

# QUONOCHONTAUG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Oral History

# PHILLIS REYNOLDS (BURDICK)

September 14, 2009

Interviewed by Anne Doyle

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Q: Today is October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009. We're here at the home of Phillis Reynolds. Phillis, could you, for the record, state your full name, date of birth and place of birth?

A: My name is Phillis Reynolds. I'm formerly Phillis Burdick. I was born in Westerly, Rhode Island at the Barner Nursing Home on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1926. My grandfather frequently wanted to talk to me about different things that were familiar to him. Of course, by the time I knew him, he was an elderly man, and he wanted to reflect on the past. As now I'm an elderly woman, and I hate to admit, I'm reflecting on the past. He always told me who his first cousins were, how they were related to him. And he interested me in genealogy. My son and I have done quite a bit of work on genealogy tracing both families back. By the name Burdick, you know that we are a descendent of Robert Burdick. He is the only Burdick that came to this country, and he came by mistake. His name was Robert; not Burdick at all. It was Burdette, or something of that nature. He came from England. All the Burdicks, except for those that were adopted, and I have two adopted children in my family—grandchildren—so I kind of mind that a bit. But they don't include adopted children in genealogies because of the blood line. I put together this—do you want the simple show or the long version?

Q: Do we have time for the long version?

A: How much time do you have?

Q: We have time for the long version. How much time do you have for us?

A: I haven't any plans for today.

Q: For an hour or so?

A: I'd probably go on longer than that, if that's all right. But I wanted to know before I started.

Q: That's fine with me. The people present are Charlotte Hole, Ann Doyle and Lee Bradshaw. I'm curious what you meant when he came by mistake.

A: His name Robert Burdick is by mistake. His name wasn't Burdick. But he was the first Burdick. Apparently all Burdicks that are in this country are a direct descendant of Robert Burdick, unless they were adopted. Then of course, the blood line changes.

Q: So, he was the only member of his family from England?

A: No. That's not necessarily true. I'm not sure of that. But his real name was probably Berdett. They don't know that, but they assume it was Berdett. When he got to America, going through customs there were a lot of mistakes made in names. Probably no one knew how to write. A lot of them were illiterate. I don't know if he was. But whatever the case, his name was changed when he came to this country to Burdick.

Q: By the customs people?

A: We don't know that. It was a long time ago. It was 1635 when he came to this country. We've always assumed that that was the case. Authorities say that Britain documents, such as this one here—

Q: Did he come in through New York?

A: I don't know. There are a lot of things I don't know. Do you recognize this book? Have you seen it before?

Q: It's pretty heavy.

A: Yes, it is. This is Robert Burdick and his descendants. I had this published by Higginson. A lot of the documentation that I have for these two things came out of this book, along with recollections and family members.

Q: So, you don't know if a brother or somebody eventually came over to join him?

A: No. I don't. To my knowledge, there has never been any record of anybody else coming from his family. But it's likely that maybe cousins or brothers did come, and came through a different way. I doubt if they came through Ellis Island. That was before Ellis Island was around. I think that he came to Newport. My memory isn't perfect, but I'm sure that that's the case that he came into Newport.

Q: Have you traced him to Newport?

A: Yes. The origin of the Burdick name—there is quite a bit written here in this book about it. His name appeared in official records are Birdict, Berdick, Berdett. Burditt, Burdict and Burdick as well as what will be shown later. I'm sure he came to Newport, but let

me make certain of that. I think that he probably would have liked to have had his right name when he came to this country, but apparently didn't know how to write.

Q: What they did was they stated their name, and then the person that wrote their name down just did it phonetically.

A: That's right. That's probably true. We don't know. He was one of the earliest settlers here. Among the settlers were himself, Robert Burdick. You've heard of Tobias Saunders and Joseph Clark. They all came here about the same time. Two of them were arrested as land thieves—Robert Burdick and I believe the other one was Tobias Saunders—in Massachusetts, because they kept wanting to settle on the other side of the river in Pawcatuck.

Q: Are you talking about this area?

A: This area.

Q: Westerly and Charlestown?

A: Yes.

Q: I thought you were talking about Newport.

A: He came to Newport, but he only stayed there a short time. I haven't concentrated so much on his genealogy for this particular thing, because this was done for Quonochontaug. I haven't done anything to refresh my mind on this. He married Tracy Hubbard. She and her father started the Seventh Day Baptist Church here in this country. She was one of the first-born of the immigrants—I believe in Massachusetts. I'm not too sure where. I think it was Plymouth. But that's another story. If you wanted me to do that, I'd have to do more research, because I have forgotten what I learned a long time ago. I have been updating my memory on this. Nobody really has wanted to talk about their ancestry in the family, except my son, who lives here. Which way do you want to go, backwards or forwards?

Q: Starting from the earliest.

A: This is Captain Ruben Burdick. He would be my great-great grandfather. This is his wife, Joanna Hoxie. Wait a minute; I put up the wrong one first. This is Captain Ruben Burdick and his wife, Mary Green-Burdick. It said that she's a direct descendant of Nathanael Green, but I've done a lot of research, years ago when I was doing genealogy a lot, and I've never found that to be true. But it's written in this book here that she's a direct descendant of Nathanael Green. Captain Ruben Burdick was born in 1787 in Charlestown, and he died in Nassau, New York. He was a sea captain. He married Mary Green and lived on Watchaug Pond where the Kimball bird sanctuary is now. He had land there. He sailed in four-masted ships. He also sailed in other ships. Most of his trips were to the Grand Banks, but some of his trips were to the West Indies. It's

assumed by me that most of them that went to the West Indies had several different things that they carried: molasses and rum and slaves.

Q: Was he part of the slave—

A: I don't know that he was. It's never been printed that he was. But on occasion he did go to the Indies. We must have carried molasses one way and run the other. They weren't rum runners. That was legal trade in those days. It wasn't Prohibition times. He passed most of his life at sea. He was a captain for 35 years of various ships, some of which were square rigged—the great, big square-rigged ships with many sails. The Captain's home port was Stonington, Connecticut. Most of his voyages were to the Grand Banks, but with an occasional trip to the West Indies. I assume if he went to the Grand Banks that it was to fish. He was a fisherman. He was a man of small stature. It said, in the records that I've studied here and in other places, that he was known for being very nimble. He could jump with his hands to his sides off the deck of a ship into a barrel, and then he could jump out still with his hands to his sides. So, he was a very, very agile man. People that recalled him, in other writings, said that he always walked with his hands behind his back and his head down as opposed to the way he was onboard ship to keep balance and keep his footing. He was a fearless sailor. He was a man of very strong principles.

Q: What is his relationship to Robert Burdick, the first one that you were telling us about?

A: He is a direct descendant. The lineage is he was the son of Isiah. Isiah was the son of Samuel and Samuel and Samuel and Robert. In other words, this would have been his father, his grandfather, his great grandfather and his great-great grandfather—three greats back. His mother was Abigail Control Burdick. His father was Isiah Burdick.

Q: I just wondered how close the connection was between the two.

A: He had six children: Hazard Augustus, Horace Hillyer. Hazard Augustus would be my great-great grandfather. Horace Hillyer was my great grandfather. He and his brother, Hazard Augustus Burdick, you will hear more about, because they bought a lot of property and sold it, and bought it and sold it. You find on deeds their names referred to in many different places in Quonochontaug. They bought two properties that were in bankruptcy court.

Q: In Quonochontaug?

A: Yes. I have the paperwork to show this. Much of the property in Quonochontaug changed hands frequently. I'm not sure why. But at different times, Hazard Augustus and Horace Hillyer was my great grandfather. Almost all of the property was associated with East Beach, like from the fresh ponds down and up to the Post Road. There were other people that owned property that they were never involved with, but there was around 700 acres that they owned. They were horse traders. They were never referred to in writings as horse traders, but that's the way people lived in those days. You needed

something, you'd swap it with somebody else or buy it. There was a lot of bartering in those days. Even up to my grandfather's time. You'd have the doctor come to the house, and if he didn't have any money, he'd give two chickens or something of that sort. The property was kind of handled the same way. Some of the writings you'll see where property was handed down and it was divided up in sixes, sevens or eights. They'd put a house right in the middle, and one person would have half the house, the other person would have the other half of the house. This is a matter of record at the town hall. I copied some of the papers to show this.

Q: Did the original Robert Burdick come to Quonochontaug, or did he come to Charlestown?

A: He came to this area. He was in Westerly a lot. There were very few people here, number one. He was very close to Tobias Saunders, and Tobias Saunders is from this particular area that we're in right now of Westerly. All the Saunders family all lived in this area. They never traveled very far. The Burdicks didn't either. He started in Newport, and then he came to Westerly. He had property there. You would just go and set up property in those days. You would just set up housekeeping somewhere, and that would be your house—your land. You wouldn't buy it from anybody; you'd steal it from the Indians, which I'm not very proud of, or you would just find a place to park and live there. Lots of them got along well with the Native Americans. Thomas Stanton, a direct descendant from my grandmother, Hazard Burdick's wife, was a direct descendant of Donna Stanton. He was an Indian interpreter and worked in Connecticut in what became the Capitol as an interpreter. He did a lot of the work to explain to the Indians what they were getting for what they were losing. He was a friend to the Indians, Tom Stanton, and yet the Indians were still taken advantage of, as we all know. This isn't our land. Quonochontaug is really the Indian's. We didn't discover it. It was already here. Columbus had nothing to do with discovering America.

Q: Do you know whether Thomas Stanton had direct dealings with Quonochontaug or Charlestown?

A: I know that his sons did. His sons owned a lot of property here. Thomas Stanton was given—I'm not sure if this is true, but the Wilcox Tavern claims that Thomas Stanton bartered with the Indians to get a princess back that I believe was taken to Block Island. She was brought back here. At the time, according to the records, the Wilcox Tavern believes he was given Quonochontaug Neck.

Q: Yes. That's written in some documents.

A: I'm not an authority on that. I only know what I've heard from them. I have not researched it at all. But I do know that his sons owned a lot of property in Quonochontaug on the West Beach side. The Stantons stayed pretty much over there with the Sheffields around the breachway.

Q: If he was given Quonochontaug Neck, I've always thought that would also include all of East Beach as well as West Beach and what was in between.

A: I don't know. They refer to East Beach as East of Quonochontaug Neck in some places. I've read it in some of the deeds, east of Quonochontaug Neck.

Q: When you look on a map, there is this outcropping with this road down to what is now the breachway. But if you look at the whole thing, it looks like a neck. That's just what it looks like.

A: Yes. It may be.

Q: It's kind of like a peninsula almost between the two bodies of water.

A: Yes. Between Narragansett Bay and Little Narragansett Bay.

Q: I'm talking about the ponds and Quonochontaug Pond. If you look at the map or photographs, and I saw some really good photographs that Tom Tetzer has taken, and it looks like the whole bit of land there would have been considered a neck between Ninigret here and Quonochontaug down here and the Post Road up here.

A: I don't know.

Q: I'm interested in that comment that you made that they called it east of Quonochontaug neck.

A: I read that last night when I was looking through some of the deeds that I have.

Q: The day before our history evening, a woman called me from a cottage east of the Blue Shutters asking me if she lived in Quonochontaug. It's on the road that goes up to the state beach. She has a cottage there. She was very surprised that I seemed to be regarding that as Quonochontaug. Then she asked me if there was going to be anything in our program about that particular area.

A: That's getting far from anything that I know much about.

Q: I always considered that Quonochontaug. Of course, it's part of Quonochontaug.

A: It is Quonochontaug. It's not Charlestown Beach.

Q: In the Burdick family, you haven't found anything that goes back to the fact that maybe the Stantons had owned it before in terms of the deeds? That they bought it or traded something to the Stantons in order to get the acreage.

A: Most of the studying that I have done has to do with East Beach; not with Central Beach and not with West Beach and not with Quonochontaug breachway area. I really am not

an authority. I do know that there was a Daniel Stanton and a Joseph Stanton that owned property. I assumed it to be on the western end of Quonochontaug, but I don't know that. Any records that I found of the property that the Burdicks were involved in doesn't mention anything about the Stantons.

Q: Who does it mention?

A: Billings and Malcomber and Brightman. They were probably there at the same time that any of the Burdicks were.

Q: Are you a descendant at all from Thomas Stanton?

A: Yes. My grandmother Burdick, who is on the other chart, was a direct descendent of Thomas Stanton.

Q: Is it possibly your two families joined land by marriage? Is that a possibility?

A: My grandfather and grandmother did. Yes. I haven't seen anything in any of the other papers that would indicate that any of the rest of them did. The wife always had to sign off.

Q: On her property?

A: Always had to sign off whether she was an owner or not. She always had to sign all the deeds.

Q: Billings, Brightman and what was the other family?

A: Macomber. And Babcock.

Q: Billings and Macomber—I'm not aware of any local names that would correspond to those families, except in Westerly—Macomber.

Q: Macomber is on some old Quonnie maps as living at the old farmhouse area.

Q: Yes. But not in the East Beach area.

Q: Yes. That's East Beach.

Q: Which old farmhouse?

Q: I'm sorry; the farmhouse on Highland.

A: Buddington's? I always referred to that as Buddington's farm. This is Christopher Babcock. This was the deed that I was telling you about that I had been reading. I have a better thing to read it from that I copied. Sometimes the copies are easier to read.

Q: Just for the recorder, what we're looking at—

A: Christopher Babcock owned 66 acres specific to the genealogy that I'm doing that my grandfather bought after it had gone through bankruptcy court two times. This is when he divided his property. Christopher Babcock was sued because he hadn't paid a debt. I have the paperwork here. I don't have all this committed to memory, but I have the paperwork here that proves that he had gone through bankruptcy. He lost that property. My great grandfather bought it at that time—66 acres of it. There were three parcels. He bought 66 acres, which is the same property that my grandfather bought years later after it had gone two or three other hands and gone through bankruptcy again. My grandfather didn't buy it through bankruptcy court, but the previous owner had. Ann Browning's husband—her husband signed the property over to her within a year. Why? I don't know. But then she sold it. So, within three or four years, the property changed hands about three times.

Q: So, it didn't go directly through your family; it was like your great grandfather had it for a while, and then he—

A: He had it twice. That's why it's so difficult to trace ownership, because they changed hands. This further described why it's very difficult. This is John and Annie Browning. This shows that they bought this. No; this is when he signed it over to his wife two years later.

Q: Did you do all of this copying and research in connection with the display?

A: No. I've done a lot of research for some attorneys. Here's bearing what I told you about the properties. This is a certification from George Cross, the town clerk, in 1906 when my grandfather was getting the property cleared to purchase it. It says here, "I certify that the property of Ann and H. E. Browning," which is the 66 acres that I'm telling you about here, "situated in said town and known as the Babcock Farm, which she holds by deed from John, M. Browning," who was her husband," and which was deeded to said John M. Browning by Olivier Williams, who was the commissioner of the court, who had taken it from Christopher Babcock, who was the previous owner. It was formerly owned by Hazard A and Horace H. Burdick. And then one other time it was owned by them back in 1862.

Q: Where is this?

A: But it wasn't ever handed down to anybody. They didn't hand down things to their kids. They sold them. I have dealings where my great grandfather sold his son, Horace Hillyer Burdick, who was our Great Uncle Hillyer, sold him a piece of property. They were strictly business.

Q: The cottage property that I have right now was part of the Hillyer land.



- A: That was Horace Hillyer's home right where your house sits. I have a picture of it. You've seen that.
- Q: Yes. I've seen that picture. Where was the Babcock Farm that you're talking about?
- A: That's where my grandfather's property was. I can show you here. This property right here. It hasn't really changed all that much. Christopher Burdick owned from here.
- Q: Can you orient me where we are?
- A: This is the Blue Shutters down here. This is Ninigret Pond. When my grandfather got title to this property, it was from here to here. I'm not positive how far it went over here in this section, because I haven't followed it. But it went over this way and over on this side of the fresh ponds.
- Q: Fresh Pond is over here, isn't it?
- A: This is Fresh Pond.
- [overlapping conversation]
- A: Possibly it was more than that, but it was 66 acres. Where the line was, I don't know. I know that this portion right here was sold to Howard Thorp. I've seen the deed for that. Is that Overlook?
- Q: Yes.
- A: I don't know how far over, but Howard Thorp developed this after he purchased it from my grandfather.
- Q: What's the date on this now?
- A: This particular one is the town tax map. It's probably 2003 or '04.
- Q: They're calling that West Pond.
- Q: Yes. That was the other name for it.
- Q: But is that Fresh Pond?
- Q: Yes.
- A: Yes. They're all fresh ponds. This is Fresh Pond Rocks out here. And this is Fresh Pond.
- Q: This old map—I feel like we shouldn't even touch it.

A: That's why I've been looking for the other one. I one that's a copy.

Q: Fresh pond just meant that it was fresh water. I can't orient it here. This was the 66 acres?

Q: That says 80 acres right there.

A: No. This is much more than that. These 80 acres here. Let me get the other map. I don't know how to take care of that. I've only had it since my cousin died ten years ago.

Q: These were personal papers in your family, right?

A: Yes. This was my grandfather's. Here it is. This is defining the deed between Christopher Babcock and his children and some friends of his. This deed didn't mean a great deal, because he died intestate, and just before he died, he was sued.

Q: Where are we in terms of time?

A: This is just describing the measurements. He had several different people suing him.

Q: For what reason?

A: For not paying his bills. He overextended himself. Fourteenth day of August. This is the second time it went through bankruptcy court. I don't think this is him. Let me make sure. That was the second time. That was George Noyes when George Noyes owned it. Here is it. Christopher Babcock. Luke Babcock et al versus Christopher Babcock. He was missing. They couldn't find him. Eventually they did find him in Buffalo, New York. Right after that, he died. He died intestate. This is Luke Babcock of Westerly. It doesn't say whether he's related to them or not. Marion, wife of Luke—she married Luke Babcock after her husband died. Now he's suing Christopher Babcock, who was the son of the original Christopher Babcock. There were two Christopher Babcocks. He is the one that had the property taken from him by the courts. Then the commissioner sold it to Browning. Browning had it before Noyes. He had it in 1886. This describes where the land is and that it is transferred, but it contains the same 60 acres that they always referred to—60 or 66 acres. So, it's the same plot of land. You recognize it, because they have the same borders. When you're looking through it, they have the same borders, so you know that it's the same piece of land. John Browning bought it the second time, and that was in 1902. He turned it over to his wife in 1904. Then in 1906 my grandfather bought it from Annie Browning. I have that date. It was the 66 acres. He bought other parcels after that: a 30-acre wood lot and a 6- or 8-acre swamp. It's hard to determine by the papers that I've got whether this was all south of the Post Road. What his father bought was from the Post Road down, and mostly to the ocean. That's Horace Burdick. Horace bought everything in the company of his brother, Hazard Augustus. There are two Hazards. My grandfather is Hazard Hoxie, and Hazard Augustus was his uncle. This shows where this property was divided between the

children. Applied to Edward Wilcox,  $3/6^{\text{th}}$  and  $1/6^{\text{th}}$  of another  $6^{\text{th}}$  and the pond. So, he got the largest portion, and Charles bought a six-part, and another  $6^{\text{th}}$  of another  $6^{\text{th}}$  part. Polly and Marybeth Babcock were  $1/6^{\text{th}}$  of a  $6^{\text{th}}$  part to Elizabeth Babcock. This is more of the Babcocks. Now Gardner in her own right. This property up here that shows Elizabeth Gardner, she's the daughter. But all of this property they kind of lost in the suit, because they're all named in this suit.

Q: Who was the Wilcox you mentioned?

A: Edward Wilcox.

Q: How did he get into all of that?

Q: She said children and friends.

A: Children and friends.

Q: He was the first one named.

A: And he got the largest portion. Maybe it was because he owed him some money. We don't know what the reason is. I'm trying to find the one that says the one who gets half the house. Here is it. One half to Edward Wilcox in lot number one, which is right here, 80 acres, with the west half of the dwelling house and barn, the common house and the cheese house. Also lots number two of 35 acres of beach marsh. Lot number 16 of 20 acres being west, half of the wood lot. And lastly, the  $6^{\text{th}}$  of a 6-part of the first lot, number fifteen of five acres. See why it's so hard to tell? Lot number 8. I'm trying to find the other that got half a house. The east half of the house, lot number 6 of 13, lot number 14 of 6a, and then with the east half of the house and kitchen and grounds to Elizabeth Gardner. It's hard to say which was which and what was what. An attorney would have to spend his lifetime to a tree or to a stone. And then if someone moves the stone. But we do know that a large portion of this—probably not all of this up here—66 acres we know in this area here was sold back and forth several times, going through bankruptcy twice with different people.

Q: Is this the Salt Pond?

A: Yes.

Q: This is definitely East Beach.

A: This is the property that my grandfather owned that I am positive of right here. Now, some of it had been sold as lots. In fact, when he bought it, Mr. Stark had his house there nearby him.

Q: How did that happen?

- A: That's what I'm saying. You buy a whole section of land, but some of it may have—I wrote some notes about you on here, Ann. Dr. Stark was next to Mr. Speed, and then the Peckhams and then Burdicks. These properties from here up lasted through the hurricane. The Dowlings, the Parents, the McClouds, the Lansings, the Whipples and Uncle Hillyer, which became Whipple, and then the Dingle is here, then Thornton and Wolcott. All of these houses—these were moved.
- Q: This is not the same Dingle that you're thinking of.
- Q: Yes, it is.
- A: No. It's a different Dingle. There are two Dingles.
- Q: This is all on the pond, Charlotte. This is on the pond here, and these were all houses that were lined up.
- Q: Did you mention Sarcey in there?
- A: Sarcey wasn't there at the time. These are the houses that I'm speaking of here. The first one is Wolcott and then Thornton. These had been moved from the front of the Fresh Pond. Then this is little Dingle that goes through over to Blue Shutters.
- Q: It's still there.
- A: No, it isn't.
- Q: It isn't?
- A: No. I can talk to you about that after. Uncle [inaudible 47:08] house became Whipple's—this one here. In 1929 Mr. Whipple committed suicide there. Then Lansing's is the next one. Then McCloud's, which is Dannie McCloud's grandparents.
- Q: Right here?
- A: Yes.
- Q: That's what I just asked you.
- Q: Yes. But that just got pushed across the street—McCloud's.
- A: No. The second story only. That was a two-story house. The first story was demolished, and the top portion of it became property that Bernie Davis developed and made a two-story house of. He also made a house out of—I can't tell you. He made a house out of another one, and they called it Red Top. That was the one across the street. This one was at the end of East Central Avenue—this one here—McCloud's. That was where I lived. That's adjacent to [inaudible 48:17] and East Beach Road.

Q: If you go over Overlook all the way, and then you turn right or left, you can go back into that section that's on the pond back there. That's what she's talking about.

A: And this is a bigger picture of part of this. This is Lansing's boathouse.

Q: What are these houses?

A: This is my grandfather's.

Q: This is still there.

A: Yes. This is Dowling's. This is my grandfather's barn. This is Parrott's.

Q: So, Elaine Henry's grandmother?

A: Yes. And the next one is—let me see here; Burdick, Dowling, Parrott and McCloud. And then Lansing is here. This is the deed that my grandfather got for the property in 1906. If you want to read it, he bought it from Annie Browning, wife of John Browning down on West Lake County and Washington for the sum of \$1. They never put the amount in—the actual selling price. And other goods and valuable considerations to me paid by Hazard H. Burdick of Westerly. My grandfather owned a wallpaper and paint shop in Westerly, and he was a painting contractor.

Q: Your grandfather that lived in the—

A: The same grandfather. The one that bought the 66 acres in sold portions of it to Howard Thorp. And he made his living doing that. He saved a good portion to buy this property at the beach. He had been brought up here by his father on the same property that Charlotte has now. He always wanted to come back here. His daughters were not happy about it at all. One had to quit high school to move down to the beach. My father was right here in this picture. Only went as far as the eighth grade, because that's as far as his father's cousin, Sarah Hoxie, had her grade school in the one-room schoolhouse in back of Brightman's store. That's where he went to school to the eighth grade. This is his sister—I'm getting off the track. These are troop ships.

Q: She's looking that way, right?

A: She's looking out here at these boats. See the boats here?

Q: Does she have a veil on her face?

A: No. She's looking out that way. She's not looking at the camera. That was about the time my father was shipped overseas, and they took this picture. Here's a picture where you can see where the wagons had been in there and picked up seaweed down at the

beach, which was something that they always had to keep the drift way open for people to get the seaweed from the beach. You could never put a car down there in those days.

Q: I don't understand why the daughters were upset.

Q: They had to leave school.

A: They had to leave school.

Q: They didn't live here year-round, though.

A: They lived in Westerly year-round.

Q: They lived in Bradford.

A: Yes, but here was no school in Bradford either—no high school. And you couldn't get to Westerly very well from Bradford. This was back before I was born. I have pictures that explains it better. Here it is. This is how they used to get from Bradford to the beach. They weren't going to go to school every day like that. This is my grandfather's sister, Aunt Lil. These are my grandfather's daughters. They would be my aunts: Aunt Lucy and Aunt Mary. This is my grandfather. I'm not sure who this gentleman is here. Down here is my father with my grandfather harvesting potatoes. Here is the picture. I have a bigger one of that that I can give you if you want. These are my two aunts sitting on the little homemade dock out of stones that my grandfather had. He brought his little boat up here. See the sand area?

Q: Where is that?

A: That's in front of my grandfather's house on Ninigret Pond in front of this house here. These are his children.

Q: Are these the original photographs?

A: No. I have the originals.

Q: I was wondering if I could scan them.

A: Sure. I have a package of pictures you can go through afterwards and take what you want to copy. This is the combination workshop/outhouse that everybody had. Down here they didn't have indoor plumbing until—I remember when they got it in the '30s. That was a big celebration. Here is a bigger picture. This is the same picture as this.

Q: So, your grandfather had a sister named Lil and a daughter named Lil?

A: No. A sister named Lillian.

Q: My grandmother—I remember her talking about Lillian. She's the one that built—you know where it is on Highland?

A: The Smith's house.

Q: It used to be—

A: It was on the beach front.

Q: They physically moved it back before the hurricane.

A: They moved it from the beach front across the street. It was still on Atlantic Avenue on the other side of the street. And then they got another storm, and they moved it again, and they moved it up to Highland Avenue up near Buddington's farm. This is Charlotte. This is the homestead of Horace Hillyer Burdick. This is my great grandfather and my great grandmother. That's Joanne—

Q: And that was their homestead, right?

A: That was their homestead, and this is the foundation of your house. It's the same footprint, I think.

Q: Yes. I think it is. And I'm sure we have that stone out in the back yard. That was for horses. I'm sure it's out there, but it's so heavy we can't—

A: Horace was the captain of the state militia. He was made captain, and he got this group of men together here. That was his job to recruit some men. They did training. It was during the Mexican War. They were to protect the homeland. They weren't to go there and fight. But he held the rank of captain until he died. I don't know how much captaining he ever did, but that's what he was. You might want to read this. Horace H. Burdick and Augustus Burdick, brothers—this would be this gentleman here and his brother, who I don't have a picture of—bought at public auction for \$2,630 the following acreage from Samuel G. Babcock on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1866. This was the first time they bought the property. Sixty-five acres bought on the north by land owned by [inaudible 57:15] and Joseph Brightman and Ann Billings and Charles Babcock bought it on the easterly side by Charlestown Pond, bought it on the southerly side by the Atlantic Ocean, bought it on the westerly side. At that time, he owned all the way to the ocean.

Q: I'm never going to complain again. Hazard Burdick lived in the winters in Bradford and walked to the beach approximately seven miles sometimes wearing his hip boots rolled down to his knees, worked all day and then walked back to Bradford. He would still do that when he turned 80 years old. He was master of the Masonic Lodge in Westerly in 1924, and to get to the meetings rode a bicycle from Bradford. Holy Toledo. Pleasant Street in Westerly, which was sold when he went to Bradford for the winter. And the beach home was on Quonochontaug Pond in the warmer months. Doesn't that amaze you?

A: The Bradford property belonged to my grandmother. She had inherited it from her father. He never was crazy about being in Bradford, so he'd do anything to get to Quonochontaug. He'd walk with his hip boots on. He didn't have a car. He didn't drive. But he did get a truck, and I don't know why he had a truck. My father drove it. Maybe it was his. My father worked the farm. You can read the rest of it.

Q: Do you have that on your computer?

A: Yes. I have a copy of it loose here. This is Aunt Lil's house when it was on the beach front.

Q: Wasn't it after a storm in 1912 that she moved that?

A: She bought a lot from my grandfather, the one that I just showed you on the other picture where I told you the Wolcotts and Thorntons and McClouds—she bought one of those lots facing the pond. I have the paperwork showing she bought it, but apparently, she had a fight with my grandfather. She ended up putting it on Highland Avenue. I'm just assuming that. She was pretty feisty. Did you know her personally?

Q: I didn't know her, but I remember my grandmother talking about her.

A: She was not a shy person. Her brother owned—Uncle Hillyer owned the house that Nancy Zable—he built that house. After he had sold it to Gage Ellis, Aunt Lil used to go over there and pick the currents and pick all the fruits—the raspberries and stuff. The family said, "You can't do that." "I can too. Those are my brother's." "Well, it's not your brother's now. He sold it." That didn't stop her.

Q: Do you know how far Atlantic Avenue went? It says Atlantic Avenue was behind the houses.

A: Yes. It went all the way to Blue Shutters.

Q: And no further?

A: No. There was a road all the way out to Governor's Island. I don't know if it was Atlantic Avenue. I don't know what they called it.

Q: That's where Les Pittner takes over, because he had to go in that direction. They used to have to have special—

A: Yes. They had to take the cars out in the sand.

Q: It couldn't have been very far.

Q: I'm sure it went—



A: I'm sure it did, because the houses were on both sides of that road all the way down almost to Governor's Island.

Q: You say Governor's Island. Where is that?

A: That's in the pond. It's where Dr. Cyr had his second property. He bought a lot from my grandfather on the pond. They were buddies and fishing partners. Afterwards he bought that. I think it was either him or his brother.

Q: Did your grandfather own the island?

A: No. He didn't own any of that property from Blue Shutters east, to my knowledge. The property changed hands so often. It's hard to follow. The paper is on the other side when he was commissioned to captain. This is Lil's picture down here on the bottom—Aunt Lil, and her sister, Rose, and my Grandfather Burdick. That's the way I remember.

Q: Were they sitting on the beach?

A: Yes.

Q: This is where the Tungsus was right at the head of Highland Road. It was like a boarding house. It was pushed back and turned, and you came with Tungsus up on Highland Road. It's still there.

A: That's right. The bottom portion of it was pretty much destroyed. The top of it they had set up on another floor over there.

Q: This is interesting to me, because I know Bob Thompson.

A: You know Bob?

Q: Yes. I've been in touch with him with Christmas cards occasionally.

A: I keep in touch with Bob. In fact, on another side note, I found him when the Crandall estate was settled—Martha Crandall's beautiful house that fell into the basement. When that property was sold, they said that the only heirs were her daughters from Westerly, and I knew that wasn't true. I contacted the lawyers and I said, "You missed a whole side of the family." He said, "Do you have the genealogy?" and I said, "I can get it for you." So, I did. I had this book at the time. This was a long time ago. The only ones that I couldn't find were Gordon and Bob Thompson. Gordon had died by them. Someone said that they thought Bob was in Northmont, New York, so I called information, got his phone number, and he got a sizable amount of money. All of these people here—these are my grandfather's sisters and brothers. As they died, they left everything to Joe and sister—what was her name? Delphine. Delphine was girly-girly, and all the boys loved her. She inherited all the money. When they died, they had no issue. Most of his

brothers and sisters had no children. So, Bob was the only one left. He got he portion of their estates.

Q: How does Crandall get in there?

A: Martha Crandall was a Hoxie, and she was Joanna Hoxie's—she was a sister to Martha Crandall's father. Martha Crandall and Sara Hoxie were sisters. Their father was Joanna Hoxie's brother. That was how we came into that estate. Bob and me included. But I got 1/625<sup>th</sup>. I helped Scotty do that. I was a lot sharper then than I am now. I am forgetful. I hate it. I know all this by heart.

Q: Who owns Martha Crandall's property now?

A: Rayma owned half of it with Foot.

Q: Who is Foot?

A: F-O-O-T.

Q: From Central Beach?

A: Yes. I don't know if they've sold it now, but I know that they were the ones that bought it when it was sold. It might have been Robin Foot. I'm getting a little recall. Rayma, Robert Foot and there was one other person. The three of them bought it together. There was a lot of property on both sides of the Post Road. There was Mat's Point. Have you heard of that? Is that the name of it? It's named after Martha Crandall. Mat's Point. We used to have a cow in the pastures down there.

Q: Just this side of where East and West Farm used to be?

A: Yes.

Q: Where the Hutchin's farm was, but there is a lot in there where they put a new house on that lot. Is that what you're talking about?

A: Yes.

Q: And that's called Mat's Point?

A: Yes. Mat's Point.

Q: By East and West Farms?

Q: Where it used to be.

A: Mat's Point or Mat's Cove.

- Q: Where did I see that? I'm right in the middle of doing your sister Jean's oral history. It seems to me that there was a reference to that in there somewhere, because somebody was asking about Mat's Cove.
- A: It's not Mat's Point. It's Mat's Cove. Wheat Point and Mat's Cove. She had lovely pastures down there full of blueberry bushes.
- Q: Her name was Matty, wasn't it? Matty Crandall or Mat Crandall?
- A: Mat Crandall. Matty was Martha Carpenter. Martha Carpenter lived up where Hindells are now.
- Q: Where was Shinglenook?
- A: That was my house.
- Q: Where was it?
- A: In back of Josie's restaurant—where Josie's restaurant is now. There was nothing there but just Shinglenook.
- Q: Do you mean what used to be Four Seasons?
- A: Yes. Behind that. It's no longer shingles. They've put some blue siding on it. That's where we grew up. I've got pictures of Martha Crandall's house for your records.
- Q: That was the big house that was on the left of 216?
- A: Yes. It had the brook going through it, and it had the covered well. There are pictures of my family there, because they were her family.
- Q: There was a big brown building that was there for many years, and it became overcome with grass.
- A: Yes.
- Q: The foundation is still there.
- A: Yes. She was a wonderful woman. Her sister was a school teacher. Sarah Hoxie. Martha Crandall was Martha Hoxie. Then she married Ethan Crandall. Ethan Crandall predeceased her.
- Q: My mother went to see her on occasion. I don't know how many times, but I know she was up there infrequently.

A: That was probably to get eggs or produce.

Q: Jelly.

A: Jelly or something. Pat Durkin was the hired man there and lived there. He made his home there. He had a basement apartment in the ground floor where he stayed. She fed him his meals upstairs. She was a happy, happy person. Just a wonderful, wonderful person. People would stop there just because they wanted to see her when they had a particular reason.

Q: Who was Martha Carpenter?

A: Martha Carpenter was married to Cleave Carpenter, and he was a politician. They had a home initially down next to Arnolda. If you're going down towards Arnolda—well, actually it's in between the two, East and West Arnolda. You can see it from 1A. It's in the pasture. She lived there for years, and then they sold that and moved up to the house that Hindells are in now. It was a beautiful home.

Q: I don't know where Hindells are.

A: I can tell you about Hindells. The store at the corner of 216 in front of the old Grange hall.

Q: Yes. I danced in there occasionally.

A: I had my wedding reception there.

Q: Is that somebody's house now, the Old Grange?

A: I think it's two apartments, isn't it? It looks like there are two doors going in the front.

Q: Why did they live near the Grange and move out of the old one?

A: Probably because it needed so much repair. It wasn't a good kitchen to work in.

Q: Was it as big?

A: Not as big as what they had. Nowhere near as big. The one that they have now is bigger. But the Grange started going downhill right after that. That was probably right after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War that they started building that other grange hall.

Q: We had square dances in there every Friday night.

A: At the new grange hall?

Q: Yes. Most of the dancing that we did was at the new grange hall. We were maybe once or twice in the old one, and then they built the new one and we went into the new one. I always thought it was because the floor was not in good shape. The dance floor was not in good shape at the old grange, but that may be just a childhood recollection that isn't accurate.

A: It's probably the truth. This is in the event that anybody wanted to see the genealogy. This is my own personal genealogy with both sides of the family, my mother's and my father's. My mother's grandmother was Sarah Emily Burdick, who was a direct descendent of Robert Burdick. That was on her father's side. On her grandfather's side, his mother was Susanna Burdick. There were very few people. This is the kinship of Phillis Burdick. This is all the names of the people that are related to me, and how they're related.

Q: You must have spent hours.

A: I didn't do that. The computer did that. My son did this. My son is a genealogist.

Q: Can I look at that?

A: The next page would be the ancestry of the person at the top.

Q: Ruben Contrell Burdick?

A: Yes. He's a sea captain. Captain Ruben Contrell Burdick.

Q: Are you going to keep these displayed?

A: I am for a while, because I have some members of the family that haven't seen it. This is a plat. It's kind of worn out. Other people have better copies of it. This is just one that I kept. This is not historical. This is 1926. This was the section that my grandfather bought. Right here would be Blue Shutters, and this is the pond. This is a portion of what he bought. This is the Sammy Meadow where he sold it when his privilege of buying and selling property was taken away from him when he sold the Sammy Meadow for \$500.

Q: What meadow is that called?

A: Sammy Meadow, after Samuel Davis, who owned it. But they always referred to it as the Sammy Meadow.

Q: Do you know anything about this man? He comes up in some of the land evidence records.

A: No.

Q: Can you repeat this for me about this particular lot? What happened?

A: This is Sammy Meadow.

Q: And that's Ganser's?

A: No. He owns it now, because he inherited it. I think it was his aunt's. Maybe it was his mother's. I don't know. It was an aunt that owned this property here.

Q: Who owned this whole—

A: No. She owned this. My grandfather this. I guess my grandfather must have sold Ganser's property over here. I don't know, because his property is right here. The last piece of property my grandfather was allowed to sell by his children, which was Sammy Meadow. He sold it for \$500 probably in 1946.

Q: Why did he sell it?

A: Because a woman wanted to buy it.

Q: A woman meaning Ganser's aunt?

A: Yes.

Q: What was her name?

A: Was it Summington? I don't know who she is.

Q: I used to know.

Q: He was allowed to sell it. How could his children control what he did?

A: When you get old enough so you're making bad judgment calls. It was just before he died.

Q: That isn't such a terrible price, because my father paid \$500 for the lot that's now where their retirement home was built around 1950.

A: How big was that?

Q: An acre maybe?

Q: No. Because the whole property together was about an acre. It was about a half acre.

A: This is probably much larger. There are probably 25 house lots there. Your lot was right on the pond front, right?

Q: No. Our property goes to the stone wall, and then there is a lot on Hoxie, then there is Hoxie and another lot. So, it was like the third lot up.

A: This is before they even had the overlook in here.

Q: Where did that go?

A: Right where it is now. Here is Cross Street, and here is Burdick Street. It's about here. Maybe right here. I could tell if I had to.

Q: Your brother Gibby's place, is that on your original grandfather's property?

A: Yes. All of this property was my grandfathers. This is Gibby's house. This is Jean's. This was Blondie's. These two lots here were mine on East Central Avenue. They own all the way back.

Q: Did your grandfather give you those?

A: No. My brothers and sister paid my aunt's share to them, but my father gave them his share, because my grandfather had died by the time they were building their houses. When they settled the estate after my father died, and my two aunts died, they got the back lots in addition to the front lots. In other words, their property backs up to East Central Avenue and faces [inaudible 01:21:47], and I got two lots here. That was just settling the estate. My older brother got the back portion of his two, but he had sold his. He and Petey developed the cottage that she had down next to Jane [inaudible 01:22:10]. You didn't know Jane [inaudible 01:22:13]?

Q: Oh, yes.

A: And you know where Blondie's house was, right next door in front of the pond. The garden pond, I guess it was.

Q: Or right next door to Jane's?

A: Yes.

Q: On the other side of East Beach Road?

A: Yes. And then after Petey died, he sold it and went up to Biscuit City Road, which was a mistake.

Q: He died?

A: He died just last year. He was 85. I'm not winding up; I'm winding down.

Q: And Gibby is about my age I think, isn't he?

A: Gibby is six years younger than me. I'm 83. He's 77.

Q: What are some of your strong memories of being at your grandfather's farm down here at Quonnie?

A: I don't want to repeat what's written here.

Q: Just what's in your head.

A: He could cuss really good. I guess they were country people. He had a short fuse. But I was closer to him than I was to most members of the family. He and I were always buddies. When he got to be close to 80, and he'd be walking down to the beach, and on the way home sometimes he'd stop at the house to visit. After I got my license, I'd always find an excuse to take the car somewhere. I was just a kid.

Q: You're talking about Shinglenook now?

A: Yes. He'd walk up to Shinglenook, and I'd say, "Grandpa, do you want a ride home?" "Oh, no, Phil. No. That's all right. I'll walk." And I'd say, "Ma, can I give Grandpa a ride home?" She'd say, "Sure," so I'd drive him up to Bradford. My grandfather and my father ran the farm, and also did fishing.

Q: Which farm?

A: The farm at Quonochontaug. In Bradford they had the farm too. They would take their animals back. They would hook them up to the back of the wagon and put the chickens in chicken cages and put them in the back of the wagon. The whole family would go back home. The cow would be hooked onto the wagon. The horse would take them.

Q: Would they go back very slowly?

A: I guess. I don't know. I never saw it happen, but I know it did, and I know that they used to also take the wagon to the train station in Bradford to pick up people that were coming to the beach. My grandfather and father were also commercial fishermen. They had a lot of eel pots. They used to get barrels of eels and ship them to the New York City market. They had a particular clientele there that were very fond of fired eels and anything you could do with an eel. They would buy them.

Q: The eels were in the pond?

A: The eels were in the pond. Right. They also used to get blue shell crabs—tons of them, and we'd put newspapers on the kitchen table at my grandmother's house. She'd boil the crabs, and we'd pick them out and eat them right at the table like they do in Maryland. They'd give you a great big tray of crabs. I have my grandmothers' diaries from '31 and



'32. That gives me a feel for what they went through. They were very, very frugal-living people. It makes me feel sad, because they didn't need to be as frugal as they were. They left us with good property. They left us better off than we would have been without them, and yet they never had enough. They were always worried.

Q: 1931 would be shortly after the Depression.

A: Yes. And things were tight. Nobody had much money then. My father and grandfather had a dory, and they had nets. The nets were weighted on the bottom with lead weights. And they had corks on the top part of the nets. The nets were really long. They were probably 100-foot long, and they had ropes on either end. When the summer people would come down, my grandfather said, "The unpaid help is here," and they used to love to go down and pull the fish in. My father and grandfather would be in the dory. They'd leave the rope with some of us on the beach holding the ropes, and then they'd throw the nets out on one side of the rocks.

Q: Fresh Pond Rocks?

A: Yes. Depending on how much bait you saw in one spot, you'd throw your nets where the bait was making action, because that meant there were bigger fish after them. So, they'd throw the nets out, and then bring it back on the beach a little ways. The summer people would take the other end, because they'd get out and help. There would be all kinds of things in the net. They would get skates and the blow fish. We kids used to love that when they'd get the blow fish. You would tickle on the belly and they'd blow up. Then Captain Sisson had—I think his name was Ed Sisson. He had a little shack on the beach. It was quite a well-built building. It wasn't really a shack, but it was very tiny. He had a boat there and nets. Sometimes they'd fish with him.

Q: Where on the beach?

A: His was right where the Tungsus used to be. Right in that same area. I think it was a little east of the Tungsus, but I'm not too sure. It was right on the beach front.

Q: When would this be in terms of timeframe?

A: In the '30s. Up until the hurricane, it would have been the '30s, because after the hurricane Sisson's little place was gone. But my father and grandfather still fished. When my father died, it said, "Quonochontaug Sportsman Died." That was what he was noted for knowing everything about where to fish, when to get the crabs, when to get the scallops. He was a deer hunter also. He used to go to Maine hunting.

Q: Did they do any clamming on the beach?

A: On the pond.

Q: No; on the ocean side?

A: I never, ever knew of it.

Q: He had some friends visiting a week or so ago, and she was walking along, and there were holes in the sand. She said, "That makes me think there are clams there," and I said, "I don't think so."

Q: They're sand crabs.

Q: The little tiny ones. But I don't ever recall anybody getting clams off the beach either. And yet, there are quahaug shells there.

A: The seagulls drop them on the stones to break them open. And there are sea clams.

Q: Yes. But you can't dig in the sand and get them; they wash in.

A: I've never seen anybody digging in the sand to get them. I'm not saying that they couldn't, but I've never seen it.

Q: I remember that blue crab thing where we would boil blue crabs, and then throw them on the table and break them open.

A: Yes. I told you I had a copy of everything that's written here.

Q: Shall I scan this and then give it back to you?

A: No. I don't need it. I have it. It may have some things that aren't corrected on it.

Q: What do you have on the other board that you said was the wrong one that you picked up first?

A: That's Captain Ruben Burdick. It was just to show the relationship. I had grandparents on both sides of the family in the Civil War and the Revolutionary War.

Q: Was Captain Ruben Cottrell Burdick related to the Westerly Cottrells?

A: I don't know. I never searched that.

Q: This is an interesting part: washed and washed some more. Had a good dinner. Expect Mary will be—what was that?

A: Be around. Can't keep still a minute. Gotta help. Going all of the time. Alan upsets everybody as usual.

Q: Who was this written by?

- A: His Aunt Lucy or grandmother that has written this. This is Aunt Lucy's. Alan upsets everybody as usual. Before Mary left for Westerly. Makes everybody feel terrible.
- Q: What strikes me here is I have pieces of my grandmother's and my mother's, and they have not revealed any of the emotional kinds of stuff like this. It's more just facts. This is real life.
- A: I didn't get along with my father.
- Q: But this is real life.
- A: It is. In fact, they were always happy to see the summertime come, because then I'd go and stay with my Aunt Grace and work the farm up in Stonington. The family would have peace. I locked horns with my father. It was something that I was meant to do. But that is part of my history. My name is Philis with one L named after a cow that came to the back door of my grandmother's house to eat Johnny cakes. My cousin Barbara Gavitt, who may be in the hospital with a stroke now—I've got to go right away after you girls leave to see what's going on with her. I read references to Philis the cow in these diaries. She jumped over the fence and broke her leg, and so my grandfather—their animals were like part of the family. They didn't have a lot of animals. She jumped over the fence and broke her leg. They called the family doctor, and they said, "We need you to come out to the farm," and the doctor said, "Okay. I'll be down just as soon as I can get there." He got in his carriage with his horse and came down to the beach. He came in the house, and he said, "Where's the patient, Hazard," and my grandfather said, "She's in the barn." "Well, what is she doing in the barn?" "It's Philis, the cow." They put her up on a tripod and set her leg and put a cast on it. She was on this tripod, and they'd have to lower her and raise her and lower her to keep her alive. The first thing she did after they took the cast off her leg was jumped the fence to go to the back door to get the leftover Johnny cakes. She loved Johnny cakes.
- Q: But she didn't break her leg that time?
- A: No. But that was something. You always had Johnny cakes. My grandmother had a wood stove in the kitchen. She always got up and prepared a big breakfast for them before they'd go fishing. They'd leave at 3:00 or 4:00 in the morning. She'd have that wood stove going, and she'd have breakfast ready for them. They'd have Johnny cakes, cod fish gravy or mashed potatoes before they'd go out fishing. But that was not uncommon. That was the way people did things in those days, I think. The women took care of the men. The men came first. They always got first choice. That's my grandmother's chair. It was in Ethan's house when he died. Ethan is my cousin. My brother and my sister and I cleaned out the house, and they said, "What do you want?" and I said, "I want Grandma Burdick's chair," and they said, "You can have it if you want it." So, I've got it. I have the Shinglenook side of my father's house up over the top of that door. I have a picture of it. All my kids want it, but my first born is going to get it. Right now, I'm at the stage in my life where I'm putting names on things. I'm

going to take it down and give it to her before I go so that they will be mad at me instead of each other for different things that I'm going to give away.

Q: Are you going to make sure that all of this—

A: I don't know what to do.

Q: Your son is interested in it.

A: But he's not a good storer. I am not. You can see that I'm not. And I'm not a good restorer. I don't know what's going to happen.

Q: It's been wonderful, Phillis.

A: I haven't done a good job with the history, because I didn't have a chance. I have a big garden out in the back. I've just spent every bit of my time out there. I've let my housework go. I didn't do anything preparing for you to come. I just dug out these boxes.

Q: I thought you did a marvelous job at the history evening. I really was impressed with the display that you had. I know that there were others who were too, because they've told me so. All of the comments that we had afterwards were very, very positive.

A: I have a lot of complements about Barbara's display.

Q: Barbara Hutchins?

A: Yes.

Q: She did too. I think that Hope Andrews with West Beach had such a—

Q: Isn't she amazing?

A: She was in my class in high school. We had a reunion together a couple of weeks ago.

Q: How many of you are—

A: Sixty-five years out of high school, and there were 37 of us at the reunion. We had seventeen guests out of 37 classmates, which is pretty good. We've lost 88 classmates. I do the memorials on the computer to keep track of everybody as they die.

Q: I wanted to apologize to you for not spelling your name correctly on the program. I had two LLs in your name on the program. I never gave it a thought.

A: Philis with one L. That's why I tell the story that I'm named after the cow. There is so much more. What I'm going to have to do—well, I have one sheet that I started, and I should give you these pictures that I've got here. You can copy whatever you want.

Q: The time spent with you right now has been really precious to me. We were thinking about meaningful things to do next summer. My idea is to have coffee with Philis or Hope. If we decided to do something like that, would you like to do that?

A: Sure.

Q: How about coffee with Philis and Hope?

A: Leah and Hope, right?

Q: No. Hope Andrews.

A: These are different maps. This shows the church up here, and H. Burdick's house, which would be Harris Burdick. That would be your house now. So, it's not in proportion. These maps aren't drawn to proportion. That's why I'm showing it to give you the reference. Here is the church. Here is Horace. Then here is the end of our property right here in this V.

Q: Here is a reference to your fifth birthday party.

A: And they spelled it all wrong. No Y and two Ls. Whose book is that, my grandmother's? Yes, that's my grandmother's. When you're reading these, you're reading about emotions. She wrote in her diary—I think it was in 1931 or '32. She wrote, "It is wonderful that Hazard still has so much [inaudible 01:43:14]," and she at this time had bad arthritis. She spent a good part of her life in that chair. She did a lot of housework in the chair. She did a lot of cooking in the chair, because her knees were so bad. And you could always smell the wintergreen in her bedroom that she rubbed on her legs. I used to stay overnight in their house, and I used to love to go down there. Up in that bedroom you could hear the wind just howling and howling and howling around the house. It was one of the tallest structures around. Right near the water you always could hear the wind howling. I used to love to stay there.

Q: Jean said that too in her oral history.

A: She did?

Q: Yes. That she always liked to go down there. She was afraid of it, but yet she loved hearing it.

A: I wasn't afraid of it. My mother and I used to love to sit on the deck in the rocking chairs on the porch down there at my grandfather's when they had thunder and lightning storms. It was beautiful to see them off the water. The rest of the family wasn't keen on that. My

mother and I liked it. These are the records of the purchases my grandfather made. I don't imagine it's a complete list. When he was building his house at the beach in June of 1907, it's listing all the different materials that had to buy.

Q: I can't believe how much your family has saved.

A: It's my grandfather that saved everything. He had a safe in his house at the beach. He had a safe in his house in Bradford. He had a rolltop desk at the beach. He kept all of these things. He has the records of his father buying the property in 1866. I have copies of them here.

Q: These are so interesting because of the prices. Sixteen hundred bricks, sixteen hundred dollars.

A: A dollar a brick.

Q: It says one cottage, two horses, \$400.

A: That's not right. It's \$4.

Q: It's \$16.

A: It would be four trips at \$4. That cartage is carrying it. He had to pay for the shipping from wherever it came from. Probably Westerly.

Q: And it is 1,600 bricks, but it's \$16. That would be sixteen cents apiece. And one cartage, \$4.

Q: It was 1907.

A: It's interesting. And it's probably the only house in Quonochontaug that has lightning rods. The reason being when he bought the property in 1906 from Annie Browning, he bought it one year, and before they moved to the beach the following summer, it had been struck by lightning and burned to the ground. So, that was why he built the new home at the beach.

Q: Our cottage was struck by lightning when I was a child. I was asleep upstairs in the loft. There was this low rumble, and all of a sudden, this horrendous crash. It struck. The outside showed nothing. The inside was cracked all the way down from ceiling to floor in the corner. Knocked a lamp off the wall. My mother had a pinup lamp that hung on the wall. It knocked that off. We had to get Henry Brightman down to repair the damage. Some of those storms were pretty severe.

A: I was always fascinated by the fact that my brother went out with Justine [inaudible 01:48:22], who was the niece of Dan [inaudible 01:48:25]. That always so impressed me.

And I was impressed today when I knew Charlotte was coming to my house, Dan [inaudible 01:48:35] niece. Is that the right relationship?

Q: Yes. He was my father's brother.

A: Uncle Dan.

Q: I have a picture of him on the beach at Quonochontaug that I have posted a couple of times in displays, and nobody has recognized him, which amused me very much, because everybody always used to talk about him.

A: Let me tell you what I picture when I think of him, and I'm probably not even right. Dark hair, very, very slim with a dark moustache.

Q: No. No moustache. He was slender. Not so dark hair. Sort of medium hair.

A: That's how I always pictured him.

Q: I have a picture of him with my mother.

A: The movies were black and white. You've got to remember that.

Q: He probably had a moustache in the movies. My parents would never let us see his movies. When we were kids, he was such a rat in the movies. He was so bad. They did not want us to have that impression of him.

Q: Can you rent them on DVD now?

Q: I don't know that they're on DVD, but every once in a while, I get a phone call that's saying, "Turn on your TV, because one of Dan's movies is on."

A: If you get one, call me.

Q: I've seen a lot of his movies now, but not all of them probably because they wouldn't let us.

A: Another one that I always wondered about, and I wondered even when he lived there, Chester Morris, because he owned a property on Chester Morris Point.

Q: He and Dan were friends.

A: They were. That was the same time.

Q: I think he had something to do with getting Dan a part in The Little Foxes on Broadway, which is what got him started in his career. I think they were friends at Cornell. They both went to Cornell. My father also went to Cornell. I think they were friendly. I don't

know that Chester Morris went to Cornell, but I think he did. Even if he didn't, he was friendly with him at the beach. He had a lot of friends. Dan had a heart attack when he was very young. He had been in the advertising business—outside sales. He couldn't go on with that, and he didn't know how to do anything else, except act, because he had been in the drama club at Cornell. His friends from the drama club got him this part. I think that Chester Morris was one of them.

A: Isn't that nice?

Q: Yes. So, then he got started in his acting career, and that was that. This has been very nice.

Q: Thank you so much. I know that there is a lot more inside you.

Q: She wants to go and take care of her cousin.

A: I'm not going to be able to do anything for her. I wanted to give you an opportunity to see this stuff and see what you wanted.

Q: Can I take this back with me and I can scan it?

A: Yes. Any of it that you want.

Q: It's a few minutes after 11:00, and we'll turn this off.

