

Transcription of OH-00021

Julia Hyde Posey

Interviewed by
John Wearmouth

on
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Typographic Note

- [Inaudible] is used when a word cannot be understood.
- Brackets are used when the transcriber is not sure about a word or part of a word, to add a note indicating a non-verbal sound and to add clarifying information.
- Em Dash — is used to indicate an interruption or false start.
- Ellipses ... is used to indicate a natural extended pause in speech

Subjects

Newspaper presses

Genealogy

Port Tobacco (Md.)

Rural conditions

Segregation

St. Ignatius Church (Port Tobacco, Md.)

National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Maryland

Piscataway Indians

Tags

Port Tobacco Times

Times Crescent
Mount Bleak
Piscataway Conoy Tribe

Transcript

John Wearmouth [JW]: This is John Wearmouth interviewing Julia Hyde Posey for the second time at her residence on Washington Avenue in La Plata. The date is January 29th, 1993. Our first interview was last year on March 10th of [19]92 at this same place. And since then Mrs. Posey has taken the time to do quite a bit of research and she wants to correct quite a few things that appear on tape number 1. But we think to keep some continuity here we will let tape number 1 stand but whatever is put on tape number 2 today if there is a conflict between the 2 tapes, tape number 2 of this date will supersede whatever is on tape 1 if there is a difference. It's very difficult sometimes to go back through a few years and get everything down absolutely correct. So she has done what very few people do. She's been interested enough to look into the family records and to talk to relatives and she's made a lot of notes that will be corrections to the interview of last year. This is unique and I think it's a good idea. And we will just sort of build on and amplify and correct as necessary things that were said a year ago. I guess going right back to the very beginning we made a mention of Lewis Metcalfe Hyde coming to Port Tobacco and what brought him to Port Tobacco now? He didn't just drift down here there was a reason. What family connection was there that brought young Lewis M. Hyde down here to the *Port Tobacco Times*?

Julia Hyde Posey [JP]: I think his stepmother encouraged him to come down here because her brother I understand was coming to work on the *Port Tobacco Times* and she encouraged my father to come with him at the age of 14. I said that he was 16 in the previous tape but he was 14.

JW: Okay and his first job would have been that of what?

JP: A printer's devil.

JW: Okay and what would a printer's devil have done in those days?

JP: Just set type.

JW: Okay. Nothing fancy, no writing, no editing?

JP: No, no.

JW: Just took the type out of the box put it into the tray and maybe did maybe did a little proofreading. You have to do proofreading.

JP: Right, right.

JW: So he would have to know to spell pretty darn well.

JP: Well yes. Well I think he got his education all through the time that he was working for the paper because at the end of his journey with the newspapers both *Port Tobacco Times* and the *Times Crescent* he was writing a lot for the papers.

JW: Okay. So he must have had a pretty good public school background in Annapolis and that's where he lived before he came down here.

JP: Yes he did. He lived in Annapolis he went to parochial school. In Annapolis.

JW: Okay, okay. So the Hyde family had been a Catholic family for some generations?

JP: No, no. The Hyde family was not a Catholic family we're Episcopalians but Papa's stepmother was a Catholic and she sent him to the Catholic school.

JW: Okay and he raised all of his children?

JP: He became a Catholic himself after he was married.

JW: Oh okay and he married a Catholic girl?

JP: He married a Catholic girl and became a Catholic.

JW: Okay that's interesting. That's interesting. And that family added quite a few members to the local Catholic church didn't they?

JP: Oh yes, yes he did.

JW: Primarily to St. Ignatius? And Sacred Heart here in La Plata? Those two Catholic churches primarily.

JP: Those two churches yeah. They were the ones we attended.

JW: Okay now before I forget. How many members of the Hyde family were interred down at Chapel Point?

JP: Well Papa's first wife is buried at St.

JW: And what was her given name?

JP: Florine Burch.

JW: Okay.

JP: His—. He and his second wife my father and my mother was buried there. My sister Rebecca and her husband are buried there. My sister Lucille and Lucille [Sawlers] and her husband.

JW: Mr. and Mrs. [Sawlers] and Mr. and Mrs. Clements?

JP: Yes and Albert Hyde is buried there.

JW: You youngest brother?

JP: My youngest brother and his wife Laura.

JW: Laura.

JP: And I have a little great grandchild that's buried there that died at birth.

JW: Did any of Laura's children?

JP: No I don't think [any]—.

JW: Albert Jr.?

JP: No I don't think they're buried there.

JW: Okay so—.

JP: I don't think so.

JW: Are they pretty much in the same section of the cemetery?

JP: No they're not in the same section. Papa had a lot up in the main part of the cemetery years ago and that's where his first wife is buried.

JW: I see.

JP: And when Papa died we went down to find the grave and—.

JW: 1948 is that the year?

JP: Yes when he died.

JW: Okay.

JP: We went down to pick, to get his grave and to our surprise the grave had been taken.

JW: That's incredible.

JP: And because the records were not kept very well—.

JW: I think your sister Gerry mentioned that yeah.

JP: And so they gave us a lot down below the hill. And that's why he's way down below the hill.

JW: Okay.

JP: But his first grave, his first wife is buried right up near the fence.

JW: And as I recall she died close to 1900?

JP: Well it had to be because well it was a little before 1900 because my oldest brother was born in 1900. My oldest brother.

JW: And this was the second wife, the second marriage?

JP: And by the second wife yes.

JW: Okay. What were the names of the children by that first marriage?

JP: Well there was Emma, Louise, Florine. Three girls. And Randolph, [Southgate], and Frank.

JW: How many altogether?

JP: Six.

JW: Six. And who were the children of the second marriage beginning with the oldest?

JP: The second marriage was Metcalfe, Lewis, and Albert are the sons and the girls are Geraldine Williams. Do you want me to say that?

JW: Mhm.

JP: Geraldine Williams, Rebecca Clements, Lucille [Sawlers], Julia Posey.

JW: And here we are in—.

JP: And Mary Thompson.

JW: At the beginning of a new year 1993 and we're really dealing with over a century of Hyde family history in Charles County. Now how many children of Lewis M. Hyde are alive today? You and?

JP: Geraldine Williams.

JW: Only two out of how many altogether?

JP: 14.

JW: 14.

JP: Geraldine is the oldest of the girls in the second family and I'm the youngest of the girls.

JW: Okay. Was there ever any trouble keeping these two groups of children together? Did they interact pleasantly? Did you always—? Did you feel that your half brothers and sisters were an important part of the family?

JP: Well some of them I hardly knew my older sisters Emma and Louise. In fact I never saw them until way after I was married.

JW: Oh for goodness' sakes.

JP: But my sister Florine. My half-sister Florine visited us quite often. In fact my half-sister—.

JW: From where?

JP: From well she lived in Washington.

JW: State.

JP: No. My, the third sister. I had two sisters that lived in Washington State. My third sister who was named Florine after her mother married my sis—. My mother's brother. They were no relation. Albert Birch. And they lived in Washington and it was hardly a Sunday in my life as a teenager that they didn't come to our house for dinner. Drove down from Washington. He owned a lumber yard in Washington right on Road Island Avenue.

JW: Now which members of the Hyde family are still living in Southern Maryland?

JP: Well the closest—.

JW: Starting with you and your own children.

JP: Well all of my children are living in Southern Maryland except the eldest son Francis Randolph and he lives in California. He comes home quite often. Two or three times a year. And my second son died in 1976. And all of his family—.

JW: Is this the one you called Sonny?

JP: This the one we called Sonny yes. And all of his children live in the county.

JW: How many? You don't have to name them.

JP: Well he has four children and they all live in the county. And I have my stepbrother's children. Southgate has a—. I have a grandson, nephew that lives here. Papa's grandson. I'm getting mixed up here now. Papa's grandson. [I haven't even got this on].

JW: Now there you go.

JP: Papa's grandson lives here and I see quite a bit of him. His name is [Winton] Hyde.

JW: He's a neighbor of ours.

JP: Yes. And I have a nephew who lives on the eastern—. Oh on the—. In Calvert County his name is Lewis Southgate Hyde and his wife and I'm very [fond of them]. In fact she's President of the DAR over there. And I have another nephew Lloyd Hyde who lives in New Jersey. His wife's name is Ethel and they visit me quite often. And I have another niece, Alberta. I can't recall her last name right this minute but she lives in Massachusetts and she always comes to see me when she's in the area.

JW: Is she descended from your father's first?

JP: She's Florine's daughter.

JW: Okay. What about the descendants of the [Sawlers] your sister Lucille? Some of those are still living aren't they in Southern Maryland? Like Elizabeth Anne?

JP: There's two Anne's living.

JW: Okay. How many children did your sister Lucille have?

JP: Two. Oh and she has a brother living here, Walter [Sawlers] Jr. And she only had one brother just the two of them. And he has one son and she has three sons.

JW: Okay what are the names of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond's children? Now this is Elizabeth Anne's sons.

JP: The oldest one is Michael. Steven and David.

JW: And they're living in Charles County?

JP: One of them lives in on the Eastern Shore, Michael.

JW: Okay.

JP: I mean Steven lives on the Eastern Shore.

JW: Okay. Now I think probably we ought to go back and pick up this important bit of information here the organizations that you have been active in as an adult. Which would you consider the most important one?

JP: Well I think the most important one would be the National Colonial Dames of America in Maryland.

JW: Okay.

JP: And I also belong to the society of the pilgrims of St. Mary's.

JW: Now through what part of the family do you have to go to be eligible for membership? Hyde's?

JP: Well I went through the Hyde's. I could've gone through the Birch's also but I chose to go through the Hyde's. And I went in under Thomas Hyde of Severn who is my father's great grandfather. You have to go in—. You have to be a direct descendant of someone who came here from England in the sixteenth century.

JW: In the 1600's?

JP: Yeah in the 1600's.

JW: Where did the first Hyde settle.

JP: The first Hyde settled in around Baltimore. Captain John Hyde came here and settled around Baltimore and came from London, England. And he owned a lot of land in Baltimore, 16,000 acres was among what he owned in Baltimore. And he stayed here for—. He bought this land a lot from Calvert, Lord Baltimore.

JW: Samuel Hyde?

JP: Samuel Hyde was his brother.

JW: Okay.

JP: Now John Hyde was married when he lived. That was my oldest descendant from England. He was married in Annapolis and.

JW: Did they come over together those two?

JP: The two came together yes. And he married and John Thomas Emery Hyde, who I am claiming I'm descended from, was born in Annapolis. But he later went back to England and so did John Hyde. John Hyde went back to England, his father. And John Thomas Emery Hyde went back to England and got his education over there. He went to Law School and after he got his degree in law he came back to Annapolis.

JW: Well when those two brothers arrived they must have been men of some means.

JP: Oh they were. They were—.

JW: Before they set foot in Maryland.

JP: Yes. Yes they were. They were not indentures or whatever you call those people.

JW: Yeah.

JP: They came over—.

JW: What sort of family business did they leave in England? Do you know?

JP: No I don't know what kind of business they had but they—.

JW: And what city did they leave?

JP: London.

JW: London.

JP: London

JW: Probably some merchant background.

JP: Yes.

JW: Joe Chandler was—.

JP: Well Papa—. This John Thomas Emery Hyde when he came back with his law degree did not practice law it seems in Annapolis because he found out that he could make more money by going into manufacturing, so that kind of business. So he did very little practice of law. He went into the tannery business, he made gun powder, made the bullets to for the army and during the revolution and he sold all the lead, he made lead and the lead that was in this boat that they just

had a big celebration of in Baltimore. The Peggy Anne or something was made from the lead that was, that he.

JW: Oh for Heaven's sakes. We talking about the boat owned by Anthony Stewart?

JP: Maybe so.

JW: That was burned in the—.

JP: It was a lead boat and he manufactured all this lead.

JW: So your father Lewis M. was descended from which of these two brothers now?

JP: John. Captain John Hyde.

JW: So the Hyde's were men of substance for—.

JP: Oh yes they were.

JW: For many years in the Baltimore Annapolis area.

JP: Well this Colonel Thomas Hyde he was the son of Captain John Hyde who came over here in 1690. He was called—. He was sometimes called Thomas Hyde of Severn was a man of a [fierce] in his day and rendered valuable service to his country during the trying days of the revolution. After his admission to the bar in England he returned to Maryland but it does not appear that he engaged in the practice of law in the province. On the contrary his tastes seemed to have been for rural life. Being possessed of considerable inherited wealth he purchased a land, a handsome estate lying on the north side of the Severn River about seven miles above Annapolis where the Severn spreads out into a beautiful sheet of water known as Round Bay. Here he generally resided on a portion of his estate purchased from Benedict Leonard Calvert which was known as South Field. The old residence was situated on a high hill overlooking Round Bay and it was considered the most desirable and beautifully situated residence on the Severn. His Annapolis residence, his Annapolis residence was on Francis Street a short distance from church on Main Street. The old brick house is still standing and is owned by H. R. Walden. Colonel Thomas Hyde was one of the original subscribers to the funds raised by the citizens of Maryland for the founding of St. John's college at Annapolis. He was made one of the early Trustees and took great interest in its establishment. By act of assembly March 1774 Thomas Hyde was appointed with John [Roday], Samuel Chase, William Packer, and Upton Scott as Trustees for building in Annapolis Street, St. Anne's Episcopal church. All these gentlemen were of high standing and integrity. Two of them were signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was for many years a member of St. Anne's Parish and one of the pew holders till the day of his death. He was also one of the few who at that period recognized the importance of encouraging manufacturing interests at Annapolis.

JW: At about what year did you begin school at Port Tobacco?

JP: Uh yes I remember it was—.

JW: No kindergarten right? Straight into the first grade?

JP: No I went right to first grade in 1914.

JW: And who was your first teacher?

JP: Mrs. Walter Gray.

JW: Okay and where did she live? Up the—.

JP : She lived on Poorhouse Road.

JW: One of those Grays, okay.

JP: On the opposite side of the road from Arthur Gray.

JW: I see.

JP: On the left. Arthur Gray lived on the right and she lived on the left.

JW: As you head toward Pisgah?

JP: As you head toward Pisgah, yes. She was my first teacher.

JW: Do you know how she's related to Jane, Jane Gray who also was a teacher? Mrs. Claggett [inaudible phrase]—.

JP: I think her aunt yes. I think they were brothers Walter Gray and Arthur Gray I think were brothers.

JW: Quite a few teachers in that Gray family.

JP: Yes.

JW: Quite a few are. Let's see Jane's sister Mrs. Gardiner was a teacher. Adelaide? Okay now what other teachers did you have there at Port Tobacco School after Mrs. Walter Gray?

JP: Well I guess my next teacher was Ms. Heidi Wade. And the next one was Abigail Mathews. And the next one was Lucille Barnes.

JW: Okay how many years of school were there at that school?

JP: 7, seventh grade.

JW: Right. Okay now who were some of the other families that were sending children to the Port Tobacco school when you were there starting with your first year.

JP: My first year I remember the Albritton's and they were [all of them boys.]

JW: Where did they live?

JP: They lived before you get to Port Tobacco on the right where Henry Albritton lived. That was their home. And there were quite a few Albritton's' and also Willett. There was a family of Willett's that lived up on Rose Hill Road near where you live. In the house where those school buses [inaudible].

JW: Oh okay yeah that rather old little house.

JP: [Comptons] that house back there. The Willett's lived in that house.

JW: Is that right?

JP: And the O'Driscoll's. O'Driscoll. I don't know where they came from they just sort of [arrived] in Port Tobacco somehow.

JW: Where did they live in Port Tobacco?

JP: I real—. I've forgotten where they lived but I remember they worked for my mother.

JW: Where did the Hardesty's live? Muriel Hardesty Barnes.

JP: Now they lived over at McConchie I think.

JW: Oh they came in from the west of [inaudible]—.

JP: Yes uh huh. Yes they lived over. I guess they lived around a lots of different places. I don't think they were—. I don't think Mr. Hardesty ever owned a home.

JW: Were you? Well you must've been the last of the Hyde children to go to school there at Port Tobacco Elementary School. When you were in your last year there were any other Hyde children going to school?

JP: Just Lucille and Lewis.

JW: Was Albert—. Was Albert [inaudible].

JP: No I don't think so. So Albert almost had to start school at La Plata Elementary school.

JW: And he was born—.

JP: He was born—.

JW: 1916. Is that [inaudible]?

JP: Let's see 11 years old, 1915.

JW: Okay yeah, yeah. He wouldn't have been able to go. Was that not a colored school by that time?

JP: I think the colored children did go to school there after we left yes.

JW: Now when you were going to school in Port Tobacco and living of course at Mount Bleak was there a colored school up behind your house on the highland there at that time?

JP: Someone said. I've heard someone say that there was a colored school up there. But there was a colored school down right on the Port Tobacco green. There was an old store down there that was made into a colored school right off the green. Right where Jimmy Barbour lives now.

JW: Right where the bakery was at one time?

JP: I don't know where the bakery was.

JW: Quenzel's—. Quenzel's store.

JP: I don't remember any Quenzel's store and I don't remember a bakery but—.

JW: It was gone by then.

JP: It was right near—.

JW: On that side of the square there.

JP: [Inaudible] on the left side of the square.

JW: Okay alright well that's where the bakery was.

JP: And that store sat facing north like.

JW: Facing Chimney House?

JP: Yes.

JW: Okay alright well that's good enough. Was there ever a Protestant church other than the Episcopal church [inaudible]?

JP: Not that I know of but there was a Methodist church up on Mount [Inaudible] Road.

JW: Okay that' the one that I'm thinking about. Was that white or colored?

JP: I think it was colored but I wouldn't say for sure. I remember this church and I remember playing in the church and but I don't remember if it was ever running, anybody using it as a church.

JW: Okay now where did the Hyde family go to church during your teenage years?

JP: Well part of the time at St. Ignatius, Chapel Point.

JW: When did you switch from St. Ignatius to Sacred Heart?

JP: I would say when—. I would say 1917 or 1918 something like that.

JW: Okay. Sacred Heart opened about 1904.

JP: It did? Opened that early? I didn't know it opened that early.

JW: The building opened—.

JP: I don't know why we waited so long before we went but I know we didn't go there in 1904. We went—.

JW: Hard to break a tradition you know. After all you were located right between—.

JP: When I was a teenager but we were using horse and buggy. I went to St. Ignatius church at Chapel Point.

JW: Okay. Who were your closest friends when you were going to school there in Port Tobacco? Let's say during the later years your fifth, sixth, and seventh grade buddies. Who were, who were those that you enjoyed most.

JP: Well there wasn't anyone there hardly that we enjoyed at all because there won't that many people there. The Wade's and they were younger than we. I used to feel that they were you know a lot younger but they were not a lot younger but. And we used to play with them a lot. I remember one time I was going up to that church that we were talking about up on Mount [Heel] and we thought we heard somebody in that church and we got afraid and took those children by their hand and ran down the hill with them so fast.

JW: What was the condition of that road? Was it fairly steep?

JP: Mount [Heel] was yes.

JW: But a team could make it up there alright?

JP: Oh yes, yes.

JW: Do you remember automobiles? [Inaudible].

JP: No automobiles I don't think ever went up that road.

JW: Okay.

JP: And I don't think a stage coach ever went up there either.

JW: Because we've recently seen some descriptions in the *Port Tobacco Times* of the condition of that road in a heavy rain it was fun getting up there.

JP: Well I guess it was because there was so many roads that were hard to get up. I remember when we first had a car there were a lot of places you could not go in a car.

JW: When did you—.

JP: You got stuck.

JW: When did your dad get his first car? Did he ever drive himself?

JP: No he didn't.

JW: Now that's interesting.

JP: My brother was working with him so he—. I told you this before.

JW: I think so.

JP: My brother Metcalfe worked. He got paid though. He worked that was a job. He worked with Papa in the *Times Crescent*—.

JW: In La Plata now?

JP: And he also later on, before that he worked for Richard Bailey who was a butcher.

JW: The little butcher shop down by Adrian Posey's bank?

JP: Yes. He worked for him. And my other brother Lewis worked at the A&P store.

JW: Oh okay. Did he work for Gus?

JP: Gus Owen. Gus Owens yes.

JW: Okay. We were talking in the previous interview about how you children would come into La Plata when the paper was being gotten out and put in the mail. What kind of jobs were you doing to help get that *Times Crescent* into the mail? Were you folding?

JP: Oh yeah. Well Rebecca—. I think I told you this on the other tape. Rebecca ran the press and I know she was so she had to stand on a box to get up to this press it was so tall. And you had to be very dexterous I would say to get those papers in there. I can see her now waiving a little bit to get them separated to push down through the. It was something I tried to do and couldn't do it.

JW: Oh dear.

JP: And we folded the papers and put them in lots and addressed them. A lot of them were addressed to different post offices after they were addressed they were wrapped to different post offices.

JW: How did you put the address on? Stickers [inaudible]—.

JP: Some kind of a stain. Stain.

JW: Oh okay.

JP: And then I told you about the single wrappers in the last one. We did all of that work. But we only did that later on after we were in high school.

JW: Okay was there any compensation in it?

JP: [Inaudible phrase].

JW: For you?

JP: No. No compensation whatsoever.

JW: And Mr. Mitchell knew you were doing this?

JP: Oh I'm sure he did. He was working right downstairs. Mrs. Edward Roberts was his secretary. I remember her typing on that little typewriter she had. But sure he knew we were doing for nothing. We never thought a thing about it. We never expected anything you know? We were just helping Papa.

JW: Just making a contribution.

JP: Yes. And—.

JW: Did he seem to appreciate what his children were doing?

JP: Papa? Oh yes he certainly did. See before we were old enough to work on the paper it was midnight when I was a young kid. It was midnight when he got home on Thursdays because he worked till Midnight or one or two o'clock in the morning to get the paper out. And after we were able to help him he got home at a decent hour.

JW: Well that was worth doing. Now in your lifetime you don't remember of course you father working down there in Port Tobacco?

JP: Oh no I never remember that.

JW: Because I think he came into La Plata in 1897 or 8 to start working on the new *Times Crescent*.

JP: Yes, yes.

JW: And I guess was he about the same age as judge Mitchell?

JP: I guess so.

JW: Okay. How'd they get along?

JP: Fine.

JW: Same political party?

JP: Got along fine. Father thought the world of him.

JW: Have a hunch though that your father never allowed himself to be intimidated or bullied—.

JP: No he was never swayed by him in his beliefs. You know Papa was a person. People used to laugh about his way of thinking, voting. They always said he voted the straight Democratic ticket and he would not vote anything else. But his theory was that the Democrats—.

[Tape Breaks]

JW: Julia what other businesses did your father get into other than printing for Judge Mitchell on the *Times Crescent*? What other things did he do to support the family?

JP: He had a job printing business which was very lucrative I think for him.

JW: When did he get started into the job—.

JP: Well I think he started a little bit in the old Mitchell building where the *Times Crescent* was.

JW: Where Stephen's is now?

JP: Where Stephen's is now. And then he had it in the town hall. He was there I think when that building burned.

JW: Down by the railroad track?

JP: The old town hall where the movies were.

JW: Okay right 1940 I think that burned.

JP: Yes. And then later on they purchased the building on Washington Avenue which is now the Sander's building and he and my brother Metcalfe had a job printing there. And they did a lot of printing. It was a very good business.

JW: Who was in that little building before your dad and brother moved in?

JP: I don't know who was in there but—.

JW: Wasn't there—. Wasn't there a druggist?

JP: No I think the druggist came in later after. I think he was after because the druggist was there when my children were young. They used to go to that drug store they were very much.

JW: Was there a soda fountain?

JP: Oh yes. Soda fountain and Dr. Jones was very good to them. And but the town hall was still going at that time though so I guess Papa moved out of the town hall. He did not—. He was not in there when the town hall burned because I remember that the old movie theater was still there when Dr. Jones was in the drug store. Then later on it was a gas company. Bottled gas.

JW: Did your father ever tell you about the fire of 1907 or 8 in the town hall when he was still printing in that building?

JP: No that building didn't burn down—.

JW: It didn't burn down. A fire broke out and they put it out but he came pretty close to losing some of his equipment.

JP: I didn't know that.

JW: Yeah this was be—. Wow. Before you were born.

JP: I guess so.

JW: And it was about 9 or 10 years after—.

JP: Well I didn't know he had any equipment at that time. Maybe that's where he did his job printing.

JW: It could very well be. It could very well be.

JP: But then maybe after that is when he went down to the after the place burned actually burned is when he took it down to the *Times Crescent* building by the A&P store.

JW: Okay about what time did—. Was the building behind the A&P store or in part of the A&P store building?

JP: It was beside it. Two doors one was *Times Crescent* one was A&P.

JW: I see.

JP: All one building.

JW: Where would that building be today? What, what is on that site now? Part of Bowling's?

JP: Bowling's store. And that old family trust company.

JW: The little brick building?

JP: Yes uh huh. I used to work there.

JW: Did you? I [didn't] remember that. The door on the corner?

JP: Yes. I worked there when I was in high school, a summer job.

JW: Okay. What was your father and mother's thinking about education for their children? What did they do to push you off in the right direction?

JP: Well I think they were—. wanted us to have a good education. In those days it seemed as though you didn't—. You thought more about those boys getting an education than the girls but in my family it seemed like the girls got more education than the boys did because the boys went off—. It happened as the war came I guess. And my oldest brothers, stepbrothers, half-brothers, worked in the government jobs over in Indian Head. And one of my brothers bought a farm over in Marbury. Those were half-brothers.

JW: Was that Leonard's father?

JP: Leonard's father yes. And the other two went to work for the government. Later they went to New Jersey and worked for the oil companies and they had very good jobs. But the girls seemed to get more education than the boys did.

JW: Hmm. Who in your opinion was the greatest intellect in the family among all of your brothers and sisters—?

JP: Me. [Laughs].

JW: Of course, sure. Yeah.

JP: No. I did like school.

JW: Did you ever think of teaching?

JP: No I didn't. I took a business course and an academic course both in McDonagh school. And when I came out of McDonagh school I went right to work as, in a sort of auditing business and I did real well in it.

JW: Very good. When did you leave Donagh? What was your—. McDonagh. Your last year there was?

JP: 26.

JW: 26. Did you know—.

JP: But I didn't work for a long time after that. After I got married I didn't work.

JW: Was [Dun Wreath] there when you were?

JP: Yes.

JW: Okay. How many other young people were there—?

JP: Elizabeth [Crookshank] graduated with me.

JW: Okay. Did she pass away recently?

JP: Yes just a little while ago. I have the picture of my graduating class laying right out here somewhere.

JW: Oh do you? Oh for heaven's sakes.

JP: Um—. Cooksey. Gus Cooksey who was married to Ethel [Hearn]. Not Gus Cooksey.

JW: That was—.

JP: Gus, no Gus Cooksey I graduated with him. And—. [Turn that off one minute].

JW: You don't want it on?

JP: I don't want it on while I'm hesitating so much. I don't like that.

[Tape Breaks]

JW: What were some of the things that the Hyde family kids did to earn spending money at home? Did—. Were there chores around the house that you got paid for?

JP: No. We—.

JW: Did you ever strip tobacco or?

JP: We did not.

JW: Hoe the garden?

JP: No we didn't. We used to during the summer months I remember walking from Port Tobacco to Poorhouse farm and Mama used to pack our lunch—.

JW: That was a long walk.

JP: Well we used to walk over there we thought it was fun.

JW: Four miles?

JP: Yes. We thought it was fun it was like going on a picnic. But we would go over there and we'd take our lunch. Mama packed lunch for us. And we'd stay over there all day and sometimes we [topped] tobacco.

JW: That's where the farming was done?

JP: Yes.

JW: Not at Mount Bleak?

JP: Well we did a little bit of farming at Mount Bleak too those fields down below there had corn in them and I don't know about tobacco but we did have corn in those fields down below the field. And then a huge garden. But we used to [top] tobacco, thin the corn, and I think we picked soybeans. And they had some wonderful cherry trees over there, we used to pick cherries. And then we only grew wheat over there. We grew a lot of wheat. And every year there was a man who came around who thrashed the wheat. And he went from farm to farm.

JW: Do you remember his name?

JP: No I don't. And he brought his crew with him.

JW: I ask because one of the [Buoy's] was in that business threshing.

JP: Yeah. And they went from farm to farm and you engaged them ahead of time what day he was gonna come to thrash your wheat and the day that he came you had to furnish their food. And I can remember my mother cooking a hot dinner.

JW: In hot weather?

JP: In hot weather and getting it over to the farm and had it under a big tree over there on a table to feed all—.

JW: How did she get it over there?

JP: I guess in the wagon—.

JW: [Horse pulled thing?]

JP: [A horse and wagon or something]. I don't know how she kept the food hot but I remember she had cabbage and potatoes and ham and all kinds of things.

JW: How many acres did the Hyde's own over there?

JP: I think it was about 300 acres.

JW: Was there anything left of the Poorhouse itself?

JP: Yes, yes.

JW: What did it look like? What sort of building—?

JP: It was falling down in the middle is all I can remember. And I think it was a frame building and it had quite a bit of brick in it though. I think the chimney's, there were large chimneys, and I think that's where most of the brick was and in the foundation also.

JW: I've seen a description of it when it was being built about 1820.

JP: Yes. Do you think it was frame?

JW: Mostly brick.

JP: Mostly brick.

JW: Mostly brick originally yeah. So they may have added to it—.

JP: Everyone says that the courthouse was brick but I cannot believe that to save my life. I think the middle of it was frame and I think the ends were brick. But you said and a lot of people have told me that the whole thing was brick.

JW: Yeah.

JP: But I can't understand where it went to.

JW: Oh I can tell you where it went to. Better not put it on this tape. I can tell you. Somebody we both know. Well anyway so again the family worked. About how many children would end up working over there at the Poorhouse farm at once, half a dozen of you?

JP: No just Lucille and I.

JW: Oh is that right?

JP: Uh huh.

JW: The boys wouldn't?

JP: And Lewis. And we did it as fun. We didn't do it as work and we weren't made to go over there to do it.

JW: What did the girls do in the kitchen at home to help your mother?

JP: Very little. Mama did almost all the cooking.

JW: And she had a little hired help? Canning time and—.

JP: Well we helped her with canning. We helped her with canning the tomatoes I know. Yes she had help. We had a big [inaudible] when they killed hogs, she had a lot of help.

JW: So the butchering was done right there at Mount Bleak?

JP: Lot of help [inaudible phrase]. Lot of women came in to help with the making sausage and we stuffed sausage and had a sausage stuffer and—.

JW: Heavy huh?

JP: Yes. They did all that and cutting up made lard. Dried the lard and the cracklings afterwards and chitlins. Used to get the chitlins too.

JW: What black families were living in Port Tobacco at that time that were neighbors of the Hyde's? People that you would call on once in a while for help or?

JP: Aunt Annie Smith and the Lee's and the Queen's and Thompson's. And there's one white lady that did a lot of work for us and her name was O'Driscoll and her—. I don't know what her name was but I know her daughter's name was Maud. Maud O'Driscoll.

JW: Did the children go to school—?

JP: And her son [Inaudible] O'Driscoll and they both went to school.

JW: Do you know where they came from?

JP: They lived in Port Tobacco down around 23rd something. Down around—.

JW: I see. Down around by the warehouse.

JP: [Inaudible phrase] creek down that way somewhere.

JW: Okay.

JP: But I don't know where they came from and I don't know where they went to.

JW: Isn't that odd. Were the wesort Swann's living down there when you were a youngster?

JP: The wesort Thompson's were.

JW: Okay the wesort Swann's were not that, that late.

JP: The Thompson's.

JW: They had an oyster house down there at one time.

JP: Oh did they?

JW: Uh—huh. Not far from the—.

JP: I didn't know that.

JW: Not far from the courthouse.

JP: Loney Thompson still lives down there on the creek where [Happy] Gamble lived. The Gamble's lived down on the creek you know. [Happy] Gamble. And there's a Loney that lives down there now. In fact she calls me regularly on the phone.

JW: Oh for heaven's sakes.

JP: I talked to her a couple of days ago.

JW: Loney?

JP: Her name is Loney and she's a wesort. And I heard she works a lot for the [Zall's]. She told me she works for Mrs. [Zall]. And she calls me just to find out how I am and what I'm doing and just [have] a little talk.

JW: And you've known her all your life?

JP: Yes I have. In fact her brothers and sisters we used to teach them catechism when we—.

JW: Oh for heaven's sakes.

JP: I used to come down there on Saturdays and we taught them catechism.

JW: Were the Jameson's around Port Tobacco when you were a youngster?

JP: Oh yes the Jameson's. Well Uncle Henry Bush lived in that house.

JW: Mrs. Jameson's father was he?

JP: Yes he lived there.

JW: Okay Vincent's grandfather.

JP: And he lived in the house where my father's first wife's family lived. Uncle Henry Bush lived in that house.

JW: Now what house would that be?

JP: Well it's sitting right on close to that road. Very close to the road. You know where Margaret Jameson lived?

JW: Yes.

JP: Right out in front of it as close to the road as you could get.

JW: Oh okay yes we have some pictures of it.

JP: Yes and—.

JW: The old Birch house.

JP: On it yes, yes. Well Owing's lived there after the Birch's.

JW: And the post office was in it.

JP: Owing's lived there after the Birch's.

JW: Okay. Do you remember when the post office was in that house?

JP: No.

JW: 1880's or 90's before your time.

JP: I wasn't living in 1880's John. [Laughs]

JW: No but that's what made [inaudible]. You know when you—.

JP: Well you know I wouldn't be a bit surprised if there were some of the Birch's in [inaudible phrase].

JW: Could very well be we've got a list somewhere—.

JP: And across the street from. Across the street from Uncle Henry Bush's house was a house that was sitting there when I was a kid. And I used to—. I was very taken with that house. And not so much with the house as the name we called it Lacey Lot.

JW: Oh yes yeah.

JP: Lacey Lot And that's why I call this place Posey Lot because I liked Lacey Lot.

JW: The present road goes right through it.

JP: Yes. Right between Uncle Henry Bush's house and—.

JW: The so called catslide house. Sorry push it down. Push it down yeah okay.

[Tape Breaks]

JW: Now when you were going to school in Port Tobacco the town of Port Tobacco was pretty much gone wasn't it?

JP: Oh yes it was dilapidated.

JW: Maybe a half dozen houses, half a dozen families living there. And you said you used to go from the school down to the hydrant on the old square to get drinking water. Who were some of the kids who would go down there with you from time to time?

JP: Well it'd be Stowell Swann.

JW: How was that spelled? That's an unusual name.

JP: S-T-O-W-E-L-L.

JW: Oh yeah.

JP: And his brother Lewis Swann who he was in the tornado. And they had a sister. Those three and—.

JW: What was her name?

JP: I can't remember her name. The [Gullet] girl.

JW: Well that was [Viola's].

JP: No her mother's name was [Violet].

JW: That's her mother oh.

JP: Her mother's name was Violet, but her name was Madeline.

JW: Oh I see okay. So [Gullet's] wife okay. I'll ask—.

JP: I can't remember her name.

JW: Okay.

JP: But we used to walk down through Port Tobacco and those and the Smith Swann's daughters—. Catherine and Henry I think for this Smith Swann children.

JW: Where did—. Where did the Swann's live in Port Tobacco—?

JP: The Joshua Swann's or the Smith Swann's?

JW: The Joshua Swann's.

JP: The Joshua Swann's lived right there in front of Frank Wade's house now. There was a house there.

JW: Was that the Robert's house? The old Robert's house?

JP: It might be yes.

JW: Okay. Close to the road?

JP: And they—. That was a post office too.

JW: Okay. What were some of the dangers of walking around Port Tobacco in those days?

JP: Well there wasn't very much danger—.

JW: No sidewalks.

JP: No just paths.

JW: Were—.

JP: And the—. The—. Some of the people that lived in Port Tobacco raised cattle and they didn't have a field to put the cattle in so the cattle ran on the commons, we used to call them, and they were all over the town and you couldn't walk [inaudible]—.

JW: You could always tell where they'd been.

JP: Yes. Had to dodge all that going to get the water. And because they didn't have a field they raised the cattle with no place to put them.

JW: Okay. Huh. A real country scene.

JP: Yes.

JW: Was the water from that well then considered quite pure?

JP: Oh it was.

JW: Okay.

JP: People used to come from all over to get it. And they—. The water coming out of that [pipe] was as big around as—. bigger than my arm.

JW: So that was a heavy flow of water.

JP: Yes.

JW: There used to be an older hydrant in the middle of the road. Was that gone when you were growing up?

JP: The only one I know of is the one that's [down there].

JW: Okay there was an older one there pretty much at the foot of the driveway going up to Mount Bleak. I don't know what they did with it maybe they just sealed it off and let all the water flow down to that hydrant. At one time Port Tobacco had a water system with some pipes in the ground coming from the hill.

JP: Well up on the hill there was a place called Hydrant Range. We called it the Hydrant Range and there's a little brick place up there where the water was and the Wade's eventually got their water system from there when they put a bathroom in their house that's where the water came down. They went up and hooked onto this place up in the Hydrant Range.

JW: I suppose—. Where did the water come from at Mount Bleak at this time?

JP: We had a well.

JW: Okay.

JP: And we pumped—. We had to pump the water up. When we got a bathroom we pumped the water up you know.

JW: But you could have had a water a gravity feed water system there at that time—.

JP: If we had gone over the Hydrant Range but that wasn't our property. Wasn't the Wade's property either.

JW: Who did own it?

JP: It belonged to the Digg's. The Digg's property. [Inaudible] plenty what we called it the highlands.

JW: Okay.

JP: Where George Gardiner lived and now I don't know who lives there now.

JW: Yeah. Yeah. [Inaudible] [Melvin Q. Downs] and his son Paul.

JP: Yes well—.

JW: Melvin's dead, his son—.

JP: Yeah.

JW: And it was called highlands?

JP: It was called the highlands yes. And that's where Doctor Digg's lived. He was our doctor back before my day.

JW: I see. Okay.

JP: And they owned back of our house. Our property went up over the hill from our house and there was a line a fence up there.

JW: I see.

JP: And beyond that fence belonged to the Digg's.

JW: And before—.

JP: And that Hydrant Range I think wherever that was that must've belonged to them.

JW: Okay. Let's see what else were we—.

JP: Ferguson was the original owner.

JW: Well I think you're right. Doctor Ferguson. Doctor Oscar Ferguson died about 1860. His widow became the second wife of Judge Frederick Stone and her name was Jenny. Her sister was Maria Luisa Stonestreet. Mrs. Ferguson also was a Stonestreet and those two girls were sister and both in turn were wives of Judge Frederick Stone of Idaho. And Apparently at one time Idaho was part of La Grange and [inaudible] Stonestreet's.

JP: Well—.

JW: [Lived there].

JP: In the front yard of our house [inaudible]. Sitting over on the side of the yard there was always a hole. Grass was growing in it all real nice but it was an indentation and Papa used to say that's where Doctor Ferguson's office was.

JW: Quite likely there was an older house there. There was a bad fire and in 1857 and 8 Oscar Ferguson built a new house. And that's documented it is described by Mrs. John Hamilton in one of the Hamilton letters which I have read. And coming home from St. Ignatius one Sunday morning she passed it going out to Prospect Hill there. And in a letter to her daughter she described the new she called it cottage, which was a different term in those days, the new cottage being built at Mount Bleak by Doctor Oscar Ferguson. So there was a much older house there and it could be part of that little indentation there that had been the doctor's office. But he died within five years—.

JP: See Papa—.

JW: [After he built this].

JP: [Inaudible] live in the early 1900's. I mean he was living there before 1900.

JW: Okay. So—.

JP: Because Metcalfe was born in 1900.

JW: Now where did Lewis M. Hyde and his first wife live during the first few years of their marriage?

JP: At Haldane.

JW: At Haldane right here in La Plata.

JP: Yes.

JW: Okay. So then they went—.

JP: But I don't think they lived there very long.

JW: Probably not. Now what were some of the names of the Birch hotel? It was called the St. Charles at one time, the [Brawner] house at one time—.

JP: Well when my—. When Papa's wife's father's owned it, it was known as the [Brawner] house.

JW: Okay.

JP: And then I think it became St. Charles and then it was sold to—. They sold it. It was left to them they sold it to Smoot. And Claggett.

JW: Oh, oh so that would be—.

JP: I guess that's the same Smoot that built Bowling's hotel. Don't you think?

JW: Right that's quite likely he had built a small hotel close to the courthouse in La Plata and in Port Tobacco which burned and then he came in to La Plata and built the new Smoot hotel here in town.

JP: [Inaudible phrase].

JW: Okay. Julia when you kids were growing up your father did not depend on agriculture really for the income?

JP: Oh no.

JW: And the farm over there on Poorhouse road that was just sort of an extra wasn't it?

JP: Yes.

JW: Did you were you aware you kids that you were better off than a lot of your neighbors at all? How did you feel—?

JP: No. No I wasn't. I wasn't aware of that at all. I guess the reason that I wasn't aware of it cuz my father's very conservative.

JW: In what ways was he conservative now?

JP: He—.

JW: Politically, [fiscally]?

JP: He was a tightwad.

JW: Okay.

JP: Well he was kind of hard to get money out of. I remember Mama would say you know, "The children need this and the children need that." And he'd say, "Well insurance is due and this is due and that is due." So I used to—. That's why I got the idea I think that—.

JW: Okay what did he do to get extra mileage out of things? What about economies at the kitchen and at the table?

JP: Well—.

JW: Did you have to clean your plates for example?

JP: No. No he wasn't tight that way. He was—. He never splurged on anything. In fact, he didn't have any outside activities for a man. He was just interested in his family and he came home on weekends on Sundays he went in the garden and picked vegetables and oh we had ice cream every Sunday in the summer time. And he—.

JW: You made it at home?

JP: He—. And he—. He made it.

JW: Oh for heaven's sakes.

JP: And Mama used to put the—. We had cooked ice cream.

JW: Cooked ice cream.

JP: The cooked—. She cooked it.

JW: Oh for heaven's sakes.

JP: And she put it down in the well and so we'd get nice and cold so it wouldn't use so much ice to freeze it.

JW: So she would chill it first.

JP: Yes. And Papa did it on the back porch. He would sit and grind—. Use this grind I don't what [it was called].

JW: With, with throwing the salt in with the ice?

JP: Throw the salt yes. And we had an ice house and in the winter time when the ponds were frozen we went down and cut ice off these ponds and put it in there and—.

JW: Where were the ponds?

JP: One was right—. One right back of the schoolhouse and one right back of Wade's store. But see the road is back of Wade's store now. That was the one we used to skate on mostly. But down past the chimney house there was a nice big one and that's where most of the time we got the ice to for the pond. We didn't like it very much when they went down there and cut the ice up because we skated on that.

JW: It was descent clean water?

JP: Yes I guess it was. But we didn't use it—. We didn't use it for drinking I think. We used it to make ice cream. But it was nice white clean ice. It wasn't dirty looking at all. And I can remember the looks of it.

JW: How did your father feel about buying new appliances and things that would make life easier for you mother.

JP: Well I think he—. He was bored because he was the one that got the Delco Plant and he was the one that bought the automobile. He wasn't tight in that way. He was always sort of tight when Mama wanted things for us like clothes and new coats and new shoes and things. And he say, "Oh well I know insurance is due this week." And you know and that's why I got the idea. But then he always gave it to us.

JW: Oh that's funny.

JP: But Mama didn't handle the money at all.

JW: Oh really?

JP: Oh no she never handled the money a bit.

JW: Who did the shopping for the clothes? For the children? That was a heck of a big bill.

JP: Well see Mama made a lot of their clothes and once a while we would go to Washington and buy a few things. I remember—.

JW: By rail or by automobile?

JP: Well it was by automobile. Before that well we use to go in Farrell's store and buy things and some readymade clothes. Very few. Mama made our underwear even.

JW: Oh for heaven's sakes.

JP: Our slips and things like that. Cuz I remember buying lace in Cochran's store.

JW: She had a treadle sewing machine?

JP: Yes. Uh—huh. And we bought our clothes mostly from Bowling's store and Farrell's store and there was a store up in Waldorf we used to go. What was that lady's name?

[Talking at the same time]

JW:—mother.

JP: Yes. And she was a wonderful little lady. And but Mama made most of our clothes and I remember once—.

JW: Kerr.

JP: Mrs. Kerr yes.

JW: Yeah Kerr.

JP: Right.

JW: Already readymade.

JP: Right and once when we needed a dress for a very special occasion I remember I was going to Washington to buy. We used to buy, shop at Lansburgh's and [Cain's], those places. And Mama bought us a dress that Lucille and I, each a dress. And she paid \$9.90 for it. I've never forgotten because I thought that was so much money to pay for a dress.

JW: About what year would this be now, 1930's or something.

JP: That was when I was in high school it was 1922, 22 or 23. And this coat that I showed you a while ago where is that—.

JW: How did—. How did your father dress was he a very conservative dresser?

JP: He would, Papa was a very sloppy dresser.

JW: Was he really?

JP: He didn't really take care of himself very well. You know he chewed tobacco and—.

JW: Did he ever smoke?

JP: No. No smoking never drank. The only thing he—. The only time he ever drank was eggnog. A little bit of eggnog at Christmas time. No he was not very tidy. My mother was forever after him about his untidiness. Well you know in a printing office you don't stay very clean anyway. Your hands—. In fact he used to get—. I know we—. He used to say that mama used old [inaudible] cleanser on him when he put him in the bathtub. He said, "She don't know I knew it but I felt the grit in the bottom of the tub—".

JW: Oh you knew it was.

JP: He said, "I know what she had on."

JW: Oh wow.

JP: No he was not—. He always had nice clothes to go to church. And he—. I remember him polishing everybody's shoes before we went to church on Sundays.

JW: That's a lot of shoes.

JP: Yes and he was very neat then but going to work every day is what I'm talking about. He was not very neat and he didn't worry about clothes. He was not a person that worried about that.

JW: Did he ever get into politics seriously other than [inaudible]—.

JP: No, no, no not to run for politics.

JW: Didn't run for [anything]—.

JP: The only thing that he ever did was supervise at elections. He didn't have time to go into anything else.

JW: Did he spend—.

JP: And he worked right up until he died almost. He was 83 years old when he died and he worked a week before he died.

JW: Did he and your mother ever take a vacation, go somewhere, get out of town?

JP: No, no, no.

JW: He never did. Would he have considered that a waste of money [inaudible]—.

JP: Well I don't think they even thought about it. We used to go to Chapel Point. Now that was a big occasion. Go to Chapel Point and have picnics down there and the family went and the church would have a picnic. St. Ignatius church always had picnics there during the summer.

JW: When the park was still alive.

JP: And they—. The beach was real good down there.

JW: On the Riverside or the Port Tobacco Creek side?

JP: Huh?

JW: Where was the best part of the beach?

JP: It was on when you go to Chapel Point is was sort of to the left.

JW: On the main Riverside?

JP: Yeah it wasn't like that where—.

JW: And there were bathhouses along there too.

JP: All the bathhouses and the beach was very sandy. And I told you a lot of people came there on Sunday. It was a beautiful beach. I'll tell you what ruined it was bringing that boat down there they dredged it out.

JW: Oh, oh.

JP: They said that's what ruined the beach.

JW: And this is at Chapel Point [inaudible phrase]?

JP: Yes that is at Chapel Point.

JW: For heaven's sakes isn't that something. You know that boat needed quite a bit of water under it. Huh. Wonder what the age is of that photo. 1930's?

JP: Is it on that card there? Because that card—.

JW: Here?

JP: I have—. I have a big picture of that boat.

JW: 19—.

JP: 60.

JW: 1960.

JP: Yes.

JW: Well that's Glenn Echo it says.

JP: Oh.

JW: Well anyways if you can find the big picture of this boat I would like to have a college copy.

JP: I know where it is but I think it's stuck in a—.

JW: When you were growing up Julia was there a camera in the family? Did your father and mother ever have their own camera?

JP: No I don't think so. But Wills gave me a camera when I graduated from high school. That was my present from him.

JW: Oh okay.

JP: And that's what I took these pictures with.

JW: Well it's great. So this is dated 1925 and before that if you wanted a picture taken they had to be the studio type?

JP: Yes and well there was [Brownie].

[Tape Ends]