laundry. It was about 9' long reaching about 2' beyond the window of the present kitchen. Adjacent to that a was the pantry which had been opened up to house the kitchen cabinets. That was directly opposite the high chimney with a dutch oven. The chimney was enclosed and the stove set in front and hooked up to the chimney. The grandparents had a stove there for heating and cooking. W We installed our electric stove in that position.</p>
		218	<p>The door to the connecting structure has always been there. The enclosed porch had a conventional outside door and a window on each side. The grandparents left the door open to heat it. We kept it closed because we didnt have an oil stove and the furnace wouldnt heat it. When we had the kitchen redone, we had the wall taken out and made the enclosed porch into kitchen proper.</p>
		234	<p>The basement is only under the living room, the bedroom has crawl space. The kitchen also has crawl space, entered from the shed, contains also the foundation of the dutch oven.</p>
	300	253	<p>The lowere opening of the dutch oven was probably used to build the fire. Immediately above this is the dutch oven . It looks a lot like an Alaskan igloo, made of brick instead of Ice.</p>

TR-11

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
263			<p>There was a big barn connected with the shed. The barn was taken down over]5 years ago; I've never seen it.</p> <p><u>Spencers</u> mother lived here as a child. His grand-father was brought up here. <u>Spencer's</u> grandfather was raised by his grand father. We once had the deeds, the house is well over]00 yrs old.</p>
287			<p>At one time there was a railraod track that ran down in front of the house along the river bank.</p>
300			<p>[<u>Spencer enters the house all comment</u>]</p> <p>Original land plot larger, <u>Spencer's</u> grand-father gave his son a piece and he built his house there [<u>Looking at the house from Olive street, it's to the left of the house.</u>]</p>
3]3			<p>[Tape shut off <u>Donna wants Spencer to take over</u>]</p> <p>[<u>We're looking at History of Veazie, Maine by Jean Hamilton p]9]</u> <u>Wyatt Spencer</u> home.</p> <p>Originally my great-grand father;s house, and clapboarded. We shingled it three years ago for insulation purposes. I lived up the street as a kid, my mother lived here and remembers the z rail road track; it was used for hauling logs down the river, to the mill which was about 500 yards on the other side of the house, this house. From the porch windows, you canð see a pier went directly across the river and went <i>this</i></p>

SPENCER
 TALKING
 FROM
 DONNA

weazie

TR-11

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			way[<u>side</u>] so logs could go 500 yds down.
	400	347	A barn app 40 x 80 was connected to the present shed structure app 20 x 20 2 story. The barn was about 40 ' high and was used by my grandfather as a slaughter house for pigs, cows .for a sum . All the grand children about 20 would come down and watch. They would dip the pigs to get the hair off the skin. We'd stand around and wait for the bladder. After it dried out we would blow it up and use it as balloons. Thats why we stayed down there to wait for it. I don't remember if it applied to the cow bladder.
		385	Grandfather had a couple lpigs and cows for milk for himself. My family has lived in Veazie at least 125 years. [<u>History of Veazie pg119</u>]shows this house as it was 1895. My grandfather told me most of what I know about Veazie and this this house. I moved here in this house 8 yrs ago when my grand father died. One of the stories my grandfather tells when he was young they took a stick of dynamite,put it underneath the telephone pole and they blew it right through the house wheere my father lives now on Lemon street.
	488	434	house down there, house of ill repute. I think kthis house may have been a logging camp when I opened up the wall [<u>attic-basement</u>] I found a pair of

Veazie

Index	TR 11 NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			of lead knuckles and I gave them away to a rough guy.
		448	I also found some very old news papers out of the west dated 1845. There were also very old letters in beautiful penmanship, scroll. They were there in the dutch oven, along with bills.
		471	Under the dutch oven is a ledge with rocks on top forming the foundation. Above that cement, the brick. They can't build one like this as I was told with the gradual inward sloping. There must have a reason for that angle. I myselfe opened the partition enclosing the Dutch oven. I never remember that being open. The first part of the shed was always used for wood storage; the big barn held the animals. The part of the shed which has the slanted off roof was a part of the barn it was built that way with wood from the torn down barn.
		507	This years strawberries were not very good because I didn't have a goose to weed the garden Plus the excreta helps the garden. Ypu can turn a goose loose anywhere [Laughs] but I can't tell you what he will do in any other kind of environment. It was tremendous fishing when I was a kid (37yrs Spencer is) and it's beginning to come back now. Bass 3 or 4 lb now. Pollution was from the

TR-11

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
	596		paper companies. I caught at least 35 bass
			up there this spring, in my canoe up the river.
			When I was a kid you could catch anything ,
			even salmon.
	545		Iv'e found old rail rail road pins on the track
			it's very interesting walking down there. You
			could find all sorts of things along the track
			from Orono to the mill.9 (by <u>Louie Silvers</u> in
			VeazieØ)
			I don't know how the land plots were laid out;
			between me and my Uncle next door there's a 16
			ft plot that no one owns, we both own it. It shows
			on the clear dead that he owns it and I own it.
			Grandfather used to own clear to the river, but
			Bangor Hydro bought right of way the line is to
			the driveway.
	583		There are 3 related kings. My grand father was
			not a king, the Spencers area large family. One
			lives next door on the river side, the other
			on the adjacent house on Olive St. The others
			are scattered. I was named <u>Spencer</u> after my mother's
			family. I met a guy who was named <u>Spencer</u> for
			<u>Spencer Tracy</u> , . When I was young I couldn't
			say Spencer; all I could say was pepper so that
			was my nick-name.
	611		I used to hunt and trap with my grandfather on
			the airline, deer, bear..trap bear.

Orono
Veazie

TR-11

T1317.2

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
684			<p>The old jaw type trap and we'd check them every three days. If you caught one, you had to go back and contact the game warden, the game warden would say ok. shoot him. Grandfather used a 44 which he used</p> <p>Also trapped beaver, fox nothing around Veazie outside of Stillwater Ave where we used to trap fisher.</p>
		648	<p>My grand father didn't mention much about HAT Aunt Hatf</p>
		659	<p>All houses and barns were connected because of the bad weather, so they didn't have to go out in the snow. There was a pipe which ran the left side of the kitchen wall to the barn used for watering the animals/. Grand father would let it run a little bit in the night so it would not freeze</p>
			<p>[side 2 tape 1 78.16]</p>
			<p>[Opening side 2 tape background preparing fire in wood stove.]</p>
		14	<p>The underground river runs by the trailer park and comes out by <u>Louie Silver</u>. It went through the University of Maine it was good water and used for washing the crushed rocks of the construction company that belonged to <u>Reggie Nauglier</u>. The trailer park still gets their water from there now. It never came to this</p>
	021		

Veazie

TR-11

Index	NAFOH	Int.	Catalog
			house. In hauling out of the pit at the trailer park, they went below the water level and it stays the same right now. This house is Veazie and Orono Water, via Bangor.
		74	I haven't found any indication of a well, they had to get it from somewhere [<u>pg 119 History of Veazie Me</u>] shows on the top photo on the left a black tank like structure beneath the tree probably the pumping station for local water. I would say they had to lug the water to the animals from there. Possibly they watered the animals at the river.
		125	[<u>Donna made some comment from the other room</u>]
		140	140 We gave all the old newspapers and letters to <u>Buddy</u> (a cousin) because they were of interest to him. I'll ask him for a couple of letters.
166			
		176	[<u>End of Interview.</u>]

Veazie
Orono
Bangor

Saturday,
Dec 16, 1978

Field notes for the Spencer King interview on their home.

My appointment was set up for 10 am at Mrs King's request. I arrived approximately ten minutes early, the place was a bee hive of confused activity. Mrs Spencer and her two daughters were home, two different stereo players were blaring loudly and the Television was even louder. Apparently none of these appliances were functioning properly, all were being tested and a repairman was expected momentarily. He, the repairman, and apparently a friend, arrived about 10 am, looked at everything did some minor adjustments on one stereo and the T.V. and removed the portable Stereo. Then we finally settled down to the interview, which took place in the large Kitchen-den area.

The two daughters remained in the living room, adjacent to the kitchen cum den. There they played the T.V. and typed. Unfortunately there is no door to close between these two rooms consequently there is the steady background sound from the tube. Additionally the phone is in the kitchen on the kitchen living room wall..this accounts for the dialing and background conversation intermitantly. Just about midway on the tape Spencer King returned..there's a hu hah gabble of comments from assorted girls his wife and myself; Mrs King asked me to shut the tape off again. During the period of time the tape was off She insisted that her husband, Spencer, take over and finish the interview; and she left the room. Spencer King and I continued taping. Donna, Mrs King said that he knew it all better and more than she since she's lived in the area only 15 years, compared to Spencers growing up around Veazie. She felt Spencer was a better informant and was relieved to have him take over.

The first side of the tape ran out on me despite my watching the reels in talking about the water supply to the connected Barn in the time of Spencer's Grandfather's animals. However I believe I collected all the pertinent data on the 2nd side of the reel.

Basically Spencer said that his grandfather's water supply during his remembrance came through the kitchen water pipes. This also was the kitchen, and household water supply from the ~~town~~ of Veazie at the time of running water...Prior to the time of piped city water is speculated on side 2. Note that 30 years ago water was being sent through the unheated shed, into the unheated barn.

Future projected plans not down on tape are to remove the dutch oven structure. The Kings believe it is unsafe; a possible fire hazard.

Additionally Mr King urged me to talk to Bill Jordan, who lives with a daughter across the street 2nd house. He said Mr Jordan, (also Mrs Hodgeman's father) is 92 years of age knows a great deal about Veazie and he loves to talk especially when he is well. This sounds like a fund of information, requires ^{future} time and persistence (sick days) to collect; limited by the tenuous ~~longevity~~ of a 92 year old male.

Furthermore, I would think if the dates mentioned on the Newspapers of 1845 are accurate, as well as the personal letters written at that time dated 1845 are available both should be copied and added to the Archives. Surely there will be some relevant material.

^T
The Kings very much want a floor plan and photograph of their home. Mrs King has repeatedly made this request.

Would uoy mind if I light up my fire first before we start in again
you go right ahead because I'm going to put some data on this tape over
here..I'm going to say that this is the snd side of the tape on
Dec 16, 1978 .. Ann Milam and Spencer King speaking and
S...Boy were going to have to empty that.

A We're going to talk about the underground river.

Now tekl me about the Underground river .

S Well the only