

*Katherine* 2/17/81



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Mrs. Morehead (T1S1)

( Mrs. Morehead is a retired teacher. I have asked her to tell me about the places in which she taught.)

A: I started out in (unintelligible) Geography in fifth and sixth grade in Mechanicsburg. And then during the Depression I went back to teaching in a rural school. And then I stopped, and then I - during the war they needed an extra teacher in Hogestown. And that was the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. And I finished there, and taught two more years, and by that time, I always specialized in Primary work, and ever had just Primary, so I applied over here (Boiling Springs), and I was here until seventy-one.

Q That's quite a long... history of teaching - This area al- looks new to me, even since we moved here. The little houses out there (buildings on a street parallel to the Main Street of Boiling Springs, visible out Mrs. Morehead's kitchen window.

A Oh, yes. That's all new, they're modular homes, built in the last five years I guess. Modular. And Allenbury Hill is built up, and then, up along the road here, the main road. Do you have children?

Q Umh-hmm. I have a kindergartener, a second grader, and a fifth grader.

A I want to show you something, wait... if you want it for your house, but if you don't want it just say so.

Q Let me go get my pictures too, I would like to show you some. Oh, it's so pretty, (a paper Christmas angel decoration)

A Do you think she'll like that to put up at Christmas-time?

Q Oh, I'm sure she'd love it. It's the seven year old.

A Well, I've had it for years.

Q How did you do that, are you sure you want to give it to me?

A I'll tell you, I have trouble dealing with the steps, and I'm giving things away. I have a little plastic bag for over it..

Q Now, just let me run and get those pictures. These are just some of the pictures that I took from the Library (Historical Society), just for fun. That's an early picture of Colonel Pratt with some of the students - who must have just gotten off the train.

A Now that's how tall John Laughing looked, the one Indian looked, real tall.

Q John Laughing.

A Yes, that was his name. Look how they look there.

Q They look sad, don't they?

A Yes, they do. Well, put yourself in their place. (pause)

Q I think that's probably from- I'm not sure when the Colonel or Captain whatever he was - but I think it's sort of early. How old was John Laughing? - do you think? or, you mentioned...

A He was eighteen years old, and in our Churchtown School, it was divided into two groups. The first four grades were the Primary, and the upper four was the grammar school. And I was about seven or eight, I guess, and he was in the second reader. He was eighteen years old and he would just sit like this.

Q With his hands folded, and he would look down.

A That's what I remember, yes. But recess time, he would pull us in the sled. And he could run down the hill faster than the sled could go. And then, you remember how you made snow balls and you'd roll them up till they got bigger and bigger and bigger. Then you'd lay them in a row and then you had a big, long ridge - well, he would run and pull our sled over that with we... we were three girls on that sled. And that's all I remember about him. He was a handsome looking fellow, and had the features of the Indian. And then on the other side of the school, the grammar school, was Eben Snow. Now, his face was more pointed, the features were..his nose was pointy, his face was heart shaped, and his hair sort of grew out that way, bushy-like. But John's was always smooth and well-combed. And that's really all that I can remember.

Q With what families did they live?

A Well, that I don't know, you see I was too little. I think one was the Brandt family, Emmet Brandt family, but I'm not sure.

Q There's a Brandt Road out here somewhere isn't there?

A Yes.

Q You mentioned in the snow, do you remember other kinds of recess kinds of things when it wasn't winter.

A No, I do not remember one thing. Because, as I said, I was only about six or seven.

Q What kinds of things were you studying in school, or what kinds of things did the students learn at that time.

A Just reading and writing and arithmetic on that side.

Q Did you get called to the board or was that not how the...

A Yes, we would go to the board and write on the board, and we would stand up and face the school, and have our spelling that way and we stood up there to read - took turns reading, and did little sums on the board.

Q Did he have to do that too?

A I suppose he did, but it just stands out in my memory how he sat there in that last seat in that row over where the windows were, and with his book open with his head hanging...whether he was learning anything or not I don't know.

Q Was he in the school for more than the one year, or...?

A I don't know.

Q And this was in Churchtown,? *That's on the ...*

A On the road that, on 174.

Q And he took a fancy to you three girls, and played with you. I wonder if the boys treated him...well, or.

A I don't know, this was just the sledding time that I remember about him, and sitting in the school room.

Q What about Eben Snow, do you remember any more about him?

A No. I think he was more athletic, and maybe, maybe John went over to that side of the school yard too, I don't know. because when you're little like that you just...

Q Do whatever happens to come before you, is what you...

A Um-hmm.

Q I wonder how people at that time felt about the... well, whether they were very many Indians out in this area in the summertime?

A I don't think there were so many, but I do remember then later on, I was a teenager, there was a trolley track ran from Carlisle to Harrisburg, it came down through Boiling Springs, you know, down through Churchtown, Mechanicsburg, and down to Harrisburg. There were blizzards that the tracks were drifted shut, and they had a gang of these fellows out, these Indian School boys, open the tracks. And did they have fun sliding on the shovels, you know, down the banks.

Q Oh, I see, sit on the shovel and then ...

A Even sometimes, stand on it, and then I remember, in Carlisle, the girls would come in one Saturday afternoon and I guess for shopping, they wore uniforms you know, blue uniforms. And then the boys came in, and they came in there for church. I guess there was warm feeling between the Indians and the people in Carlisle.

Q I wonder who would have gotten them to come out and open the...whether they did that as a matter of course... to come out and dig out the line, how that would have worked?

A Oh, the car track? Well they didn't have snow plows, and it was packed in, you had to shovel it out. Drifts.

Q I wish we'd have a winter like that once in a while, just for the romance of it.

A We had one a few years ago.

Q I remember that. I'd shovel, and I couldn't get it up high enough.

A I had a tunnel here. I couldn't see the mail box. And just one little place came in here, wnet out down there. You're used to that kind of weather, are you?

Q More when you're children. I don't know what it is about ... maybe it's being shorter, but everything seemed deeper then. But I think too there was a greater volume of snow. Connecticut isn't too different from here.

A Oh, isn't it? (some more weather talk and garden talk)

Q When you were... a day at school at that time... what was it like to come in the mornings? Was it an early morning school that would go on until...

A No, you mean when I went to school with the Indian boys? I think school started about nine o'clock, now I lived within walking distance of it, and I think till around four. (p.m.)

Q So you had lunch there?

A Oh, we had our lunch, we carried our lunch. We had a morning recess and then we had about an hour at noon-time, and then recess in the afternoon.

Q What kinds of things did you do for recess, just the playing with the girls and..

A I remember there were a lot of trees there. And we used to get the broom and with the leaves, sweep partitions for houses, and when there was snow on the ground we made what we called a fox ring, did you ever play that? Well, you make rings, two or three ring, and a base in the center, and of course, the space that we'd watch was these rings. Well, I forgot all about that till now. (Phone rings)  
Excuse me.

Q Could you draw that for me, I don't understand (the fox rings), was it like this? Or were they concentric?

A You know, (drawing)

Q Concentric.

A There were a couple. Then this was base, and you had lanes out. And you'd run around, and get to one and try to get back to base.

Q Oh, I see, like a kind of tag.

A You know, I forgot all about that till you mention ed it about what we played.

Q Fox Rings.

A And then, we always played house, you know, with the broom to make partitions like for houses.

Q What about the teachers? Was there one teacher for both groups?

A One teacher for each group.

Q So there were two teachers.

A Um-hmm. It was usually a man teacher on the oppo- on the grammar school side. But, I don't know...Miss Mock was our teacher then or Miss Bauer. And if you try to think back to when you were that old what can you remember?

Q Very little. I remember our first grade teacher had an Irish Setter and we use d to fight to walk her home because she was so beautiful. But as far as studies go, I remember nothing.

A. Well, I do remember that - I didn't understand - you know the 'f' was sometimes connected to 'i', and I didn't know that, and I spelled it - like 'field' - and I spelled it wrong, and she made us stand up on the floor and study these words. And I don't remember whether I cried, or what, but somehow, she understood that I misunderstood.

Q It's so hard to be little.

A Yes, I taught first grade the last twelve years, and I learned a lot in that. I taught fourth grade about twelve years and then went down to first. The first thing I said, "well, first of all," I said, "I don't have the patience to teach first grade, and then, secondly, it's amazing what they don't know". Now, in fourth grade - well, I was a strict teacher in fourth grade - "second time you talk, there's action one way or another", they understood, of course, more than the first graders.

Q No, they don't. They're so used to still <sup>10</sup> being at home.

A But I enjoyed it once I got used to it.

Q There was one other thing I wanted to ask about the school. Did the boys help to stoke the fire and...

A Oh, yes, and to carry the water, from the town pump and they'd often stop at the store and get some candy.

Q Was that close to the school?

A Yes, about half a block, and the trolley track ran along that main road. And there was a little girl killed there the year we moved away. They were playing a game where you sling each other, you know, and she went out on the trolley track, and there were leaves in the track and she couldn't get the car to stop. A terrible thing. The school building is still standing down there, but there are people living in it.

Q Now this is on the Trindle Road?

A No, you go down here to the Hotel and that's Rte 174, that goes from the Trindle Road up. okay, and you go down there and it will take you to Churchtown, and it'll bring you out on the Trindle Road. Below Churchtown.

Q I don't think I've travelled that part of that road in a long time.

A Well, as I said, down here if you turn to the left that's 174, and it's a windy road and you pass a cemetery, and you come to a cross road, straight on in there is Churchtown.

Q Was that cemetery there at that time too.

A Yes, they had a stone wall around it. But, the cemetery I'm referring to was at the cross roads, then there was one beside the school building, that had tomb stones in it, and it was all overgrown with underbrush. I remember when I first went to school a bumblebee stung me in my little finger. Because I dragged my hand along the wall like you do, you know, and ... now they've taken all the stones out and buried them and there's just one monument there. Now if you go through Churchtown you'll come out on Trindle Road. And if you turn to the left you'll go to Carlisle and if you turn to the right you go to Harrisburg.

Q Now, why would they remove all the stones, bury all the stones?

A Well, they couldn't keep maintaining it, and that way they buried the stones, why... well, I don't know.

Q I wonder who decides about stuff like taht?

A There's a church there, the Lutheran Church, belongs to the Lutheran Church, and they own the one out here at the cross roads.

Q It must be quite an old grave yard. I never heard of that practice. I wonder if many times that happens.

A Well, our church owned one out in the country, our church is in Churchtown but not on the main road, and it had been in the country for a while, and it had its own cemetary. And we did that, and we kept a few of the - "let's preserve them", and we them in sort of a semi-circle, and put up, and got a sign, with the name of the cemetary - "Bethel Cemetary". In olden days almost every church had a cemetary or you had a family plot on your farm.

Q When we lived in Kentucky that was one of the first things we noticed and marvelled at, that people still had family plots, well, still - I'd never seen one. But, you'd see a funeral going right up from the house.

A Well, now, if you go up the Boiling Springs hill, there's a cemetary and that belonged to the mansion in back there/

Q What family was that?

A Well, I don't know - I think it was the Eby family, only a couple of people owned the ore mines.

Q Oh, they were the people... foundries?

A Um-hmm. The iron furnace is still standing down there, that's been renovated.

Q Are there any descendants of that family around?

A Yes, the Buchers are the grandchildren. The last ironmaster was Mr. Bucher, and he had one son, William, and William had four sons and one died. The three remaining ones are living around here. One lives on the other side of the cemetary, and two of them live right on the hill, and the third one lives along the lake, he has a chicken farm.

Q Were there ever any Indians going to the churches you might have attended in those days?

A No. All I know is they told me about them coming in to the churches in Carlisle.

Q Did you get in to Carlisle often, yourself? No. There was a greater time spent in travel at that time I guess.

A No. We had no automobile, trolley ran...

Q I wonder why those two Indians stayed the year round?

A Well, there was more farming done in the summertime you know. In the winter all you had was barn work. So, if you think about it, you wonder why they kept them

over the winter?

Q Maybe they were attached to the families, or the family to them.

A. I don't know. I often wish, too, I had enquired as I got older, you know, but you just don't. You grew up with those things. Like we live near both the Capitols and I haven't been in them... you know.

(Talk about trips to Wahington, etc.)

Q Do you remember your parents at all talking about the Indian School, or how they felt about it or thought about it? No. What year was it that the boys were at school with you?

A It must have been about 1909 or 1910, because I remember we had what was - it wasn't called field trips then - we had snow, we had a two horse bobsled, and we would take a sleigh ride someplace in the wintertime, and we went to visit the Indian School. And I remember seeing a big shop and seeing a big shop and seeing the girls sewing, and in the school room. And I remember we shouted something about "Churchtown Primary - 1910". Well, we went through the country, we chanted that. What we sang it for, I don't know.

Q How many kids would be on it, in that sleigh?

A. Oh. Maybe fifty. I don't know.

Q Fifty!

A Now would it hold fifty? It was a big, you know, a big box type. I don't know how many were in our room. That's another thing, when you're little things look big, my mother took me into school the first day and left me standing there, and I thought, my what a great big school. (Laughter) She must have been just nine or ten years old, and the teacher said, "who do you want for your seat mate?" And I just pointed to her. Well, I didn't have any (?) because I lived in the country, just about two blocks in distance, and a lane went into town, and then I don't remember who she ... she gave me some seat mate, but everybody had a particular seat mate, that's the way they did. They had double seats, you know. But when you're small things look big.

Q Well, when you went on the field trip to the Indian School would it ahve taken all day, would you have lunch there, a picnic, or...

A No. No. I don't remember any eating at all.

Q Did someone take you around?

A We had a guide to the school. And we went to the County Jail. So we could have left at early noon and, I just don't know.

Q I wonder if when you looked = when you saw the girls sewing, or the bakeshop, or whatever, whether, well, I just think of my kids doing it - I remember doing it myself, a lot of pointing and giggling, from both sides...

A Well, no, they hardly looked at you when you went through, so I guess they were used to it.

Q I wonder if the band or...

A No, but I do remember there was one time there was a glee chorus came to our church and sang.

Q Indians?

A Um-hmmm. At an evening service.

Q What kinds of things did they sing, do you remember? Hymns?

A Hymns.

I wonder how their voices were?

Q Was that interesting to listen to? Because I've heard from a Mr. Garvie who was the Band leader out there for a while, and then went on to Lebanon to be band leader in Lebanon, that, well, he considers himself, and I guess he is, quite musical, and that many of the Indians had wonderful voices.

A I do remember that in this group there was one with blue eyes, I never saw that...

Q Oh- it was a mixed group of girls and boys.

A No, I think it was all boys, but the one boy had blue eyes- there was a lot of intermarriage, you know.

Q In town here too, do you think?

A Uh. Not here in town, but in fact I have some Indian blood in me from back in the Revolutionary War. The Indians lived right around here too, right around Boiling Springs and out in York County. And that's where my great-great uncle married this woman. I did see the birth certificate - it was in York County. Of course she was ostracized from society, you know. Now they don't hide it, you know. And I think there were ten or eleven children. And her name was Elizabeth, and I saw that <sup>birth</sup> ~~birth~~ <sup>baptismal</sup> certificate too, a facsimile of it, from the York Springs Lutheran Church. Now my cousin has it. It's his side that married the Indian woman, her name was Katherine, same as mine. (confusion of names ?)

Q It's silly isn't it? Now I would be very proud..

A We all had coal black hair in our family and brown eyes.. My mother was German though, and from my father's side came this Indian, and yet he was Scotch-Irish- he had coal-black hair and blue eyes and a red mustache, a fair complexion. Isn't that something? Not one of us take after him. And he was tall. And it was a characteristic ran throught the Stare family about the shape of the thumb from the Indian...

Q What was characteristic about the shape?

A That it curved like, a little bit - it was the Delaware tribe.

(Talk about Jan de Hartog's book The Lamb's War, a book about Quakers and Delaware Indians, among others)

Q Well, I just brought a couple more pictures - you might find someone you know in there. That is, I guess, an athletic group. a track group. Some of these are undated pictures, but I beleieve Jim Thorpe is in this one.



A This one looks more like Eben Snow. His type of hair and shaped face. And John had more the squarish type, you know.

Q Did he speak with you? Did he talk to you? You don't remember that?

A I don't remember a thing.

Q Well, you, it must have been, you must have been friends somehow.

A Yes. I've often wondered about... I wish I did know more about it.

Q This is the Debating Society. The Standard Society. There were two or three of them at the school/

A. Oooh. Oh, there were a lot of them.

(Talk about rural isolation)

A Then in York County once a year drive down in a fringed surrey (trips the family had taken). And, so, then we had a farm so you just didn't get away much. The last years we had a telephone then you'd just talk to your neighbors. Ours was on the wall (phone) and you wound it. And there was always three or four other people on, and you had a certain ring, you know, one ring, or two, or three or four. One called the exchange. I wonder how many people listened in. I never thought to listen in because I wasn't allowed to, but I bet a lot of people did. But out in the West they say they do that to be friendly, they all got on the line when they hear the... years ago. Not now, of course, they can't.

Q It would keep things at a fairly friendly level, I think if you knew that everyone was ... Well, I won't keep you. This has been very interesting, I think you remembered a lot that you didn't remember you remembered.

A Yes, the little games, we played I'd forgotten. I remembered about the house, but I forgot about that fox thing. I remember it was the first thing the boys would do when there'd be a snow, you know, and go to school in the morning, get the fox ring.

Q What other kinds of games, do you remember that the boys might have played, ...

A They played baseball, and we girls played "Drop the Handkerchief". You join hands in a circle, and one takes "it", to carry the handkerchief, and drop it back of you, and when it's dropped back of you, you must pick it up and catch that girl before she gets back around to the space she left. If you don't catch you get pushed into the pot. They called it the pot. And we played "Farmer in the Dell" and, I'm just trying to think what else. Well, we used to do one - called Statues, we'd swing you around, and you'd try to fall in a pretty pose.

Q I remember that, We played that. And relay games when it was too cold to go outside, or too wet.

A. I don't remember being inside at all, playing, it was a large school room and...

Q Were you all... now there were two rooms, but there would be fifty of you, or just twenty-five.

A Twenty-five.

Q So that when you went on this field trip it was the both rooms that went?

A No, I believe it was just ours, now that I think about it because we yelled, "Curchtown Primary", that was our school.

Q Would there be a principal or would one of the teachers be a princip al?

A No principal. The teacher was in charge.

END OF TAPE.