

Tales of Cape Cod
Sarah May Taylor Oral History
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Female Speaker: This recording is the property of the Tales of Cape Cod Incorporated. It cannot be reproduced without the written consent of the Tales of Cape Cod Incorporated. September 12th, 1977. Today I'm visiting with Sarah May Taylor on Barley Neck Road in East Orleans. Mrs. Taylor, what was your maiden name?

Sarah May Taylor: Sarah May Taylor.

FS: Where were you born?

SMT: In Eastham, right there in that Walker homestead.

FS: What was the date of your birth?

SMT: March 22nd, 1890.

FS: Are you a Mayflower descendant?

SMT: Not that I know of.

FS: What do you attribute your longevity to?

SMT: Hard work and farming.

FS: Can you tell me about that hard work?

SMT: All right. No problem. It's about a hundred a day with a brush – automatic.

FS: What hour, what time of the day did you start?

SMT: 5:00 a.m.

FS: Who helped you do all these cleaning jobs?

SMT: We hired (Timmy Smith?). He worked with us. We didn't have many in the house to help. The help was outside, mostly.

FS: How did you process the milk?

SMT: It wasn't processed. We milked it and it was raw milk. I remember we didn't put it through any process.

FS: Do you remember your grandparents on your father's side?

SMT: Yes.

FS: What was your grandfather's name?

SMT: John Fenelon Walker.

FS: Where was Grandfather Walker born?

SMT: I don't know.

FS: Do you know what year? Where did he live?

SMT: He lived in Eastham, where Otto Nickerson lives now.

FS: What was his occupation?

SMT: Farming.

FS: What sort of farming.

SMT: Vegetables and that's all – vegetables.

FS: What in? Special vegetables?

SMT: No, all kinds.

FS: In Eastham, they used to be famous for turnips.

SMT: Oh, it was asparagus.

FS: Do you remember any stories that your grandfather told you? Any bad stories

SMT: No, not really here.

FS: Anything about Cape Cod in those days? Transportation?

SMT: They done seafaring. I don't think he did, though. Not to my knowledge.

FS: Then there are a lot of ships.

SMT: Yes. Ships that they – I guess he went to see some. Yes, he did.

FS: Did he fish or went fishing?

SMT: Not really, no.

FS: How about your grandmother on your father's side? What was her name?

SMT: Mary Ellen.

FS: Her maiden name?

SMT: Let's see. Her name was Eldridge.

FS: Where was she born?

SMT: I think in Brewster.

FS: How about your grandparents on the mother's side of the family?

SMT: They were in Wellfleet.

FS: Your grandfather's name?

SMT: James Wiley.

FS: What did Grandfather Wiley do for a living?

SMT: He was down on the (wharf?). They had a (wharf?) – they called it down there. He had a market – everything.

FS: What was the name of the store?

SMT: Central Trading.

FS: Can you tell me about that store?

SMT: About what?

FS: About the store?

SMT: The store was on the wharf down there in Wall Street. It had all kinds of groceries right there. He tended that quite a bit.

FS: The ships came in?

SMT: Yes. The ships came in and unloaded there.

FS: You know what cargo they carried?

SMT: I remembered everything.

FS: Do you remember any visits to that store?

SMT: Oh, yes.

FS: Tell me about that.

SMT: We used to go down there and get the raisins and go out on the walk and eat them and sort of helped ourselves.

FS: Can you remember what sort of ships they were?

SMT: They were sailing ships, mostly three-masted schooners and like that – brought the supplies in for the men on the wharf.

FS: Do you know where these boats went to after they left Wellfleet?

SMT: No, I don't. They went and picked up the provisions and brought back.

FS: Do you remember any of the crew? Captains or anything?

SMT: No. I know they came in there and disposed of their cargo and went right out again. But they didn't always live in those [unintelligible] just came in there to bring us supplies.

FS: How old were you then?

SMT: About seven.

FS: That was 1897. How about your grandmother Wiley?

SMT: She just done the household things. She was born in Wellfleet. I've got a picture of her mother and a pin that I have – that picture of her with it on her breast.

FS: Oh, you have that pin?

SMT: I have that pin. I'll show it to you.

FS: I like this pin. Can you tell me any stories about your grandmother Wiley?

SMT: She was a very quiet disposition, and she was a quiet person. Anyway, my grandfather had a different temperament.

FS: How was that?

SMT: He'd take the panels right out of the chamber door if he'd get mad. I didn't like her living with him, but she did. But I didn't say anything.

FS: You went with him to keep the store. Then what did you do when you visited your grandmother Wiley?

SMT: Got anything I wanted to, I guess. She let me.

FS: Did she teach you to sew and cook and do things like that?

SMT: No. When the Portland was lost out there, the chimney blew off the roof and she couldn't cook in the kitchen. So, she cooked in the top of her gas burner some pies. I remember that. I was only eight years old.

FS: Do you remember anything else about the Portland?

SMT: Everyone was lost that night.

FS: How many people?

SMT: I don't know how many.

FS: Did it come ashore in Eastham?

SMT: No.

FS: Did you see the wreck?

SMT: No, I didn't. It was a total loss that night, when all our boys were lost.

FS: Tell me about your father. What was his name?

SMT: Abbott Howard Walker.

FS: Where was he born?

SMT: He was born in South Eastham.

FS: What year?

SMT: '64. 1864.

FS: Can you tell me anything about his schooling?

SMT: He was on the Coast Guard station and the keeper of Nauset station after a while.

FS: What did he do before that?

SMT: I don't know. Oh, I do too. He worked at the pant factory. It was a pant factory in Orleans, and he worked for it.

FS: What sort of pants did they make?

SMT: I don't know.

FS: Was that Cummings Pants Factory?

SMT: Before [unintelligible]

FS: How old was he when he worked at Cummings?

SMT: He lived to be ninety. Well, he was in his twenties, probably.

FS: What can you tell me about his experiences as keeper of the lighthouse?

SMT: Of the Nauset Life Saving station?

FS: Yes.

SMT: He was the keeper and he had the crew under him. He walked the beach for quite a while before he was made keeper. When the storm's out, he'd go out and they'd walk to the halfway house, they called it and punch the clock and then come back. That showed that he'd been there – which was about three miles to walk before he got back to the station.

FS: He did that every day?

SMT: Every night.

FS: Every night. How many other people were working with him?

SMT: There were eight of them in the crew.

FS: So, that would be 24 hours then in each day. Eight in three hours of the day. Can you tell me about the stories he might have told you while he was walking on the beach.

SMT: No.

FS: I mean, about the storms or the weather.

SMT: They were awful storms. He'd go out, patrol the beach every night in the storm, and come back, and punch the clock at the halfway house, they called it, down on the beach that appeared to be cottages. Wherever the cottages are down here, they had a little halfway house, they called it. They had to go there, punch the clock to show they'd been on that patrol.

FS: How many years did he work at that particular job, walking the beach at night?

SMT: I don't know how long but that's the way he made his living. My mother brought the

family at home.

FS: What year was he made the keeper?

SMT: Let's see. I have to look it up. He was one of the Coast Guard members for a long time before he was made keeper. Then he was given the station in Eastham. He walked up here at the Orleans station all the time until he was made keeper of Nauset.

FS: Can you tell me about the life-saving procedures there?

SMT: They had to be there on duty, except in the summer. They had two months off. June and July they were off and went back in August of each year. The keeper had to be there when the crew was away, but he could come off the beach through the day. He was back there at night, but the day he was home.

FS: Were there any wrecks when he was there in June and July? Did he call in the crew to help him?

SMT: No. There were vessels that used to come ashore and be a total loss, usually. So, there was no one to –

FS: How about rescue? Tell me about how they would rescue them.

SMT: Oh, they had a breeches buoy – like a pant. You should only throw it with a line, shoot it with a shot, out to the vessel. Then you get in this life preserver, like sit down and put your legs through it. Then they pull you through to the shore. It's the way they were taken off the vessel.

FS: Another sort of a boat they used to use – what did they call that? When they went out in the boat.

SMT: The Coast Guard boat rescued them. But I don't know what they call it.

FS: They used to row out in it, didn't they?

SMT: Yes. They used to row out in that.

FS: Did you visit your father at the station?

SMT: I used to go with him in the summer. If it was foggy, he couldn't come off. He had to stay there and I used to go with him. He said my mother didn't like the water down there, so I'd go with him instead. Good weather, he came home.

FS: Do you remember any stories he used to tell you while you were sitting there with him?

SMT: He wasn't much of a storyteller. (We're like company?). That was it.

FS: So, what did you do all day there at the lighthouse to entertain yourself?

SMT: I helped him with whatever he had to do for housework, and we ate together. We didn't do much of anything.

FS: What sort of cooking facilities did they have down there?

SMT: Cooking?

FS: Facilities, like stoves?

SMT: They had a big stove and a tank for water. There's a tank in it for water.

FS: It heated the water? The stove heated the water?

SMT: Some. But yes, the stove done heating with water. That's where we get the hot water from the tank.

FS: What sort of fuel did you have for the cooking?

SMT: We had coal and wood.

FS: They set them each [unintelligible].

SMT: But they bought so much – the government would finish so much.

FS: Tell me about the lighthouse – the steps going up to the top.

SMT: They covered that with the coal. What about the steps, you mean?

FS: Yes. A lot of steps you had to climb.

SMT: There was a cupola. They called it a cupola and you go up in the cupola. That's where the different ones can watch in the cupola upstairs. When they had the crew there, somebody was in the cupola all the time.

FS: That was in the Coast Guard building itself?

SMT: [affirmative]

FS: There was a lighthouse nearby?

SMT: No. That was about two or three miles from the station where the three lighthouses were.

FS: The three? Did you spend any time at the lighthouses?

SMT: No.

FS: Tell me about your mother. What was your mother's maiden name?

SMT: Wiley?

FS: Where was she born?

SMT: Wellfleet. [unintelligible]

FS: What year was Mrs. Wiley born?

SMT: She would be 86. My father was born 1864, and she was 86 when she died.

FS: Can you remember any story that your mother might have told you?

SMT: No, not really.

FS: About school?

SMT: No.

FS: Growing up on the Cape?

SMT: She never said much about it. She went to school in Wellfleet. My father went to school in Eastham.

FS: Did your mother have an occupation before the marriage?

SMT: No. Not that I know of, she was a home keeper.

FS: How many children were there in your family?

SMT: In her family?

FS: No, your family.

SMT: You mean, did I have –

FS: Brothers and sister.

SMT: Brothers and sisters. I had one sister and three brothers. Howard's the youngest, he's living. Stanley, Lawrence and Howard – three brothers. One sister.

FS: Can you tell me any stories about your earliest childhood memories that you might have? Your earliest age?

SMT: I used to go to school in (South Eastham Elementary?). They had a farm on the side of the schoolhouse where they had a bull. I was scared of that bull.

FS: Can you tell me about the schoolhouse?

SMT: They moved it to Eastham Center after a while and consolidated the schools. But we used to go to South Eastham Middle School.

FS: They consolidated it into other towns?

SMT: [affirmative] North Eastham and Center and South.

FS: How big was the school?

SMT: You mean how many members? About twenty.

FS: How many grades were there?

SMT: Eight.

FS: How did you get to school?

SMT: Walked to South Eastham. We'd walk home [unintelligible]. They consolidate it. They had the bus ticket to the center of Eastham.

FS: You always went on the bus to school?

SMT: Yes. After they consolidated.

FS: Before that?

SMT: We walked.

FS: Never went by horse?

SMT: No.

FS: Do you remember horse and buggies?

SMT: Yes.

FS: Mother and father had a horse and buggy?

SMT: Let me see. I don't think they had a horse.

FS: What did they use for transportation?

SMT: They went with people that picked us up, I guess. We didn't keep a horse. We did at one time, but not much, because we used to ship the asparagus. The farm is different. The neighbor next door, we used to walk down with him and carry the asparagus and ship it in boxes. They packed so many bunches in the box.

FS: What did the neighbor use for transportation?

SMT: He had a horse and a carriage – a truck wagon.

FS: How big were the carriages? Were there different kinds of carriages?

SMT: They were like democrat wagons, they called them. Two seats. Some were open. Some would close the canopy over the top.

FS: Democratic carriage?

SMT: Yes. I call them Democrats.

FS: Do you know why?

SMT: Why what?

FS: Why did they give it that name?

SMT: I don't know. That was the name.

FS: A fancier carriage, maybe?

SMT: Maybe. But they called them that way. I don't know why.

FS: Only one horse then pulled this democratic carriage.

SMT: [affirmative] Some had two or three, if they were wealthy. They have a pole between the horses I've seen, but I don't remember just who had those.

FS: If they had a lot of money, I suppose they had them. Now, I like you to tell me about your experiences as a young girl. After you went to school, what did you do?

SMT: You mean in the winter? We used to skate on the ponds in the middle of the sound and play croquet. We would get sick.

FS: What other social life did you have?

SMT: Some danced, but I didn't. Wasn't a good dancer. I wasn't.

FS: What sort of dancing?

SMT: All kinds. Portland fancies and –

FS: Portland fancy?

SMT: – Virginia reels and those are all [unintelligible 00:20:49] dance.

FS: Where did you hold the dances?

SMT: At the [unintelligible] up here.

FS: What is it?

SMT: A town hall and like that.

FS: What sort of music did you have?

SMT: Pianos and banjos. Some played banjos and violins, any kind that they had.

FS: How about swimming?

SMT: I never done much swimming. I'd go in water, but I never learned to swim.

FS: Do you remember any church events?

SMT: I used to go to the Methodist Church. We had concerts.

FS: Had what?

SMT: Concerts, they called them, where we used to speak. Someone will give you a piece to speak, you get up and speak it. We used to walk up to the church and rehearse up there and come on down here to that house by the sea, or wherever. I was trying to figure this thing. Aaron Snow's up there on the [unintelligible], you know that white house opposite where you turn in to go to the – he had roses there. We were picking them one day, and he kept on the (car?) and says, "Girls, what are you doing?" We said, "Picking some roses."

FS: Did he object to that?

SMT: I guess he didn't want us to take them, but we'd taken them already.

FS: How old were you then in this story?

SMT: Probably 14. Just a bad age.

FS: Tell me about your first job.

SMT: First job. I think it was over the Snow Inn waiting on tables.

FS: What year was that?

SMT: What year was the monument down in Provincetown? That's when I worked.

FS: What did you do at Snow Inn?

SMT: Waited on tables.

FS: How'd you get there?

SMT: Went over on the train, stayed all summer, come back in the fall.

FS: Can you tell me about Snow Inn in those days?

SMT: Yes. The proprietor, his wife, was a great, big woman. She always sat at my table. [unintelligible] The colored help – some of the girls were after tablecloths all the time, and they'd hide mine and keep it from me so I didn't bother them.

FS: Can you tell me about the colored help you had?

SMT: They were women. I don't know where they came from. But they came from out of town and worked all summer for the Thompsons.

FS: What sort of uniforms did you wear?

SMT: I think we wore anything we wanted to. I don't think we had special uniforms. I don't remember. I don't think we did. We wore little white aprons around whatever we happened to wear. The little white aprons are all that they asked to wear because [unintelligible].

FS: You could just wear pants like you do then. Tell me about the Snow Inn in those days. What sort of meals did they serve?

SMT: They served very good meals – roast beef and fish of all kinds. It wasn't expensive like it was done.

FS: Do you have any idea what the price might be?

SMT: I don't know what they paid. But families came in there with children. Seems so they must have been quite reasonable because they brought big families in there.

FS: Did you work all day long?

SMT: [affirmative] Three meals a day.

FS: How big is the Snow Inn?

SMT: Pretty good size because the help all had rooms for you. We had about eight girls.

FS: Do you have any pictures of the inn?

SMT: No, I haven't.

FS: What was your salary?

SMT: \$3 a week.

FS: Seven days a week?

SMT: [affirmative]. Big salary.

FS: How about your tips?

SMT: Well, the tips were a quarter or 50 cents, not over \$1.

FS: Is that for each table – the [unintelligible] or quarter?

SMT: [affirmative]

FS: For the whole day? Breakfast, lunch and dinner?

SMT: Yes. People came and stayed a week or two – a lot of them. They change off too much.

FS: Do you have any idea about the price of the meal was.

SMT: No.

FS: It probably was included in the room, wasn't it?

SMT: Yes. I don't know what they paid. Wasn't what it is then.

FS: How many years did you work for them?

SMT: Three. Every year that I got through school, I went over there and we [unintelligible].

FS: Do you remember any girls you worked with?

SMT: They were mostly strangers. Because I got to know them, but they came from other schools there to wait on tables for the summer. I don't know how they had them go over there,

but I went.

FS: Did you remember anything about the monument being built?

SMT: In Provincetown? I just remember that they put the monument that year that I was there.

FS: Must have been a big event then?

SMT: Yes, it was.

FS: A lot of people. You also worked for Dr. Besse?

SMT: Yes.

FS: What did you do for Dr. Besse?

SMT: At the store. We had to go [unintelligible]. That was in Orleans.

FS: What year was that?

SMT: I was trying to think.

FS: Can you tell me about the store?

SMT: He had almost everything to sell in the store. I worked there I think two years.

FS: After you were out of school? Year round?

SMT: Yes. I also worked at his house for his wife.

FS: Would you tell me about your marriage? What year were you married?

SMT: 1912.

FS: What was your husband's name?

SMT: (Elmo Leighton Taylor?)

FS: Where was Mr. Taylor born?

SMT: He was born in Orleans, a town here.

FS: What year was he born?

SMT: He was 85 when he died. He's been gone three years. Can you figure that?

FS: 1889?

SMT: No. That wouldn't be right. So, I was born 1890 and he was 85 when he died.

FS: So, he was born in 1889. Do you remember any stories he might have told you about his youth?

SMT: He liked cows. He likes taking care of the cows on this land – feeds them on over here. So, we only had the house over here five months before he died.

FS: What did he do as a young boy, before you were married?

SMT: Just farming.

FS: With his grandfather?

SMT: [affirmative]

FS: What sort of farm did they have?

SMT: Vegetables. I guess that's about all.

FS: Orchards?

SMT: [unintelligible] But he liked cows. That's what he took up.

FS: Where did you live when you were first married?

SMT: Down here in that little [unintelligible] house on the corner of Theodore. Whose is it? Who owns it now?

FS: (Linda Dell?)

SMT: Yes. That's where I went to keeping the house – it's a cute little house. We had a calf tied out the door, right near. He went down to one of the cow, and the calf was tied out. It went into the kitchen, and that [unintelligible] stepped and sucked the tablecloth. The lighted lamp was just going when we come in. Saved us from fire.

FS: Can you tell me about that little house?

SMT: Well, it's a little old-fashioned house. It's very cute. I don't know how –

FS: It was a half Cape, wasn't it?

SMT: What's that?

FS: What they call a half Cape.

SMT: I guess so. My folks, that was terrible. I lived there because I felt it was so old. But inside was very cute.

FS: How old was it?

SMT: I don't know how old that house is. It was old. Upstairs, I never used it because it was half settled and I didn't need it upstairs.

FS: Just the two other rooms. Where did you go from there?

SMT: Down here. It was a farm that Elmo Leighton has found for my grandson.

FS: What was the name of the farm then? Down here?

SMT: I don't think it had a name.

FS: When did it become known as a Taylor farm?

SMT: When we went into it, I guess that was.

FS: Tell me all about how you started.

SMT: We started with one cow up to the other house. Then he decided to raise another one. Then we bought some. We went into the business of selling milk. I wash a hundred bottles or more a day, with a brush. Now they put them in the washer and let them go.

FS: You mentioned that they moved a building over. Can you tell me about that barn?

SMT: Oh, that - to Baker? Yes. It was a hen house, and they moved it over for the cattle.

FS: That was a big building. How long did it take them to load up?

SMT: Well, they took it in parts. It didn't take them too long.

FS: They moved it by –

SMT: Pieces.

FS: Over the road?

SMT: [affirmative] They had had cows in it.

FS: How many?

SMT: Seventy-five. I didn't sit on my behind. I watched.

FS: That entailed a lot of work. Who cleaned the building?

SMT: Who cleaned it?

FS: Yes.

SMT: We had (Timmy?), (Helen Foulkes'?) son. You know who?

FS: [affirmative]

SMT: Timmy, he worked with us. We had a lot of different ones who worked for some time.

FS: Before you had the automatic milkers, how long did it take to milk all those cows?

SMT: Oh, no.

FS: It wasn't too long? Do you remember how many gallons of milk you were able to produce each time?

SMT: Oh, we had a hundred quarts. That would be how many?

FS: Twenty-five gallons?

SMT: Just get up 5:00 a.m. and work for ten.

FS: Were the cows able to survive the winters?

SMT: Yes. Some of them for quite a while. We sold and produced all the time.

FS: What else did you have on the farm besides the cows?

SMT: It's but all.

FS: No other animals?

SMT: We had a dog that used to like to go to milk with. I told you how he'd go up the road, way down, wait for it to come along if we shut him out so he couldn't go.

FS: Pardon me? Tell me that again.

SMT: The dog we had used to leave the farm a certain time in the morning and wait up the road [unintelligible] come along and go well because we'd hide it.

FS: Did you grow anything? Vegetables?

SMT: Yes. We sow what we had, but didn't make a big thing of it. The milk was mostly.

FS: You used to do a lot of baking.

SMT: Yes. Forgot how now.

FS: Tell me about your baking.

SMT: I used to make bread and sell it every week.

FS: Did people come to the house to buy it?

SMT: Yes.

FS: What kinds of bread did you make?

SMT: I made both white and brown bread. I have the graham bread, and white, brown bread.

FS: You used to make squash bread?

SMT: Yes, I had.

FS: So, how do you make squash bread?

SMT: I have the recipe somewhere. You want it?

FS: That's very popular on the Cape, isn't it?

SMT: Yes, I guess so.

FS: What kind of squash do you use?

SMT: All those –

FS: Butternut, was that?

SMT: Yes. You could use that.

FS: Anything squash, then?

SMT: Yes, anything. Oh, I forgot what I have done except the –

FS: But you must have made jellies and beach plum jelly, things like that.

SMT: All kinds [unintelligible].

FS: Tell me about the socializing of early years of marriage. Besides taking care of the farm, what did you do for fun?

SMT: We both joined the Grange. I've been in there over fifty years. The Auxiliary, I go there. Those two have kept up.

FS: Tell me about your family, your children.

SMT: What do you mean?

FS: The names of your children? How many are there?

SMT: I have (Marian?). She's the oldest. She was born 1912. (Roweta?) was sixty-nine, I believe. There was (Imelda?). I have the three children. He's been gone thirty-nine years. No, wait a minute. He's been gone twelve years, I think.

FS: I'd like to hear more about the Taylor Farm, which is one of the landmarks of Orleans. Was it always that big?

SMT: The Taylor Farm?

FS: Yes.

SMT: No. (Catherine Cole?) owned it.

FS: How big was it then?

SMT: Just a small place, but we made the woods larger. When we bought it, we changed it all over capital. It never was a farm much until we had it, I don't think. Now it's residential, but say it wasn't when we first had it. But now I understand that they say it's residential.

FS: Tell me about the house itself. When you first moved into it, did you have (Jersey?) lights? (Bright?) lights?

SMT: Yes, we did. It could have been the closet now.

FS: What about heat?

SMT: Well, we had a gas open stove. [unintelligible]

FS: Did you ever have wood stoves?

SMT: No. Mostly for coal.

FS: But did you have a stove at each room in the house? Or just one stove?

SMT: In the front room, we had the stove, near the cook stove.

FS: Can you tell me about Barley Neck Road in those days?

SMT: It wasn't (patterned?). You go up to the hubs and mud sometimes.

FS: How about the winters?

SMT: So cold

FS: Did you have a lot of snow?

SMT: Yes, we did. We don't seem to have so much done, do we?

FS: Were you snowed in in those days and you just sat at home?

SMT: Oh, yes, they had to dig us out.

FS: What did they use to get you out?

SMT: Shovels.

FS: By hand?

SMT: Yes.

FS: Must have taken a long time.

SMT: Out here, there used to be a big bank.

FS: I've heard about that. Used to drift across the road.

SMT: You can't believe it, can you?

FS: No. It used to drift across the road, didn't it?

SMT: Yes.

FS: Yes.

SMT: We used to be shut in for a day or two before you could dig out.

FS: Has Barley Neck changed much?

SMT: Yes, it has. I've got a picture.

FS: There were no trees?

SMT: No. The leaves have all blown up since I bought this land.

FS: Then you could see the water?

SMT: Oh, yes.

FS: It all runs out there.

SMT: Yes.

FS: Something different.

SMT: There's sunflower out there that seeds itself and come up.

FS: This was all part of the Taylor farm then? All this land?

SMT: No.

FS: It wasn't?

SMT: No. I bought this land in [19]39 from Mr. House, (William House?) over here. This was never ours.

FS: I see. Just the land around the farm.

SMT: Yes. This lot out here, I just got planned, I've given to Bruce, my grandson. The other one that broke his leg was when I've been trying to give him some song he wouldn't feel slighted. But he's had a bad time with that leg. Broke it twice. Guess he's in trouble, I don't know.

FS: Well, he's all right. That's all that matters then. He wasn't hurt.

SMT: I know.

FS: It was on the wharf. What was the name of the store?

SMT: Central Trading.

FS: Can you tell me about the ships that came in there?

SMT: I don't know what they did. But they come in there to get their food and things for trips. I wonder what they did when they went out after. I don't know.

FS: What kind of ships were they?

SMT: Schooner. Two-masted schooners. I don't think they were any (power?). Then sailboats. They bought food for the crew, and that was it.

FS: Do you know what sort of cargo they carried?

SMT: I don't know.

FS: How old were you? Turn of the century this was, maybe.

SMT: Ten, twelve years old.

FS: Early 1900s. What was the name of the store again?

SMT: Central Trading.

FS: Central Trading.

SMT: It was on the wharf.

FS: That was in Wellfleet.

SMT: Yes.

FS: Can you remember anything else about Wellfleet? Any other stores around?

SMT: They had grocery stores. There was a bake shop – Dow Baker. No, not Dow Baker. Baker's Bake Shop. I don't know what the first name was.

FS: What sort of transportation did you use from Orleans to Wellfleet?

SMT: On the train. She'd call on her and she'd come up. She'd wear a long dress, and they would just come up and follow her up the lane from church. She would be just about devoured.

FS: Do you remember any of the churches that you attended?

SMT: Memphis Church in Wellfleet. I used to go to church with her up there. But I used to love to go down there and stay with her, because she let me do just what I wanted to do. She was the one that that was gentle and kind. She was my mother's mother.

FS: The grandfather was the one –

SMT: He was a terror. I really think he had a very bad disposition, because he took the panels right out of the chamber door, pounded the [unintelligible] with his fist.

FS: Did you enjoy staying with your grandfather?

SMT: You mean my grandmother?

FS: Grandfather. You like staying with him?

SMT: No. I didn't want to stay with him at all. He had a bad disposition, something that didn't go with me.

FS: What did your grandmother let you do when you visited her? Did she let you bake? Help her with stuff?

SMT: No. Not so much that. But we used to go down there and pick blueberries over in the plains. There used to be oceans of blueberries. We put pins on the track and make scissors and let the train go over and smash them.

FS: What was that you did?

SMT: Took the pins and crossed them and made needle scissors. They looked like scissors after the train went over them. We always went over them long track with all the kids.

FS: How big were these pins?

SMT: Just common pins. Cross them and they flatten out and be together. Like a pair of scissors.

FS: You just did it for the fun? You didn't use them?

SMT: No.

FS: What did you do with all the blueberries you picked?

SMT: My grandmother canned them.

FS: For pies?

SMT: She liked to have us come in [unintelligible 00:44:13]. We didn't like to, because the bushes were so thick. But we went just the same.

FS: What else did you do with your grandmother Wiley?

SMT: We used to go to this church festival.

FS: What was that like?

SMT: They had the bacon things. We bought things that we use picnics, like she'd take us out, something like that. We like to go, but red likes to go.

FS: Tell me what sort of toys did you have as a child?

SMT: Toys?

FS: Toys.

SMT: I had pretty good dolls. I always was smashing one. I remember the dolls. I had some nice dolls but I never take care of them very well, I don't think.

FS: I was reading in a scrapbook about bicycling. Can you tell me about that?

SMT: Bicycling?

FS: Yes.

SMT: Yes. We all had bicycles and went to ride.

FS: With the big wheels?

SMT: No. I don't remember those – that was before. But there were no cars to run you down in the bicycle. That's what seemed to be transportation.

FS: Did the entire family have bicycles? Like parents? Just children?

SMT: Just the children. They didn't mind many bicycles. They had a horse and carriages.

FS: Do you remember the horse and carriages with your parents then?

SMT: Yes, I remember. My father had a horse. It's funny thing to tell. Is there anything on here? Now, listen,

FS: Yes, go ahead. It's all right.

SMT: We had a horse that might be having – get off the horse.

FS: What kind of carriage did you have?

SMT: Open carriages and buggies and truck wagons for farming.

FS: How many people would the carriage good to get? How many people fit?

SMT: Well, they had some carriages that carried four people. Some would be just one seat, two people. But Democrat wagons – those took four people.

FS: Why would they call them Democrat wagons?

SMT: I don't know. That was the name.

FS: That meant that it was a more expensive carriage?

SMT: They were nice carriages.

FS: Nicer?

SMT: I don't know why they were Democrat carriage. Then we had single seater carriage. They did have that.

Male Speaker: I did when I opened the door.

SMT: Yes. No cart, just two wheels.

[end of transcript]