

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

MABEL MILLER

Interviewed by Catherine Jones
8, 16 June 1988
OHRC accession #88-72-1,2,3

INTRODUCTION

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The reader should bear in mind the fact that this material is a verbatim transcription of an interview, not a written document. Very few persons speak with the precision with which they write. We have done our best to make the transcript easily readable, while remaining faithful to the tape recording.

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DEED OF GIFT AGREEMENT

I, Mabel Miller, hereby give
Interviewee (please PRINT)
my oral history interview with Catherine Jones,
Interviewer (please PRINT)
which was conducted on 6/8/88 & 6/16/88 to Indiana University.
Date

It is hereby agreed between myself and the Indiana University Oral History Research Center that all rights, title, and interest in the transcript (verbatim and edited) and/or tape recording belong to Indiana University.

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In addition, indicate below whether or not a copy of the edited transcript (that is, with all restrictions edited out) may be deposited at the Paoli Public Library, where it will be available to the general public. In addition, a copy may be left at the Orange County Historical Society library which is in the Museum of Local History.

I agree to let the Paoli Public Library and Museum of Local History have a copy of the transcript.

In full accord with the provisions of the Deed of Gift, I hereunto set my hand.

Mabel Miller Donor June 16, 1988 Date
Catherine A Jones Interviewer 6/8/88 Date

PAOLI PROJECT
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

Biographical Data Sheet

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Sex: F Ethnic Origin: _____

Education: _____

Occupational History: _____

Special interests, hobbies, etc.: _____

Father's Name and occupation: _____

Mother's Name and occupation: _____

II. INTERVIEWER DATA

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Association with the Paoli Project: graduate assistant

Subject of interview: ancestors; square; Quaker church

Number of Tapes: 3

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SECOND INTERVIEW

Tape one, side one of first interview was not recorded. Second interview was to have been a repeat, but only a portion was recorded.

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

INTERVIEWEE: Mabel Miller
INTERVIEWER: Catherine A. Jones
SUBJECT: History of Paoli, Indiana
DATE: June 8, 1988
TRANSCRIBER: Norma Olmer

TAPE ONE, SIDE ONE: blank. See Tape three.

Jones: If I was... if I made that mistake on the first side and I didn't record it, which is what I think I did: I forgot to press the record button, maybe some day in the future I could come back and we could just talk about that first stuff again.

Miller: (laughs) OK.

J: Would that be OK?

M: Sure, that would be all right.

J: God, I can't... well, now it's down. I don't know, we'll see; I may have done it.

OK, we were talking about what the town was like at that time. How did Paoli seem? did it seem like a bustling...? How did it seem to you as a young girl, did it...? Do you know what I mean? Did it seem like a big town at the time? or...?

M: Oh well, Andrews had a store here. It was down where that second-hand clothing store is, on the south...

J: Oh, uh huh.

M: ...east side of the square. Where Charles Perry's law office is, there was nothing there when I... as I remember. Whatever had been there had burned down, I guess.

J: Yes. Yes.

M: You know where that was?

J: Yes.

M: Well, let me see.... And, let me see who was Warren's store... Warren's store was where they... Portal's(?) Hardware store was. And across the street from that was the Company Store,

MILLER

run by Mr. Moll.

J: Yes.

M: He called it the Company Store.... I guess the Knox Hutchinson (?), where the chair factory used to be, they called it Knox Hutchinson Furniture. They made dining-room suites and something like that. So, I guess... I don't know whether they owned part of that store or whether Mr. Moll just run it for him or not. That I don't know...

J: Yes.

M: ...but he ran it for them. Now, let's see who was the next... and the next, coming west, next to that store was Mrs. Goos's... Mrs. Goos's Hat Ladies... she trimmed ladies hats. And her husband had... (laughs) I don't know... I can still remember that they had candy. _____ He had a little machine, you know, that you put your pennies in and sometimes it would be... you'd get more than one-penny's worth. I don't know what else they had, but he went hunting every year; somewhere where there were deer. Now, we didn't have deer in those days; we have lots of deer around here now.

J: There were no deer then?

M: He went hunting, somewhere, I don't know where he went. _____ went to Michigan and they always brought home some deer meat. And he'd give it to his friends and he'd always give us some. So, let me see... and the next place was a barbershop; and you'd get your... the men could get a shave and a haircut, and take a bath there.

J: And take a bath?

M: Take a bath.

J: Why did they have that at a barbershop?

M: Well, I guess... (laughs) I guess....

J: Oh, was indoor plumbing still not very common?

M: I guess not.

J: I guess; huh. Was there electricity all throughout...

M: Yes, we had our own electricity.

J: Someone told me, in the earlier time it went off every night at

MILLER

10:00 o'clock?

M: Yes, it usually went out at... at about 11:00 o'clock it would blink, you know, and you... (laughs) yes....

Well, and next after the barbershop was Mr. Hollingsworth Jewelery Store.

J: Yes.

M: And he had a pretty garden back of it; many kinds of things in there. And, let's see... and the next place where... there was a vacant spot.... And this Snyder's garden and then their house; and she had embroidery work and stuff that... luncheon sets and things like that. I don't know... she got _____; she had sheets, maybe, I don't know. Anything... anyway, it was hand-stuff.

J: Yes.

M: And the next place was the theater; and that is where Mr. Biddle had a theater there. They went to California and they died there. But our class play was on their stage there. (laughs)

J: Would there be, like, vaudeville acts that came through? or was it...?

M: What?

J: What was... what went on there mainly?

M: And what's there now, you want to know?

J: What's there now; but also, when they were there, would shows come from out of town or...?

M: Well, no, there were moving pictures.

J: Moving pictures only. OK. OK.

M: Yes. Yes, and a lot of them were continued, you know (laughs)

J: Right.

M: _____ Somebody on the railroad track, the train was coming, and then stopped. (laughs)

J: Right. (laughs) Did you go to the movies very much as a child?

M: Oh yes. It didn't cost us very much then... in those days. I

MILLER

would say... I don't remember what it was exactly, but not over 25-cents.

J: Wow.

M: And, let's see... and that place now is occupied by... that comes down to my backyard, that movie house, right out there.

J: Yes.

M: This way... this way. And it was right next to it; and it got a fire. Clement(?) bought it, and it got a fire and burned down. And I had the fire department from French Lick out here in my backyard. (laughs) And, well, since that... that part didn't burn down, so... the front of it, though, is where Farlow and Clement's Insurance office is, and where his wife has home-made things there [to sell].

J: Yes.

M: You're familiar with that?

J: Right. Right.

M: OK. Now, right across the alley there, was... used to be a shoe shop: Abel's Shoe Shop, I believe it was. And they went out of business, and the Newlins... Merle Newlin had a grocery store there. And now it is the Chamber of Commerce Building.

J: Yes. Yes.

M: It was a frame building then. And it went to the Indiana Telephone Company... first bought it and made the... built the building that was there. And then, the Chamber of Commerce did some... and they're there now, and they've made it a little more attractive building on the outside.

J: Yes.

M: And, let's see, the next place was Hopie; Mr. Hopie was a German immigrant, and he had a shoe shop there.

J: Yes.

M He's been gone a long time; and let's see, who's there now? I guess Zero Ellis has... well, I believe he's moved his shop over to the county complex. But Mr. Lindley from Orleans has an insurance office there.

J: Yes.

MILLER

M: I don't know whether anybody else has gone in there or not, with him. And the next is the Orange County Bank.

J: Right.

M: And beyond that is the Dollar Store, which used to be...

J: Right.

M: ...the Stout's store.

J: Right.

M: Now I've got you to across the road again.

J: Right.

M: Well, we had a fire bell there. (laughs) That was first... why, when they had a fire, they rang that bell. And then the building was always the Boyd Building, as far as I can remember. Dr. Boyd, he was a physician, and he fitted you with eyeglasses also by just trying on a bunch of spectacles. (laughs) And upstairs was the Exchange, where the girls worked... went up the stairs and connected you with the white telephone when you _____ . OK?

J: Yes, OK.

M: And then, next. Well, Michaud's had a store there... she had hats and dresses, I guess, and I don't know what-all; just a general women's... I don't think there was any men's store there. Now Hollens, down on the south side, occupied a place where the jewelery store was.

J: Right. Right.

M: Well, let's see; now I'm up to Michaud's.

J: Is that were Miller's is?

M: It's close there; I was thinking that it was... I was trying to think what was there before Miller's. Miller's come from Corydon; they have a shop here and I don't know where else they have a shop. Seems to me there's two or three places they have shops.

Well, there was a 10-cent store there and... yes, there was a 10-cent store, and I've missed a store down there by Hopie's place.

J: Well, that's OK. (laughs) You're allowed...

MILLER

M: There was a store there too.

J: ...to miss one.

M: So, they went out of business. And finally that one up there went out of business and Miller's came there. And then the Sherrad(?) Building, where the museum is... I don't know what was in there. I know that they used it for schoolrooms for awhile cause they didn't have enough room in the Stockup(?) School; Hillcrest.

J: Huh.

M: And well, anyway, it is a museum now. And the next... Lloyd Hill... it was a bakery there first, as I remember it. And then Lloyd Hill put in a small hardware store.

And the next place was Riley's Drugstore. And I guess that's where the printing office is now: Paoli Printing Office.

J: Yes.

M: Now, let's see: that Bible Book Store. I don't remember what was there; maybe it was a part of the hardware store, I don't know. There was a harness shop in that too, up there, in with them. They had horses and buggies in those days. Where the Newbar(?) is, I don't know what was there. And the store on the corner there, where there is a restaurant now, was Macintosh's store, grocery store.

J: Yes.

M: Now, have I been all the way around?

J: I think you have. (laughs) That was really good. Was it hard to remember?

M: Yes, I kind of forgot some things. I had to backtrack....

J: Yes, you did, and your eyes were pressed tight. I thought you were working pretty hard.

Well, did you pretty much know everyone in town?

M: I used to know everybody, but I don't now. (laughs)

J: But you don't now? Yes.

M: The town has changed so much. We didn't have any hospital; he didn't have any swimming pool.

MILLER

J: Yes.

M: Well, it just spread out all over, you know, _____

J: Yes. Yes.

M: New additions. You know, well... we have First Chance Center, you know.

J: Right.

M: And Kinsers(?) and _____ Functions.

J: Did you... do you remember... does the square fit in...?

M: Do I remember what?

J: How can I say this? Do you have very many memories of the square? of the time you spent on the square? of the things that went on or anything?

M: Well, we used to have an iron... we never had any meters, of course, around the square.

J: Sure.

M: We had an iron fence. It really was not much of a fence, but it was of iron. And the buggies and everything would hitch to the....

J: Yes.

M: And, of course....

J: Do you remember much about, like, Saturday nights when the farmers would come up, and stuff like that?

M: Oh yes, and everybody stayed open till late. And now, you go uptown about 5 o'clock on Saturday and it's closed up.

J: Do you miss at all, you know, the square the way it used to be, or do you think...?

M: (laughs) Well, I was surprised... I needed something a year or two ago, and I went uptown, and they were closed up. I didn't know what to think. (laughs)

J: Yes. Yes. Now, you were a town kid at the time, and as far as I can tell, it seemed that it would be more the farmers, you know, who came...

MILLER

M: They came to town on Saturdays.

J: ...who did their shopping on....

M: They carried baskets then; they didn't put into the...

J: No bags.

M: ...big bags... big brown sack.

J: Huh. Well...

M: And they brought their eggs to town then, you know. _____ and butter they made.

J: Well, I guess what I'm wondering is: as a town kid or a town person, would you have, you know, gone and talked to people around the square on Saturday too? Or was that time more for the farmers... the farming people to interact? Or would townspeople go down there too, and stuff like that?

M: Well, I knew about all those people who came into town --most of them-- on Saturday.

J: So, on Saturdays, would you go down to the square and...?

M: I was there on the square. (laughs) I was a town... I was there right in town all the time.

J: So, like, on a Saturday, would you stay on the square till late at night?

M: They stayed later on. Yes.

J: Well, now, how about you?

M: Well, I stayed... I would rest and go up sometimes and close it up at night if he was tired; and I stayed until 11 o'clock. Well, I had to get out before the lights went out, you know. (laughs) That's not too late.

J: Yes. But would you go walk around the square and talk to people too? or...?

M: Oh, I didn't walk around the square like... they'd pass me... they passed around me; I could see the girls that walked around the square all right. (laughs)

J: OK.

MILLER

M: Around and around they'd go. (laughs)

J: Yes. Yes. So you would stay more in your dad's restaurant?

M: Yes. I'd just stay. Yes.

J: Do you have any other memories of the square?

M: Any memories of it?

J: Yes, or just, you know, of that time?

M: Well, it wasn't as clean as it is now; it's not clean now because everybody seems to throw all their trash on the ground instead of putting it in the white containers that they have around the square.

J: Yes.

M: And the road around the square wasn't as good. And we didn't have one... we just... whichever way they wanted to go, they'd go thataway or they went thisaway.

J: Oh, it wasn't... yes. Right.

M: (laughs)

J: OK. Well, let me ask you this. You went through school... and did you have any aspirations for yourself; what you wanted to do? or...?

M: Well, I was... I went up to IU, and in a room with a girl who's name was Death, D-E-A-T-H.

J: No kidding. Wow.

M: And I had a crush on a boyfriend; and I came home and was married in a couple of years. (laughs)

J: And what?

M: And was married in a couple of years.

J: Oh. Did you meet your husband at IU?

M: No, he was in the service then; in World War I. And I wrote to him all the time while he was in the service. And when he came back, we fell in love with each other and got married.

MILLER

J: What year did you graduate from high school?

M: 19 and 19.

J: 1918?

M: 19.

J: 1919.

M: Yes. See, I was sent from the first grade in _____

J: And what did you study at IU?

M: Oh, French and geology and English and (laughs) _____
whatever it was. I had physical ed; I learned to swim up there.

J: Oh! That's right, you mentioned that; it's fun, isn't it?

M: We used to have to have a little swimming pool out here in my
backyard.

J: Oh, you did?

M: Yes.

J: Was this...?

M: That was before we had one....

J: When you say "we", is this you and your husband?

M: My husband and I. And then afterwards, they got a pool down at
the edge of town here. Well, they got a Miller(?) pool down there.
It wasn't still a very big pool but I had a friend... they filled
it with the firehose; and it could be drained all right. Empty
itself when we unplugged it.

J: Yes. Yes.

M: But there was nobody that ever come to help me clean that
thing. (laughs)

J: Oh. Plenty would come when it was time to swim but not to
clean.

M: _____, yes, but.... But one girl... one little girl fell
in, and she went under; scared the living daylights out of us.
And, well....

MILLER

J: Was she OK? Was she...?

M: She was all right. But, you know, she just went in so quick and went under, and she was little. Her mother was with us, with her.

J: Yes. Yes.

M: So she was _____.

J: That's pretty scary; yes.

M: That was scary.

J: Was it very common...? OK, you graduated in 1919; then did you go right...?

M: 1918. No, 19 and 19. See, I had the first grade over again, for _____.

J: Right. Then, did you go straight on to college?

M: Yes.

J: Did you... did you have friends... girlfriends from Paoli that went to college too? or were you...?

M: Well....

J: Was it unusual for a girl to go to college at that time?

M: Some of them went to other places. I think... some of them went to summer school up there; but I don't know that anybody... any other girl went with... went up with me.

J: How did you pay for it? Did your father...?

M: Beg pardon?

J: How did you pay for it?

M: How did I pay for it?

J: Yes.

M: Just paid for it.

J: Did you work?

M: My father...

MILLER

J: Your father; yes.

M: Well, at the place where I roomed, why, if I would have breakfast, they suggested that.... Now, he was a minister and she had... his wife had a baby, and of course she had to keep the rooms... clean the rooms once in a while for the people that stayed there. So she was busy. So they suggested that I eat breakfast at _____ and if I would wash the dishes; that's all I ever done.

Then I ate at... the other meals at a boarding house on Kirkwood, I believe.

J: Yes. Were these a Quaker... was it a Quaker minister that you... whose family you boarded with?

M: No.

J: OK. What was it like going from Paoli to Bloomington, to IU, which is a very big campus?

M: (laughs) Well, it was quite an experience for me. I was homesick all the time I was there. (laughs)

J: I bet. Yes. Did you ever think about saying: To heck with the whole thing, and coming back home.

M: (laughs) Well, I was ready to come home about the first two weeks after I was there, I think, but I stuck it out.

J: Well, why? Why?

M: I was homesick.

J: No, no; but why stick it out? Why not just say: To heck with this; I miss home. And come home.

M: Why? I was more interested in what was happening at home than I was up there.

J: But you stayed for 4 years.

M: No, I didn't stay up there for....

J: Oh, how long?

M: Just the one semester.

J: Oh, and then you came back. OK.

M: And then I came back.

MILLER

J: OK. Yes.

M: But I did learn to swim while I was there; that's about the only thing I learned.

J: (laughs) Oh dear.

M: I don't remember very much French. _____. That's about all I remember. And we had some Spanish classes here at one time, and I went and joined into that and we... I don't know who it was now that was giving them, but it didn't last very long. I got a little bit of that; just about as much as I got of French.

J: Of French, yes. Yes. So then, when you came back, what did you do?

M: The war was just about over; _____ came home, my husband. And then we fell in love and we were married when I was 22.

J: OK.

M: And he was 28.

J: And he was 28. Let me... you just brought up one thing, and that's World War I. What was it like in Paoli during that time?

M: Well, it was a real cold winter when they went away. He went with Frank Millis, he got to be Secretary of State of Indiana. And he's still living; he's 93 years old now, I think. I hear from him once in a while. He belongs to our church; he sends a donation and... I know he asked me to....

END OF TAPE ONE SIDE TWO

J: Yes. Yes.

M: And Earl McIntosh went; all those three boys went at the same time. And Frank _____ was in the aviation, and Pete was in the artillery, and I don't know what branch of service Mr. McIntosh was with. But he played in the band and we... would never get home cause he... they kept him in the band and... quite a long time. But he... Steve got to come home before he did.

J: Did all the young men leave Paoli...?

M: Yes, they all did.

J: ...together?

MILLER

M: Those three men left together.

J: Left together. Was there any kind of, like...? I don't know if celebration is the right word, but was there any kind of...?

M: Well, it was an awful cold... it was an awful cold night... an awful cold winter that winter.

J: Yes.

M: And the Arlington Hotel burned. Now, that was... you know where the Braxton Store was? brick building, on the corner of North... well, you go east, the army's got a... the navy's got a recruiting station in there now.

J: Yes. Right.

M: That was the Braxton Store. It was a drygoods store, and I think they had some... might have had... I believe they had some groceries there too. Well... and then the next frame building was the Arlington Hotel.

J: Yes.

M: And that thing caught on fire that night, and it burned clear up... all the way up to where the library now stands.

J: Wow.

M: _____. And that was an exciting time; that was just right after the boys left... a few days.

J: Wow!

M: (laughs)

J: I remember reading about that fire.

M: Do you?

J: Yes. Paoli's had like 3 or 4 really big fires, I guess.

M: I didn't think that you'd be old enough.

J: 2 or 3.

M: How old are you?

J: Me?; I'm 28. No, I just... when I found out I was going to

MILLER

come here, I went and I tried to do some research. And I remember reading about the fires.

M: I see; yes.

J: Do you remember... you know, how people talked about the war at that time?

M: Well....

J: Did it seem like...?

M: There was always... We're Going to Kill the Kaiser. (laughs)

J: Yes. Yes. I remember someone telling me that she remembers as a little girl that, you know, people would talk about how the Germans were the worst people in the world and....

M: My husband didn't see any service, but he was right behind the lines. They could hear the guns going off, and they hadn't had anything to do. They just let them rest, you know, getting ready to go in. They had several days to rest. So, it just happened that he didn't see any _____. Of course they had mules to take care of. (laughs) They hauled their ammunition by mules.

J: Do you remember when it was announced that the war was...?

M: _____ the trenches, it was too.

J: Yes. Do you remember when it was announced that the war was over?

M: Yes, I heard... the Monon... we had a railroad through here in France(?), you know. And the _____ would... go round (laughs) And then you screamed all the way down. (laughs) We were kind of looking for it.

J: Was it...? I mean, do you remember the moment, you know?

M: Yes, I was... it was in the middle of the night. It was in the night when I heard that whistle blowing off. The train coming down.

J: What did you do..? what did you think when you...?

M: I didn't do anything; why, I just knew that the war was over.

J: Yes. Did you, like, go out and say anything to your...? to the people...?

MILLER

M: No, I didn't.... I don't know that I left the house; I just knew that I was upstairs in my bedroom, and I....

J: The next day, did it... were people, you know...?

M: Well....

J: Were there any kind of ceremonies or anything like that?

M: I don't remember about the next day.

J: OK; I just wondered.

M: Yes.

J: OK. Then your husband came back and you-all got married. He came back in 19....

M: We were married in '22; in a few years. That was... I really didn't have a case with him; I was just a kid in high school when he left.

J: That right?

M: And they said... one of the boys that had written to him said... Dutch McIntosh said, "I guess we're robbing the cradle, but then, what difference does it make?" (laughs)

J: But wasn't it common for men to marry... who were younger?

M: Well, I think so; you nearly always see they married someone younger than themselves.

J: Yes. Yes. So, you and your husband... you weren't in love when he left. It was just...

M: No, just a...

J: ...when he came back. OK. You mentioned too... you're a Quaker...

M: Yes.

J: ...and your husband was a Presbyterian?

M: Yes.

J: Were there very many mixed-faith marriages at that time?

M: Well, it was all right for Friends to marry out of church

MILLER

then; it's been blessed that long.

J: Yes, Well, I meant... not that I thought you'd be kicked out of the Quaker church, but I meant, you know, like, did your friends and family think it was unusual? or did they not think anything about it?

M: Did my family object?

J: Yes, or think it was....

M: No; no, my family didn't object. And his family didn't object. Though his mother died before we were married, I remember that. And his father lived with us for 17 years before he was married a second time, and then he just lived with us 2 years. And that was the 2 years I didn't live here; I lived _____ down West Main Street.

J: OK. Right. When you and your... what was your husband's name?

M: Elmer. Elmer Miller. Elmer B. Miller.

J: Is Mr. Miller deceased now?

M: Yes. He's been gone about almost 10 years... 9 years.

J: Oh dear. What...?

M: I have... my son(?) was saying to have a party, the other day - Monday it was. And I... we had made fans for the tables and one of those old dolls decorating it, and pretty fans that people had that made the table very attractive. Lucille Dillard had two big dolls there on the side that we used. And then I rolled(?) some clothes that I forgotten I had all about.

You want to turn that thing off and, you know.... MACHINE OFF.

J: OK. We were talking about... I think we were talking about the time you and your husband got married. Now, what kind of work did he do?

M: What kind of... he was in the insurance business.

J: Insurance business; OK.

M: And also he was... well, he wasn't chairman of the Orange County Bank then, but he was just in the insurance business then...

MILLER

J: OK.

M: ...when we were married.

J: Did you-all have any children?

M: No, we didn't have any children.

J: OK.

M: I'm sorry; we didn't... it just never happened.

J: When you married, did you come to this house then?

M: Yes.

J: You did. OK. All right. And you mentioned you've lived here then the entire time, except for two years out there.

M: Yes. And after his father died, he was the chairman of the Orange County Bank; and he was that till he died. He's been gone about 9 years now, in February. He died on February 2nd of 1979.

M: Yes. Yes. Sorry.

M: He was 83-years old.

J: Did you keep up...?

M: I've been here ever since.

J: Yes. You mentioned teaching Sunday School.

M: That was our Sunday School class that had... I used to teach it; I don't teach it now.

J: So when you said "Sunday School class"... this is a class of adults?

M: Yes.

J: OK. All right. I'm backtracking once again; sorry. I do this a lot, I know. You mentioned your parents were Quakers?

M: Mentioned that...?

J: That your parents were Quakers?

M: Yes.

MILLER

J: Have you... has the church always been part of your... not the church, has the Friends... has the religion always been part of your life?

M: Well, I've been a member for 7-... well, I was a birthright member. Well, we don't have birthright members since 19 and 10; but I was born before 19 and 10, so I'm a birthright member. But I didn't go to this church... I went to this church... I've been going to it 79 years. After my father remarried, he brought me down to that church. The one... not the same one, but it's on the same location; our church burned.

J: Oh. OK. And, I remember you mentioned, he walked you down there, and then for himself, that was it; he didn't...

M: Yes. (laughs)

J: Yes. OK. What kind of... were there any activities that took place at the church? meetings or Sunday School and stuff like that?

M: Oh yes, there was always something going on. Christian Endeavor and, you know... they used to call it Christian Endeavor. Young people get together and they... we used to have a music teacher that was... she taught in our school. Mary Lindley. She was a devout Quaker, and she was a musician; she taught music. Gave music lessons in the summertime.

J: Yes. Yes.

M: We had an orchestra in our Sunday School and (pause) we don't have that now. (laughs) That's for one thing.

J: Oh, you don't.

M: No. (laughs)

J: But, when you were young, you took part in the Christian Endeavors....

M: Yes. The church was our main entertainment, besides the picture show. That was just about all there was in entertainment.

J: Well, did it usually... would you usually end up playing with kids that went to the same church? or...?

M: Yes, mostly. And the ones that come there, why that's the ones that.... Well, in our church activities, that was all I associated with, but I had _____ the other kids, in the high school and grades.

MILLER

J: Yes. Yes.

M: But, then we didn't have all the conveniences that our schools have now.

J: Right.

M: We had to buy our own stuff.

J: Sure.

M: We didn't go to picture shows... only they didn't have a picture show on Sunday. (laughs)

J: And... someone told me that none of the stores were open on Sunday.

M: Yes.

J: Is it still that way? or are there stores open on Sunday now?

M: Stores are open on Sunday now.

J: They are? On the square?

M: No, we don't have a grocery store on the square anymore. We have shopping centers here and here.

J: Right.

M: North and south. And one down on West Main Street. Now, they don't have a full... they don't have very many clerks there any more. Everything's there, you know, and they cash-out _____; and that's what you did.

J: Right. (pause)

M: And the little shop right over here stays open... comes open on... after church on Sunday. And he said he sold about 5-thousand dollars worth of silk flowers there... artificial flowers at decoration time, you know.

J: For Decoration Day? Is that still... do a lot of people still take part in that, do you think?

M: Oh yes... well, we don't... we go to the graveyard and everything, but I don't think they have so much to do up town. (laughs) I go up there; I didn't go up there this year.

MILLER

J: Oh, so you're saying it's more like....

M: But they do have something up there on the square...

J: Yes.

M: ...on Decoration Day. They usually do.

J: Oh, really? Oh. But you're saying it's more... a family will go, or individual people will go.

M: Oh yes, it's mostly... to graveyards for decoration... for Decoration Day. I know, I have so many; I have my mother out _____ and a lot of my... my grandfather and aunts and _____; great-grandmother and all those _____ was there.

J: All at Lick Creek?

M: All at Lick Creek; and then I...

J: Wow.

M: And then my father is over here at the... at this graveyard at IOOS. And then at the oldest graveyard, why I have Pete's grandmother and his great aunt; and a friend of mine, Josephine Lingel(?) and her daughter. And then over in the... right across the road is another graveyard and that is where my father is buried, and Uncle William and Aunt Rachel, and Aunt Liza and Uncle William and Aunt Mary with her. I have those graves to take care of; and then I have to go over to that graveyard, over there by... where my husband is buried, and James Farlow, my brother, is buried. But I don't take anything to his grave; I just... I see that his wife always takes his. But she wasn't here; she'd gone to Pittsburgh. She used to collect the flags because I forgot to decorate it... with just flowers, but then she said, "Would you please put this flag on it."

J: Oh.

M: But somebody had been around and put flags on all the soldiers graves.

J: Really?

M: Yes.

J: Pardon me; do you know who?

M: I don't know... I know it must be the Legion or something.

MILLER

J: Is that something that's done every year? or was that a surprise?

M: Yes. Well, unusual, I guess.

J: Did you take silk flowers for all those graves that you mentioned?

M: I sure did.

J: Wow.

M: I had lots of flowers.

J: I should say.

M: All the roses were blooming; I don't know how many ramblers I had. And... 2, 3, 4, 5,... I guess it was about 5 ramblers that were blooming. And the peonies were out; and I had a whole row of those from the side there. I had... I had flowers.

J: Wow. So did you take those out too?

M: Yes, I took them out to everywhere.

J: Oh! Did you tie them in bundles like people used to? or...?

M: Oh, I had them in glass jars or something I could stick in the ground and put flowers in. Mostly I had been just... a glass jar about that high.

J: Wow.

M: But it was a busy time, and my sister was here and so, I hadn't.... She really doesn't do anything when she comes because I come down to her house to rest _____ (laughs) and she does. _____ convenience, and of course, I've got a dishwasher; put my dishes in there. She planned the meals and so forth, so I've had... and besides, this party that came up, I had a good time.

J: Yes. Yes. It sounds like it. Gosh.

M: (laughs)

J: Boy, just going to see all those graves. Gosh, in one day.

M: I don't know who's going to decorate them after I'm gone.

J: Are you...?

MILLER

M: No, I don't have any kids.

J: No; right. Well, nieces and nephews then?

M: I think somebody else will put some flowers on my grave.
 that's my sister-in-law. Or Janice, my niece, she
might. (laughs)

J: Yes, nieces and nephews, yes, if you have any.

M: Anyway, it doesn't make any difference anyhow.

J: By that time. (both laugh)

M: Oh dear.

J: What was it like... you-all got married in 192 (pause) 2.

M: 2. I was 22 and he was 28.

J: What was it like going through the Depression?

M: The Depresssion?

J: How did it affect you two personally?

M: Well.... I was married then, and we didn't lack funds then. I
don't know.

J: OK. So, it didn't hurt his business, or...?

M: It didn't hurt us... me very much. I'm sure it affected a lot
of people awfully bad.

J: But you... remembering seeing that it did, or knowing that it
did? Do you know, I mean... at the time, did you just feel that
you were lucky, that... were you aware that other people
weren't... were probably having....

M: I read about it. I don't really think that too many people
around here suffered real bad. Now, this last crash that we had
was not... it doesn't seem to affect people at all. That one
really did.

J: Oh sure, yes.

M: People were selling apples on the street. Not here, but in
some cities, you know. Just anything to...

J: Yes.

MILLER

M: ...make a little money.

J: Yes, cause I guess the farmers weren't in too bad a shape because they had land.

M: Yes, they canned everything.

J: Yes, they canned everything; they had land, they had meat. Right.

M: Yes.

J: Speaking of which, at that time, were there... did the townspeople have a certain attitude about farmers, do you think? and farmers of townspeople?

M: Well....

J: Well, let's say during high school, around that time. Remember that?

M: Well, we didn't have people that... the kids that lived in the country had to live... they had to have their own transportation; there were no busses to go pick them up.

J: I remember Owen Stout telling me about "baching".

M: Yes.

J: Right.

M: Yes, I think he stayed down here at Eva Howell(?)'s house, and probably done his (laughs) own cooking.

J: Yes, yes. He and another boy, and they did their own cooking and cleaning, yes.

I get the impression that not that many... not very many country kids could come to high school... or did.

M: Well, we had a lot of them.

J: Oh, you did.

M: They would drive... they'd come in a _____...

J: On Monday.

M: ...and hitch them _____ and then drive home.

MILLER

J: Well, I know from what people have told me, that you could usually tell a difference, you know, between --at that time.... If someone were to walk into the high school room, they could usually tell... pick out the kids that were from farming families.

M: Of course, they brought their lunch too.

J: Oh, they did. OK. So, what did you do? or what did either kids...?.

M: I didn't have to do that; I lived in town. We went home for dinner.

J: You went home for dinner, that's right.

M: Yes. And we didn't carry a lunch; some kids lived farther than I did from school, you know.

J: So you don't remember there being any kind of dif... you know, attitudes or what-not?

M: No, we didn't resent the country kids.

J: OK.

M: We were glad to have them.

J: OK. Do you think adults that... you know, like...?

M: Well, Owen probably lived far... he lived farther away than most kids.

J: Yes, he did.

M: That's the reason he boarded, or "bached."

J: Right. Right. I was just curious because some people have told me that... I don't know, maybe up till World War II or what-not, that, you know, farmers kind of... didn't have such a good image in the town.

M: Oh, I don't know. I remember that... I was in World War I; I went around... I was given cards to sign up and take around to the country folks to can stuff... to do canning; to be sure and can a lot of stuff.

J: To send...?

M: Yes.

MILLER

J: Oh, OK. Was this stuff to be canned for the war effort?

M: Well, from their farms... and I was really (laughs).... I think they did it anyhow., but: "This year everybody should be sure to can all the stuff they could."

J: Yes. (pause) OK.
Has Paoli changed?

M: Well, it's gotten bigger. We have a country club now; we never had a country club.

J: I didn't know that.

M: We have a golf course; we never had a golf course.

J: And the people have changed quite _____.

M: (laughs) Yes.

J: When you say the people have changed, do you mean...?

M: Well, things are so much easier than they used to be. Now, we didn't have a microwave; we had the iceboxes. Your iceman came every day (laughs) bringing some ice...

J: Yes. Yes.

M: ...and, like I say, I saw my first automobile.... And now we don't have very many railroads; and we go fly everywhere we want to go _____

J: Right. So, if I were to ask you when "the good old days" were in Paoli...?

M: Well, the good-old-days were... are...; the good-old-days are now.

J: OK. All right. Yes.

M: (laughs) The good-old-days are now.

J: Are now, yes. (laughs) OK.

M: I have an automatic dishwasher and Maytag washing machine and a dryer; and all the conveniences. Just remarkable.

J: Do you remember, like... can you remember with each new convenience that you got, you know, really remembering when you got it and being excited about it? and all this stuff?

MILLER

M: (laughs)

J: Do you know what I mean?

M: Well....

J: At the time, did it seem like very much?

M: Well, I guess the icebox _____ would mean the most.

J: Yes.

M: Getting rid of it. Had to empty the water, you know; and it drained if you didn't get it out. Ice would melt and you'd have to get that pan out....

J: Real fast, and then bring it.... That must have been a big job.

So, Paoli has changed just because....

M: Everything's a lot higher than it used to be.

J: A lot higher?

M: A lot higher.

J: Prices,...?

M: An awful lot higher.

J: ...land...?

M: Yes. We didn't have garbage collections.

J: Yes.

M: And now we... our garbage... the landfill is filled up, and they're hauling our trash (laughs) I don't know where... to where they're hauling it to. And it's going to cost us a lot more and.... I don't know what we did with our garbage. Somebody said, "Well, we used to put ours in the sinkhole." (laughs)

J: Oh, God.

M: I don't know....

J: Are there anything... is there anything that you miss about the "good old days"? I mean, you know, about older times or whatever?

MILLER

M: Well, people were very generous to help each other in time of trouble...

J: Yes.

M: ...and I guess they do yet, but they... the churches always dried somebody's eyes, they always fixed stuff for dinner for them. Members of our church, of course, and....

J: Yes. Right. Would neighbors have done that beforehand?

M: Huh?

J: Would neighbors have done that beforehand?

M: I think they might have brought in... I ask our women... I've always said, "Well, don't...." My folks, when anybody died, I brought... they can bring stuff in here if they wanted to, but not to be bothered about setting up a table and having, you know, everything; to doing up... to wash dishes and everything up to the church. Well....

END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE ONE

J: And, I guess, the way people socialized before, was probably...?

M: Well, visiting in other people's homes.

J: Yes. Has that changed very much?

M: Well, no, I can't say that it has. I'm sure that people always have their families in and....

J: But just, like, neighbors dropping by, is that any different, do you think?

M: Well, I don't have... yes. Yes. I don't have a good neighbor over here; there's been... we used to have, but this little brick house over here had two families in it, and they had 3 or 4 boys, and they were.... Well, they pulled some piney buds off of, you know....

J: Oh.

M: I found one over in the rose bed.

J: The boys did this?

MILLER

M: Yes. And then they'd scoot down on that incline there, and, well...but.... I don't see so much of them. I was surprised though; I thought: Gee, I'll have them all summer over there. But it's such a cold house in the wintertime that everybody leaves. (laughs) So... but it's a long time yet till winter.

J: Yes. Yes.

M: Their father is our truckers; they come home every weekend but they sure keep that truck shining. I wished they'd (laughs) be as particular about their neighbors' yards.

J: Oh dear, well "boys will be boys," I guess. Maybe there's something in that, I don't know.

Were there any kind of turning points...?

M: Any what?

J: Turning points..?

M: Turning points?

J: ...in Paoli's history, do you think? And that can be people or events, or anything at all.

M: Well.... Turning points. Well, when the courthouse was 100- or 150-years old, I don't know which, we had a big celebration here.

J: Yes. Yes.

M: And I designed the float that our church had.

J: Oh.

M: And the cab of the church was a bonnet, which was coming out over the cab like that.

J: Yes.

M: And, let me see, I believe I have a picture of it here. SOUND OF RUSTLING PAPER. There. MORE RUSTLING. If it's not in here, I don't know.... I thought I put it in here, but anyway, this is our new church, and this is the one that burned.

J: Yes. Yes.

M: I've got it here somewhere about, I don't know where.

MILLER

J: OK. So, when the ceremony was...?

M: And there was an awful big crowd here at that day, and it was about the biggest parade we ever had --that I can remember.

J: Yes. Yes. Oh. (big pause)

M: That is.... (laughs)

J: That's about it.

M: (laughs) That's about it. (both laugh)

J: OK.

M: We used to have the Lithia Well and Sulphur Well, and they've got them both covered up now; they don't run any more.

J: Yes. Yes.

M: And I told that to some of our shut-ins, and they thought that was terrible. (laughs) I know, when our aunts from Kansas would come, they'd always go to the Lithia Well and drink the waters.

J: Well, when did those close up? Wasn't that...?

M: I don't know why... why they did.

J: Well, so... was it still open when you were a kid?

M: Oh yes, both of them were.

J: Oh, it was. Oh.

M: That's the reason the hotel was called The Mineral Springs Hotel.

J: Right.

M: I think that....

J: Right. I always thought it closed down like, in the very early part of the century. Maybe not.

M: I think that hotel was built in '98; 18 and 98, something like that.

J: I did... can I... I just thought of 2 more quick questions.

M: OK.

MILLER

J: OK. One of them is, what... did your parents belong to a political party?

M: Yes, my father was a Democrat.

J: Oh, he was.

M: Yes. The Cox's he was with... was raised in the Cox family, they were southerners; they come from North Carolina.

J: Yes.

M: They were southerners; they were all Democrats. And they raised him. (laughs) So they... his mother died when he was only _____, so they raised him.

J: So he was a Democrat.

M: (laughs) Yes.

J: There weren't too many, were there?

M: Well, no; Crawford County is a Democrat county, but there's not....

J: Not in Paoli.

M: Not this county.

J: And how about your mother?

M: My mother? Well, I suspect her father was a Republican; I don't know what he was. (laughs) We didn't discuss that; I was only 6... 3-years old, or 6-years old; I didn't know.

J: I'm sorry; that.... OK. Well, let me put it this way: How about your stepmother?

M: Stepmother? Well, I think she would... I imagine she would have voted the same as my father.

J: Do you know if she... I'm just curious; did you know if she did vote, or...?

M: I don't... I tell you, women didn't vote till they were in the '20s.

J: That's what I was going to ask, yes. Well, someone said... OK, I guess suffrage was 1921. But then, someone said: Yes, that women

MILLER

didn't really vote very much. Or if they did vote, then they tended to vote as their husband did. Do you know if she ever did vote?

M: I don't know.

J: OK.

M: I didn't... I wasn't able to vote, I know that. (laughs) And so, I wasn't old enough, so...

J: At that time.

M: ...I don't know whether she voted or not. I doubt if she did.

J: And then, how about your husband?

M: He was a Democrat.

J: He was a Democrat.

M: Yes. _____

J: And yourself?

M: I am too.

J: And you are too.

M: (laughs) Born and raised as one.

J: Born and raised. Well....

M: (laughs) When I was... when I lived as a little girl out at Uncle John Farlow's, they had a... Uncle John had a stepson. And he would say to me: "Fried cats and stewed rats is good enough for Democrats."

J: Oh. (laughs) That seems to be a sentiment a lot of people felt... shared, I'm sure.

M: (laughs) And I had to say... I had to ask him what my father was, and he said, "Well, he's a Democrat."

"Well, that's what I am," I said. (laughs)

J: So, it was more a matter of family tradition than....

M: (laughs) Yes, I guess.

J: Yes. Yes.

MILLER

M: After all, "may the best man win."

J: Was it that for your father... well... anyway. OK.

Just one other thing popped into my mind, and that is: Did your husband..? you know, nowadays with women's lib and stuff like that, did your husband help out at all around the home? or was it pretty much...?

M: Was he what?

J: Did he help out at all around the home? or was it...?

M: You mean help me?

J: Yes.

M: Oh yes; he'd give me (laughs) a _____.

J: Well, that's a help. (both laugh)

M: Well, yes, he had... he was always an early riser and a go-to-bed-early-er. And I was just the opposite. So, he got up early and made his coffee, and put out the sidewalks. I accused him of putting out the sidewalks uptown. (both laugh) And he said, "Well, I get my work done. And everybody else is not going to bother me." And he'd come on down home and I would just be having breakfast.

J: Yes. Yes. (long pause)

But you pretty much did the cooking and the....

M: Beg your pardon?

J: You pretty much did the cooking and....

M: Oh yes. Yes.

J: Do you know of any wives who had... did any of your friends, or any women that you know, have a husband that helped out. You know, did some cooking or...

M: Oh, I think nearly all husbands help out.

J: Oh yes?

M: In this day-and-age in the world.

J: But more, you know, when you were younger.

MILLER

M: I doubt if farmers wives did. I imagine they're always... got up early and helped with the milking maybe, and then come in while they take care of the rest of the stock.

J: Yes.

M: And, so....

J: But you think, just of women in the town, you think, most of them had husbands that helped out a bit? Is that what you....

M: (laughs) Well, I don't know what other people....

J: Right. Yes. But, for your own family; it was more...

M: Well, that's the way it happened with me.

J: That he did help out?

M: That he helped out when I wanted... he'd... a lots of times he would help with the dishes. I didn't have a dishwasher then. I mean one, you know.... Yes, he washed the dishes; helped me. He helped me do lots of things _____.

J: Oh. Well, good for him.

M: He always had a hunting dog and he went quail hunting in the fall. And I always had... and he'd come in so tired he... I always had to clean those birds, and I always.... They were such little things, you know.

J: Yes. Yes.

M: But they were awfully good to eat, and I had to clean those. And now they can take your doves... they can shoot doves in Indiana now, and I think that's sad. But they did in Kentucky; they were... they could have them shot down there, so I suppose they thought they'd just might-as-well have them in Indiana. And I feed so many doves out here....

J: I thought those were doves. I figured they were, yes.

M: I have redbirds, jaybirds and sparrows....

J: Must be beautiful.

M: ...and blackbirds. If I were... this is such a prominent place here, this State Rd. 37 goes right by here, you know.

J: Yes.

MILLER

M: And, my sister-in-law down here, her house backs up... the back of it, is the creek: Lick Creek.

J: Hm.

M: So she has an awful lot more birds than I do.

J: Oh sure. Yes.

M: But I have a birdbath out here, and I feel that this hot weather... I've been filling it up twice a day with a gallon of... 2 gallons of water I take out there, every day.

J: Wow. They know where their _____ are. (laughs)

M: One in the morning and one in the evening. They just flutter-r-r, and just splash it out. (laughs) That's what... if they didn't take a bath in it besides drinking it, there'd be....

J: Right, if they just drank it, it would probably last longer.
Well, OK. Thank you so much.

M: Well, you're welcome.

J: Is there any last thing that you....

M: No, I can't think of anything else.

J: OK.

M: Not... I can't think of anything else.

J: OK. OK. Well, thank you very much; I really appreciate it.

END OF TAPE TWO, SIDE TWO

END OF FIRST INTERVIEW

MILLER

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

INTERVIEWEE: Mabel Miller
INTERVIEWER: Catherine A. Jones
SUBJECT: History of Paoli, Indiana
DATE: June 16, 1988
TRANSCRIBER: Norma Olmer

[Second Interview; first interview June 8, 1988]

Jones: People have told me that, you know, that you know a lot... a great deal about the history of....

Miller: Did Chris tell you that I've been going up here for 79 years?

J: I think it was... no, I think Lucille Dillard actually told me that you were the oldest member.

M: I'm not the oldest member. No, Bernice Farlow is older than I am; she's a year older. And Esther Comingore's still older; she's 90-some-odd. There are a few older than I am. (laughs) I'm 88.

J: Yes, but you've been going for 79 years to _____

M: I've been going for 79, and my father brought me... took me to church in 19... when I was 9-years old, up here. And I've been going ever since. So.... (laughs) that makes it about 79 years.

J: Wow. Gosh.

M: (laughs) Oh, that's the wrong time.

J: Let me go ahead and make a quick introduction. I'm with Mabel Miller....

M: You ask me the questions; I've forgotten what we've talked about.

J: ...and I'm Cathy Jones, and we're here at Mabel Miller's home. And it's June 16th, and because part of the first interview was accidentally not taped, we're just going to go through some of the

MILLER

material we talked about: about her family and ancestors.

I guess what was a surprise last time that we talked was, I didn't know that your family had been one of the founding families.

M: Well, yes...(pause) I've sort of forgotten. Turn that thing off a minute.

J: Oh, OK. MACHINE OFF.
So you found it.

M: Christopher Hill (SOUND OF PAPER RUSTLING) founded Indiana Territory... son of Jesse Hill of Randolph County, North Carolina and his wife were married at Lick Creek on the 12th month, the 1st day, of 18 and 13. And now that her children... was Mary... one of them was Mary Hill who married Joseph... Jonathan Farlow. Now, there's where I come in right there. So...

MACHINE OFF.

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