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Frank Ball

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ORAL HISTORY

GIFT AND RELEASE AGREEMENT

I, Frank Ball, the undersigned, of
~~Barboursville~~ Barboursville County of Cabell State
of West Virginia, grant, convey, and transfer to the James E.
Morrow Library Associates, a division of The Marshall University Foundation,
Inc., an educational and eleemosynary institution, all my right, title,
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Date 12/6/74

Frank Ball

(Signature - Interviewee)

1275 College Ave

Address

Barboursville, W Va

Date 12/6/74

Ed Miller

(Signature - Witness)

DS: There we go.

FB: We begin with the, that if that's what you wanted, a picture of that library and course the Indians use to go through Barboursville and the buffaloes went through Barboursville ahead of them, the old buffalo trail, it's the old Indian trail / DS: Um, mmm. / and then it became the old, uh, state road in 1800. Just chop out, like chop out the roads and then in 18 and 28 the stagecoaches began to run and they run until 1873. And, uh, train came through in 1873, it was already here 2 years ahead of that but just this end of it a train had been further down from Parkersburg, the engine had and they run a train on up till it joined at Hawks Nest in 1873 and then the stagecoaches went out of business. But stagecoaches run through Barboursville before that the old state wagons, the old time wagons, the Con-Conestoga / DS: Conestoga, um, mmm. / wagons, the freight wagons, covered wagons taking people west. And the Savage Land Grant we're in it and the marker's just about town and it goes clear to the, to the, uh, beyond Big Sandy and the titles to the land in its clarity were so uncertain for many years that it caused some of our best citizens to stop up around Ona and Milton from going through. The, they wouldn't, uh, take a chance. But the Thornburgs and the Gardners, and the Millers and some of um did come in and, uh, and the Merritts, old man Merritt's down there 1800 and 3. He came in 1803, build a mill bout 1800 and 9.

DS: And where was that, Frank?

FB: At the mouth of Mud River and they's a fall to Mud River, he had a mill at the falls of Mud River and he was the first settler and it was called Merritt's Mill, this up here was called Merritt's Mill until 1918 not 19, 18 and 13 and then Virginia called it, declared it a town and appointed trustees, and there's something peculiar I'm not familiar with the trustees didn't live here. One of um lived in Guyandotte, one of um lived in Salt Rock, one lived in Milton, two or three of the trustees I don't know whether we

didn't have, we surely had um cause it's a courthouse town / DS: Um, mmm. / . Then from 18 and 9 on is when it was till 18 and 88 it was a courthouse town with a exception of 2 or 3 years during the Civil War and, and 2 or 3 years just after it started. But its been a courthouse town largely since 18 and 9 until 18 and 88.

DS: Well now was this, uh, Cabell County?

FB: Cabell County and, uh, so the, the post office here despite the fact that it was the town of Barboursville and named for Governor Barbour, the post office was Cabell Courthouse, Cabell CH that's where all letters come till 1882, / DS: No kidding. / and uh, course now that seems strange to the younger people but I've known several towns that has one name one post office and, uh, another town. The Oakhill Kentucky the Unity was a post office, Lincoln County on Gauley, West Virginia and Lane's Bottom was a post office, it wasn't a bit uncommon then, / DS: Um, mmm. / it is today.

DS: Um, mmm.

FB: So there's Barboursville since 1813, Merritt's Mill before that.

DS: Merritt's Mill, / FB: Merritt's Mill. / because there was a mill.

FB: Yeah, mill, that's right, everybody coming in Merritt's Mill / DS: Uh, huh. / . Going down to Merritt's Mill and people say that from Merritt's Creek over there was from all them Merricks but it's not, it was named for Merritt, William Merritt and the Merrick was misspelled afterwards / DS: Um, mmm. / and the old maps carry Merrick but it's Merritt.

DS: Um, mmm.

FB: Then the, uh, the road came through and, uh, freightwagons

and all got through and they begin running stagecoaches course people came, then they run first 3 times a week between Guyandotte, uh, not between Guyandotte, between, uh, uh, Charleston let's say or Lewisburg and, uh, Big Sandy River / DS: Um, mmm. / . And Guyandotte didn't like it because they was a leading port on the Ohio River at that time so they railed them a railroad, I mean a hard road up the river and joined us here and the state road commission or whoever in charge said we're not going to let you get by that, we'll put a toll gate down here make you pay (laughs).

DS: Is that the one that . . .

FB: That's the one right over here / DS: Right out from there. / it was sitting down here by the riverbank and moved up.

DS: I see.

FB: And they put one of Merritt's daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Gurton as the toll gate keeper and which ever way they went, whether they crossed the river on the ferry here or whether they went down to Guyandotte, / DS: Um, mmm. / they had to pay toll. And they put those in in 1877, the road came up in 1835 and then people from the stage-coach could go to Guyandotte / DS: Um, mmm. / . Well so much for the road business, it came on through and it was paved in 8, in 19 and 23 connected. Now the stage from Petersburg went through Barboursville 19 and, uh, 15 or 16 I'm not sure of the year / DS: Um, mmm. / . But it came to either side 2 years before the owners, land owners, property owners would pave it through here they just didn't want, uh, cost, uh, taxes raised or the cost of pavement but they finally put it through and they tell me some of our leading citizens on it owed it.

DS: You mean the state road did not pay for it?

FB: The, uh, state road pays for 16 feet then property owners has to pay / DS: I see. / the rest, and uh, same way with the one over here / DS: Um, mmm. / .

The state pays for the, for their width and then the property owners pay. And, uh, the buses and trucks and cars began running Midland Trail and Transit Company which developed later, it was taken over by the Greyhound. And, uh, now the Greyhound runs out of town. Tackett put in, had a livery stables in 19 and 8 but there was a livery stable run by Edwards before him in fact the livery stable no doubt but, anyway he run it and then he went in the taxi business and ran until, oh 25 or 30 years ago I'm not sure how long. So that's the story of the road, there's the old, there's the reclamation point went in about 1910 which was just a few men and they would come in off the road and maybe work a week and get whatever they wanted done and then take the material back / DS: Um, mmm. / . But it started out bout 19

and 10 as a man here with a few men and drew under Walter Thompson to about 300 men. Now it's gone back down and the railroads everywhere have gone back down until, uh, probably a hundred men over there now, / DS: I see, stopped. / um, mmm. That's a reclamation blank for a railroad truck, that's certainly been a big boom to the, uh, railroad, to the town in the way of taxes. This is just the Presbyterian Church, I don't know whether you've realize that has a story.

This is a Methodist area, Methodist town, has been always / DS: Um, mmm. / but a few Presbyterians, wasn't but 12 formed a church about 1913 or 14 and, uh, people moved out and they just had 5 members of the Presbyterian Church and they met one Sunday afternoon to disband and this Miss Lanningham starting to write the letter of disbandment or abandonment or whatever the word would be / DS: Uh, huh. / and there was a knock at the door. A man and his wife and 3 children, uh, said that they were Presbyterians just moving in the town understood the Presbyterians were meeting there that evening and they'd like to join the church / DS: Um, mmm. / . So Miss Lanningham turned the paper over and wrote their names on the back of it and said we'll have you on the roll pretty quick.

DS: How bout that.

FB: There was membership there in 5 minutes [DS: Uh, huh.].
 So there is your church today I say worth, from that,
 worth probably, I don't know \$200,000 [DS: Um, mmm.]
 maybe 250,000 with membership and, [DS: It's a lovely
 church.] uh, just because of a knock at the door on
 the pinpoint of time, uh, uh, I don't want to go to
 preaching but things like that don't just happen.

DS: (Laughs) that's true Frank, I agree.

FB: There's the old, uh, station, uh, signal tower.

DS: Um, mmm.

FB: And before that in 19 and 9 they had an old wooden
 tower down here with a few levers and before that they
 had a station with a, it's still over there, the station
 is with a, look out the window and had a paddle and
 weight [DS: Um, mmm.] so that came, when it went
 under it, in 1963 had 75 buttons, er, levers pulled
 and buttons runned by the train taken down.

DS: Now did the shops take care of the, all the C&O down,
 I don't really know what . . .

FB: Yeah, I know. No the shop was just a repair, it
 could have been anywhere on the system, however
 material that, sent stuff in there like pumps and
 gasoline, engines to be repaired and then they send
 um back out wherever to Richmond or Hinton or wherever.
 No, they was no connection at all between the station
 and the shop, none whatever any more than owner or
 any other.

DS: Oh.

FB: There's the old, uh, house, uh, I can't remember the
 name of the man that lived in it anyway he was at one
 time president of Marshall College. Came here and
 married one of the Millers, came from, he was the,
 from Randolph-Macon College, he was the, uh, leading
 at the top in grades from Randolph-Macon College at
 the time they sent him here to, uh, over Marshall.

DS: Um, mmm.

FB: To head Marshall which he did / DS: Um, mmm. / and, uh, Benjamin Hudson Baxton, name was from Baxton in Huntington, was Baxton tire people were his descendants, he hasn't any descendants around here. He was a powerful man, he was head of the County Court, I believe and he was, uh, did a great work.

DS: How long was he at Marshall?

FB: Uh, oh he was there 2 or 3 years and then the war come up and he was there 4 or 5 years, I'd say he was 7 or 8 years at Marshall, I don't have the exact number of years / DS: Uh, huh. / . Then he went into business, he was a good, big businessman, and uh, that's home where he lived then, built in 1868 or there about and . . .

DS: Where is this side?

FB: Right up Main Street, I'm coming down Main Street.

DS: Okay.

FB: The shop and, uh, I have an idey his father married, uh, William C. Miller's daughter and William C. Miller built junior high and he built, uh, the big Miller triple bay home and did alot of building, outstanding man, he put in lots of, his mother one of those outstanding women who had an outstanding daughter who married another outstanding man and that's the kind of people that's elite / DS: Um, mmm. / . So he built that I, I'm guessing but anyway that's the actual home of 1862 after the Baxtons left it and then there came, uh, . .

DS: That's a little bit of the south in there doesn't it, with the pillars and the columns / FB: Um, mmm. / it looks like it's a little bit southern.

FB: So after, after he left this doctor lived there and then a man named Fitzgarett was a merchant, and now

Van McConkey owns it, it's an old, they's one other, great, great grandson of Baxton standing in front of that house but the picture's not good / DS: Um, mmm. / there he is there / DS: Um, mmm. / That's a story of the Baxton and the Millers made a great park in Barboursville there / DS: Um, mmm. / the descendants of the Millers / DS: Um, mmm. / and, uh, 3 Spencer girls and the Baxton boy and there they are inside the old house, Ted McVey owns it now / DS: Uh, huh. / And there's 2 of the great, great granddaughters at the old house, there's the Spencer girls and over here too / DS: Um, mmm. / And there's the gr-, that rose bush in front of there was brought from Gallipolis about 18 and 68, that rose bush is still growing.

DS: Is that right?

FB: And there is the great, great grandniece of the, one girl. Little girl, Baxton's wife really brought it back when she went over to Gallipolis to visit her family about 1868. They give her the little rose bush and set it out in the yard and it's still growing there. They, uh, the stagecoach people have seen it / DS: Um, mmm. / and thousand of other people have seen it. She wouldn't, uh, wouldn't part with it for anything, there's a descendant of the old Gardners and the Millers and Miller married the Gardner and Gardner was an outstanding man, the Miller married the Gardner's daughter / DS: Um, mmm. / There's a descendant of the old house, the old Miller homestead, / DS: Um, mmm. / that's the most historic, uh, building on the street I suppose, the old Miller homestead. There's the, part of the Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian, now there's the Gardners mark, grave markers over there in the old cemetery 18 and 65 and 1867, 54 and 55, / DS: Um, mmm. / 1854 and 55 / DS: Um, mmm. / She was the daughter of a marchioness and a marque or however they are, the French, / DS: Rank. / they owned a great estate in San Domingo and the resurrection of the negroes drove um out / DS: Um, mmm. / and they went to Boston and then back to Greenup and the story would make a book. I have it written in there / DS: Is that

right? / . And there's some of their descendants from out west and Russellville, and there's an old lady that was born in another house then come through later / DS: Uh, huh. / in 1868, uh, was built in 1868, she was born afterwards and there's her great grandfather / DS: Um, mmm. / . There's the girl and the house, there's the old, uh, uh, pent house about a hundred years old old, uh, Herb King's father, Samuel, Samuel King lived in it. I'm not sure whether he built it or not but it's over a hundred years old and then there was a druggist came after him. The houses along Main Street are relatively old.

DS: Did they have slavery down in that bottom?

FB: Oh they had slaves, yeah they had slaves. They's slaves buried right in this graveyard over here, slaves buried in the Ona graveyard. But, uh, apparently, I'm guessing, but apparently they lived so close to the Ohio and the underground the slaves in this area people tell me were treated like, uh, human beings / DS: The blacks. / . Old man Miller he told me he never know the slave history, he lived in the, and uh, people ask me where I got all this history, uh, I've always been interested in it. J.W. Miller was born in 1845, he can remember when he could remember back 1850. His father came here in 1820 and I got it and wrote it down that he did come / DS: That's nice. / and back to 18 and 20 there bouts and, uh, I've spent hours with J.W. Miller taking it down / DS: Um, mmm. / . So there's the old Dirton house it's about 18 and 70 and then there's another one you're looking at that's bout cross from the post office up bout halfway / DS: Okay, I know where we are. / that's bout 18 and 70. There's the house, uh, it's still standing over there just above the post office / DS: Uh, huh. / on the same side / DS: Um, mmm, I see it. / . That was built in 1868 by George Miller and Sherman who came here from Germany aboard a ship and his father died on shipboard. And he had a son George Jr., that was founder, among the founders of the First Huntington National Bank

and was cashier when he died and was another outstanding man. We had some mighty outstanding men in, in Barboursville. Now Joseph Miller who is, uh, Commissioner of Internal Revenue under Cleveland's administration was born right there in that big brick I was talking about / DS: Is that right? /, build a big brick. There's the old sycamore which is a story within itself. There's Barboursville in 18 and 61 and your B building isn't there but that doesn't mean, now that artist simply quit drawing that picture before he finished it.

DS: You think so.

FB: I do think so cause that building is older definitely than some of the rest of um, however they're all over a hundred years old. There's the Thornburg building and I can remember when they had those steps on it. They took it off, took those steps off / DS: Um, mmm. / and the old B building set right there / DS: Right here. / . And there's the . . .

DS: And I'm still working there.

FB: Um, mmm. Yeah, and there's, there's where the old, uh, Poindexter brick was and these are barns for horses for the, for the, uh, people to come here / DS: Um, mmm. / and there's . . .

DS: Must have been what, Civil War?

FB: Civil War in 1861, here's the old sycamore tree still standing, there it is now / DS: Um, mmm. / . And, uh, I named it the Virginia Sycamore but nobody else did so it didn't take. And there it is over there.

DS: Did, someone told me something about the B building that it use to be like a hotel.

FB: Harrington Hotel, I have that story in here.

DS: And, uh, Jesse James allegedly slept there.

FB: Well, uh, / DS: Just one of those stories. / you hear those, they, you know, Jesse James was suppose to rob the Huntington bank and he went down the Ohio River, he went down this road and he come up Salt Rock and (laughs). He never robbed the Huntington bank, he was in jail over in Memphis getting some money to bail him out and his gang robbed it / DS: Um, mmm, I see. / . But, uh, uh, Paul Dirton said his, he, his great grandmother told him that she saw them go by here and I believe that's more rightly the story than anything else you'll hear because she said they was dressed in, had fine horses and linen dusters and everything of that date / DS: Um, mmm. / . I doubt very much they stopped in Barboursville since they were going to rob the Huntington bank, I doubt it very much but I do know the Methodist conference was meeting down there and they come in there like my dad was old, my dad wasn't living then but old clothes that they could find and saw them in public coming in there and said, "what are them preachers, look at the horses (laughter)." Thought they was some preachers coming to the conference and those horse why they's, preachers don't own that kind of horses / DS: Oh, they were really pack rats. / . And so, so, uh, while they were preachers around there they robbed the Huntington bank and the bank's still standing it's in the paper yesterday, uh, while ago, yesterday / DS: Yes, I saw it. / . Now that's still standing there, they're going to preserve it. I had a picture of it somewhere but, uh, I doubt very much if Jesse James stayed over night around here. But I have an idey that he did go through here, there's the old show house / DS: Um, mmm. / , there's the oldest dwelling on the street. That use to be, it's always been a dwelling, a house but they had schools before the Civil War in their homes and some woman I've never been able to find her name taught a school in there. Mellett Bradley died in '92 or 3, she told me her grandmother, mother or grandmother went to school in that building before the Civil War / DS: Um, mmm. / . But she couldn't bring up the name / DS: Um, mmm. / and I've never found anyone else that can but it was school and Sam McClousky who owns it claims it's the oldest building on the street and I can't refute it, that is oldest dwelling / DS: Right. / and, uh, when

I begin writing these stories I was afraid I would hurt somebody's feelings that's making a household. But it worked the other way, each one trying to outdate the other un, each one claiming the other. (Laughter)so, uh, it didn't hurt a bit, here's the old B building / DS: H re we are. / um, mmm, / DS: Yeah. / that's the old and there's the story and, uh, another outstanding man Beurling, a German, we've had some mighty outstanding German people in this town and Beurling was one of those outstanding. In the old B building, you might have seen it, there's the initials JF 1862 in the corner right behind the telephones.

DS: I have, yeah.

FB: And, uh, I don't know what that means whether John Samuel or who but any how John Samuel was the, uh, County Clerk here for 42 years, one man 42 years.

DS: Now you were going to tell me about the Thornburg Building that had a place for the /FB: Yeah. / wagons?

FB: We might come to a picture, I'm not sure it's in here. But if you look when you go up there you can see where they's been new brick put in there.

DS: Well I've noticed that but I never thought.

FB: Well that use to, you use to step back in there they's a building fore it was burn. That's the one, that's the junior high school for it was burn and there's the great, great grandchildren of the man that built it.

DS: Um, mmm.

FB: That's, uh, Melissey Reed.

DS: Now that's also oh Morris Harvey College / FB: Yeah, that's Morris Harvey College. /, uh, huh.

FB: And there's the, also the old courthouse they had at Morris Harvey College.

DS: I see.

FB: There 2 descendants of the Civil War, I mean Revolutionary War veterans, Carl Childers. Now right, look right in close you see those new bricks there in behind, this is a (inaudible), / DS: I see. / there's the new brick in there, ain't nothing new but they's / DS: Newer. / newer.

DS: Right.

FB: And so that, that building built about, I'd say 18 and 30 and I'm just guessing on that / DS: Uh, huh. / cause there, it is, since it was built as a store building it is conceivable that they'd have a recess in there for freight to be coming in, I just don't know. But it was for some reason, you wouldn't just put a recess in a building now.

DS: Uh, huh, right.

FB: There's the building immediately back of it which serves as a first state bank building for a year / DS: Uh, huh. / and, uh, . .

DS: Lawyer office.

FB: Um, mmm, it's a lawyer's office now / DS: Yes, um, mmm. / I, uh, I told um I was going to give um some free advertisement, I never even mentioned um anywhere in there.

DS: (Laughs) and one day. . .

FB: Lawyer come and told me he said, "Why people coming in here saying



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ASST. DIR.

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The Marshall University Oral History of Appalachia Program is an attempt to collect and preserve on tape the rich, yet rapidly disappearing oral and visual tradition of Appalachia by creating a central archive at the James E. Morrow Library on the Marshall campus. Valued as a source of original material for the scholarly community, the program also seeks to establish closer ties between the varied parts of the Appalachian region—West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky.

In the Spring of 1972, members of the Cabell-Wayne Historical Society joined with Dr. O. Norman Simpkins, Chairman, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and Dr. Michael J. Galgano of the Department of History in establishing the program. The Historical Society and other community organizations provided the first financial support and equipment. In April 1974, the Oral History program received a three year development grant from the Marshall University Foundation allowing for expansion and refinement. In 1976, the program became affiliated with New York Times Microfilm Corporation of America. To date, approximately 4,200 pages of transcribed tapes have been published as part of the New York Times Oral History Program. These materials represent one of the largest single collections of Appalachian oral materials in existence. Royalties earned from the sale of the transcripts are earmarked for the continuation of the program.

The first interviews were conducted by Marshall University History and Sociology students. Although students are currently involved in the program, many interviews are conducted by the Oral History staff. Graduate students are strongly encouraged to participate in the program by taking special topic courses in oral history under the supervision of Dr. Robert Maddox, program director since September 1978.

The program seeks to establish contacts with as broad a variety of regional persons as possible. Farmers, physicians, miners, teachers, both men and women all comprise a significant portion of the collection. Two major types of interviews have been compiled: the whole life and the specific work experience. In the whole life category, the interviewer attempts to guide subtly the interviewee through as much of his or her life as can be remembered. The second type isolates a specific work or life experience peculiar to the Appalachian region and examines it in detail. Although both types of interviews are currently being conducted, emphasis is now placed on the specific work experience. Recent projects are concerned primarily with health care, coal mining, and the growth of labor organizations.

Parts II and III of the Oral History of Appalachia collection were compiled by Dr. Robert F. Maddox, Director, and processed by Ms. Brenda Perego.

Dr. Robert F. Maddox, Director
Ms. Brenda Perego, Processor

DS: There we go.

FB: We begin with the, that if that's what you wanted, a picture of that library and course the Indians use to go through Barboursville and the buffaloes went through Barboursville ahead of them, the old buffalo trail, it's the old Indian trail / DS: Um, mmm. / and then it became the old, uh, state road in 1800. Just chop out, like chop out the roads and then in 18 and 28 the stagecoaches began to run and they run until 1873. And, uh, train came through in 1873, it was already here 2 years ahead of that but just this end of it a train had been further down from Parkersburg, the engine had and they run a train on up till it joined at Hawks Nest in 1873 and then the stagecoaches went out of business. But stagecoaches run through Barboursville before that the old state wagons, the old time wagons, the Con-Conestoga / DS: Conestoga, um, mmm. / wagons, the freight wagons, covered wagons taking people west. And the Savage Land Grant we're in it and the marker's just about town and it goes clear to the, to the, uh, beyond Big Sandy and the titles to the land in its clarity were so uncertain for many years that it caused some of our best citizens to stop up around Ona and Milton from going through. The, they wouldn't, uh, take a chance. But the Thornburgs and the Gardners, and the Millers and some of um did come in and, uh, and the Merritts, old man Merritt's down there 1800 and 3. He came in 1803, build a mill bout 1800 and 9.

DS: And where was that, Frank?

FB: At the mouth of Mud River and they's a fall to Mud River, he had a mill at the falls of Mud River and he was the first settler and it was called Merritt's Mill, this up here was called Merritt's Mill until 1918 not 19, 18 and 13 and then Virginia called it, declared it a town and appointed trustees, and there's something peculiar I'm not familiar with the trustees didn't live here. One of um lived in Guyandotte, one of um lived in Salt Rock, one lived in Milton, two or three of the trustees I don't know whether we

didn't have, we surely had um cause it's a courthouse town / DS: Um, mmm. / . Then from 18 and 9 on is when it was till 18 and 88 it was a courthouse town with a exception of 2 or 3 years during the Civil War and, and 2 or 3 years just after it started. But its been a courthouse town largely since 18 and 9 until 18 and 88.

DS: Well now was this, uh, Cabell County?

FB: Cabell County and, uh, so the, the post office here despite the fact that it was the town of Barboursville and named for Governor Barbour, the post office was Cabell Courthouse, Cabell CH that's where all letters come till 1882, / DS: No kidding. / and uh, course now that seems strange to the younger people but I've known several towns that has one name one post office and, uh, another town. The Oakhill Kentucky the Unity was a post office, Lincoln County on Gauley, West Virginia and Lane's Bottom was a post office, it wasn't a bit uncommon then, / DS: Um, mmm. / it is today.

DS: Um, mmm.

FB: So there's Barboursville since 1813, Merritt's Mill before that.

DS: Merritt's Mill, / FB: Merritt's Mill. / because there was a mill.

FB: Yeah, mill, that's right, everybody coming in Merritt's Mill / DS: Uh, huh. / . Going down to Merritt's Mill and people say that from Merritt's Creek over there was from all them Merricks but it's not, it was named for Merritt, William Merritt and the Merrick was misspelled afterwards / DS: Um, mmm. / and the old maps carry Merrick but it's Merritt.

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and all got through and they begin running stagecoaches course people came, then they run first 3 times a week between Guyandotte, uh, not between Guyandotte, between, uh, uh, Charleston let's say or Lewisburg and, uh, Big Sandy River / DS: Um, mmm. / . And Guyandotte didn't like it because they was a leading port on the Ohio River at that time so they railed them a railroad, I mean a hard road up the river and joined us here and the state road commission or whoever in charge said we're not going to let you get by that, we'll put a toll gate down here make you pay (laughs).

DS: Is that the one that . . .

FB: That's the one right over here / DS: Right out from there. / it was sitting down here by the riverbank and moved up.

DS: I see.

FB: And they put one of Merritt's daughters, Mrs. Elizabeth Gurton as the toll gate keeper and which ever way they went, whether they crossed the river on the ferry here or whether they went down to Guyandotte, / DS: Um, mmm. / they had to pay toll. And they put those in in 1877, the road came up in 1835 and then people from the stage-coach could go to Guyandotte / DS: Um, mmm. / . Well so much for the road business, it came on through and it was paved in 8, in 19 and 23 connected. Now the stage from Petersburg went through Barboursville 19 and, uh, 15 or 16 I'm not sure of the year / DS: Um, mmm. / . But it came to either side 2 years before the owners, land owners, property owners would pave it through here they just didn't want, uh, cost, uh, taxes raised or the cost of pavement but they finally put it through and they tell me some of our leading citizens on it owed it.

DS: You mean the state road did not pay for it?

FB: The, uh, state road pays for 16 feet then property owners has to pay / DS: I see. / the rest, and uh, same way with the one over here / DS: Um, mmm. / .

The state pays for the, for their width and then the property owners pay. And, uh, the buses and trucks and cars began running Midland Trail and Transit Company which developed later, it was taken over by the Greyhound. And, uh, now the Greyhound runs out of town. Tackett put in, had a livery stables in 19 and 8 but there was a livery stable run by Edwards before him in fact the livery stable no doubt but, anyway he run it and then he went in the taxi business and ran until, oh 25 or 30 years ago I'm not sure how long. So that's the story of the road, there's the old, there's the reclamation point went in about 1910 which was just a few men and they would come in off the road and maybe work a week and get whatever they wanted done and then take the material back / DS: Um, mmm. / . But it started out bout 19

and 10 as a man here with a few men and drew under Walter Thompson to about 300 men. Now it's gone back down and the railroads everywhere have gone back down until, uh, probably a hundred men over there now, / DS: I see, stopped. / um, mmm. That's a reclamation

blank for a railroad truck, that's certainly been a big boom to the, uh, railroad, to the town in the way of taxes. This is just the Presbyterian Church, I don't know whether you've realize that has a story:

This is a Methodist area, Methodist town, has been always / DS: Um, mmm. / but a few Presbyterians, wasn't but 12 formed a church about 1913 or 14 and, uh, people moved out and they just had 5 members of the Presbyterian Church and they met one Sunday afternoon to disband and this Miss Lanningham starting to write the letter of disbandment or

abandonment or whatever the word would be / DS: Uh, huh. / and there was a knock at the door. A man and his wife and 3 children, uh, said that they were Presbyterians just moving in the town understood the Presbyterians were meeting there that evening and they'd like to join the church / DS: Um, mmm. / . So Miss Lanningham turned the paper over and wrote their names on the back of it and said we'll have you on the roll pretty quick.

DS: How bout that.

FB: There was membership there in 5 minutes / DS: Uh, huh. /
So there is your church today I say worth, from that,
worth probably, I don't know \$200,000 / DS: Um, mmm. /
maybe 250,000 with membership and, / DS: It's a lovely
church. / uh, just because of a knock at the door on
the pinpoint of time, uh, uh, I don't want to go to
preaching but things like that don't just happen.

DS: (Laughs) that's true Frank, I agree.

FB: There's the old, uh, station, uh, signal tower.

DS: Um, mmm.

FB: And before that in 19 and 9 they had an old wooden
tower down here with a few levers and before that they
had a station with a, it's still over there, the station
is with a, look out the window and had a paddle and
weight / DS: Um, mmm. / so that came, when it went
under it, in 1963 had 75 buttons, er, levers pulled
and buttons runned by the train taken down.

DS: Now did the shops take care of the, all the C&O down,
I don't really know what . . .

FB: Yeah, I know. No the shop was just a repair, it
could have been anywhere on the system, however
material that, sent stuff in there like pumps and
gasoline, engines to be repaired and then they send
um back out wherever to Richmond or Hinton or wherever.
No, they was no connection at all between the station
and the shop, none whatever any more than owner or
any other.

DS: Oh.

FB: There's the old, uh, house, uh, I can't remember the
name of the man that lived in it anyway he was at one
time president of Marshall College. Came here and
married one of the Millers, came from, he was the,
from Randolph-Macon College, he was the, uh, leading
at the top in grades from Randolph-Macon College at
the time they sent him here to, uh, over Marshall.

DS: Um, mmm.

FB: To head Marshall which he did / DS: Um, mmm. / and, uh, Benjamin Hudson Baxton, name was from Baxton in [Baxton] Huntington, was Baxton tire people were his descendants, he hasn't any descendants around here. He was a powerful man, he was head of the County Court, I believe and he was, uh, did a great work.

DS: How long was he at Marshall?

FB: Uh, oh he was there 2 or 3 years and then the war come up and he was there 4 or 5 years, I'd say he was 7 or 8 years at Marshall, I don't have the exact number of years / DS: Uh, huh. /, Then he went into business, he was a good, big businessman, and uh, that's home where he lived then, built in 1868 or there about and . . .

DS: Where is this side?

FB: Right up Main Street, I'm coming down Main Street.

DS: Okay.

FB: The shop and, uh, I have an idey his father married, uh, William C. Miller's daughter and William C. Miller built junior high and he built, uh, the big Miller triple bay home and did alot of building, outstanding man, he put in lots of, his mother one of those outstanding women who had an outstanding daughter who married another outstanding man and that's the kind of people that's elite / DS: Um, mmm. / So he built that I, I'm guessing but anyway that's the actual home of 1862 after the Baxtons left it and then there came, uh, . . .

DS: That's a little bit of the south in there doesn't it, with the pillars and the columns / FB: Um, mmm. / it looks like it's a little bit southern.

FB: So after, after he left this doctor lived there and then a man named Fitzgarett was a merchant, and now

Van McConkey owns it, it's an old, they's one other, great, great grandson of Baxton standing in front of that house but the picture's not good / DS: Um, mmm. / there he is there / DS: Um, mmm. / That's a story of the Baxton and the Millers made a great park in Barboursville there / DS: Um, mmm. / the descendants of the Millers / DS: Um, mmm. / and, uh, 3 Spencer girls and the Baxton boy and there they are inside the old house, Ted McVey owns it now / DS: Uh, huh. / And there's 2 of the great, great granddaughters at the old house, there's the Spencer girls and over here too / DS: Um, mmm. / And there's the gr-, that rose bush in front of there was brought from Gallipolis about 18 and 68, that rose bush is still growing.

DS: Is that right?

FB: And there is the great, great grandniece of the, one girl. Little girl, Baxton's wife really brought it back when she went over to Gallipolis to visit her family about 1868. They give her the little rose bush and set it out in the yard and it's still growing there. They, uh, the stagecoach people have seen it / DS: Um, mmm. / and thousand of other people have seen it. She wouldn't, uh, wouldn't part with it for anything, there's a descendant of the old Gardners and the Millers and Miller married the Gardner and Gardner was an outstanding man, the Miller married the Gardner's daughter / DS: Um, mmm. / There's a descendant of the old house, the old Miller homestead, / DS: Um, mmm. / that's the most historic, uh, building on the street I suppose, the old Miller homestead. There's the, part of the Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian, now there's the Gardners mark, grave markers over there in the old cemetery 18 and 65 and 1867, 54 and 55, / DS: Um, mmm. / 1854 and 55 / DS: Um, mmm. / She was the daughter of a marchioness and a marque or however they are, the French, / DS: Rank. / they owned a great estate in San Domingo and the resurrection of the negroes drove um out / DS: Um, mmm. / and they went to Boston and then back to Greenup and the story would make a book. I have it written in there / DS: Is that

right? / . And there's some of their descendants from out west and Russellville, and there's an old lady that was born in another house then come through later / DS: Uh, huh. / in 1868, uh, was built in 1868, she was born afterwards and there's her great grandfather / DS: Um, mmm. / . There's the girl and the house, there's the old, uh, uh, pent house about a hundred years old old, uh, Herb King's father, Samuel, Samuel King lived in it. I'm not sure whether he built it or not but it's over a hundred years old and then there was a druggist came after him. The houses along Main Street are relatively old.

DS: Did they have slavery down in that bottom?

FB: Oh they had slaves, yeah they had slaves. They's slaves buried right in this graveyard over here, slaves buried in the Ona graveyard. But, uh, apparently, I'm guessing, but apparently they lived so close to the Ohio and the underground the slaves in this area people tell me were treated like, uh, human beings / DS: The blacks. / . Old man Miller he told me he never know the slave history, he lived in the, and uh, people ask me where I got all this history, uh, I've always been interested in it. J.W. Miller was born in 1845, he can remember when he could remember back 1850. His father came here in 1820 and I got it and wrote it down that he did come / DS: That's nice. / and back to 18 and 20 there bouts and, uh, I've spent hours with J.W. Miller taking it down / DS: Um, mmm. / . So there's the old Dirton house it's about 18 and 70 and then there's another one you're looking at that's bout cross from the post office up bout halfway / DS: Okay, I know where we are. / that's bout 18 and 70. There's the house, uh, it's still standing over there just above the post office / DS: Uh, huh. / on the same side / DS: Um, mmm, I see it. / . That was built in 1868 by George Miller and Sherman who came here from Germany aboard a ship and his father died on shipboard. And he had a son George Jr., that was founder, among the founders of the First Huntington National Bank

and was cashier when he died and was another outstanding man. We had some mighty outstanding men in, in Barboursville. Now Joseph Miller who is, uh, Commissioner of Internal Revenue under Cleveland's administration was born right there in that big brick I was talking about / DS: Is that right? /, build a big brick. There's the old sycamore which is a story within itself. There's Barboursville in 18 and 61 and your B building isn't there but that doesn't mean, now that artist simply quit drawing that picture before he finished it.

DS: You think so.

FB: I do think so cause that building is older definately than some of the rest of um, however they're all over a hundred years old. There's the Thornburg building and I can remember when they had those steps on it. They took it off, took those steps off / DS: Um, mmm. / and the old B building set right there / DS: Right here. / . And there's the . . .

DS: And I'm still working there.

FB: Um, mmm. Yeah, and there's, there's where the old, uh, Poindexter brick was and these are barns for horses for the, for the, uh, people to come here / DS: Um, mmm. / and there's . . .

DS: Must have been what, Civil War?

FB: Civil War in 1861, here's the old sycamore tree still standing, there it is now / DS: Um, mmm. / . And, uh, I named it the Virginia Sycamore but nobody else did so it didn't take. And there it is over there.

DS: Did, someone told me something about the B building that it use to be like a hotel.

FB: Harrington Hotel, I have that story in here.

DS: And, uh, Jesse James allegedly slept there.

FB: Well, uh, / DS: Just one of those stories. / you hear those, they, you know, Jesse James was suppose to rob the Huntington bank and he went down the Ohio River, he went down this road and he come up Salt Rock and (laughs). He never robbed the Huntington bank, he was in jail over in Memphis getting some money to bail him out and his gang robbed it / DS: Um, mmm, I see. / . But, uh, uh, Paul Dirton said his, he, his great grandmother told him that she saw them go by here and I believe that's more rightly the story than anything else you'll hear because she said they was dressed in, had fine horses and linen dusters and everything of that date / DS: Um, mmm. / . I doubt very much they stopped in Barbourville since they were going to rob the Huntington bank, I doubt it very much but I do know the Methodist conference was meeting down there and they come in there like my dad was old, my dad wasn't living then but old clothes that they could find and saw them in public coming in there and said, "what are them preachers, look at the horses (laughter)." "Thought they was some preachers coming to the conference and those horse why they's, preachers don't own that kind of horses / DS: Oh, they were really pack rats. / . And so, so, uh, while they were preachers around there they robbed the Huntington bank and the bank's still standing it's in the paper yesterday, uh, while ago, yesterday / DS: Yes, I saw it. / . Now that's still standing there, they're going to preserve it. I had a picture of it somewhere but, uh, I doubt very much if Jesse James stayed over night around here. But I have an idey that he did go through here, there's the old show house / DS: Um, mmm. / , there's the oldest dwelling on the street. That use to be, it's always been a dwelling, a house but they had schools before the Civil War in their homes and some woman I've never been able to find her name taught a school in there. Mellett Bradley died in '92 or 3, she told me her grandmother, mother or grandmother went to school in that building before the Civil War / DS: Um, mmm. / . But she couldn't bring up the name / DS: Um, mmm. / and I've never found anyone else that can but it was school and Sam McClousky who owns it claims it's the oldest building on the street and I can't refute it, that is oldest dwelling / DS: Right. / and, uh, when

I begin writing these stories I was afraid I would hurt somebody's feelings that's making a household. But it worked the other way, each one trying to outdate the other un, each one claiming the other. (Laughter)so, uh, it didn't hurt a bit, here's the old B building / DS: H re we are. / um, mmm, / DS: Yeah. / that's the old and there's the story and, uh, another outstanding man Beurling, a German, we've had some mighty outstanding German people in this town and Beurling was one of those outstanding. In the old B building, you might have seen it, there's the initials JF 1862 in the corner right behind the telephones.

DS: I have, yeah.

FB: And, uh, I don't know what that means whether John Samuel or who but any how John Samuel was the, uh, County Clerk here for 42 years, one man 42 years.

DS: Now you were going to tell me about the Thornburg Building that had a place for the /FB: Yeah. / wagons?

FB: We might come to a picture, I'm not sure it's in here. But if you look when you go up there you can see where they's been new brick put in there.

DS: Well I've noticed that but I never thought.

FB: Well that use to, you use to step back in there they's a building fore it was burn. That's the one, that's the junior high school for it was burn and there's the great, great grandchildren of the man that built it.

DS: Um, mmm.

FB: That's, uh, Melissey Reed.

DS: Now that's also oh Morris Harvey College / FB: Yeah, that's Morris Harvey College. /, uh, huh.

FB: And there's the, also the old courthouse they had at Morris Harvey College.

DS: I see.

FB: There 2 descendants of the Civil War, I mean Revolutionary War veterans, Carl Childers. Now right, look right in close you see those new bricks there in behind, this is a (inaudible), / DS: I see. / there's the new brick in there, ain't nothing new but they's / DS: Newer. / newer.

DS: Right.

FB: And so that, that building built about, I'd say 18 and 30 and I'm just guessing on that / DS: Uh, huh. / cause there, it is, since it was built as a store building it is conceivable that they'd have a recess in there for freight to be coming in, I just don't know. But it was for some reason, you wouldn't just put a recess in a building now.

DS: Uh, huh, right.

FB: There's the building immediately back of it which serves as a first state bank building for a year / DS: Uh, huh. / and, uh, . .

DS: Lawyer office.

FB: Um, mmm, it's a lawyer's office now / DS: Yes, um, mmm. / I, uh, I told um I was going to give um some free advertisement, I never even mentioned um anywhere in there.

DS: (Laughs) and one day. . .

FB: Lawyer come and told me he said, "Why people coming in here saying