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Interview with Dwight and Millie Greer

Dwight Greer

Millie Greer

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Interview with Dwight and Millie Greer

AS: What I would like to do, what I am interested mainly in is river settlement, and the idea of families coming to a town on the river in the early frontier in Ohio, and settling it and remaining here, 'cause that's kind of what, that's exactly what my family did. So that's kind of interests me. So I'd like to take it from the perspective of, what you know, or the family story how you got to be here because of Greer, so you think you touch a little bit on that, or umm, just whatever you know.

DG: Uhhh, we'll I can give you a little background.

AS: OK

DG: Our great-great grandmother and her six children came to this area in uhh 18..1880,

MG: 27..26!

DG: They came to Maryland in 26 and then came here in 1827 then, and they settled a mile south of Greer, down at the Robison Farm. And then in 1836, our great grandfather, settled, he was a surveyor, and he uhh, laid out the town of Greer, and uhh, now there were a few brother in the family. Oh uh, all three settled between here and Danville. So that it was, uhh, Robert Greer, our great grandfather, and uhh, Richard Greer, Blaine's, great

MG: That would be great, great great grandfather,

DG: yeah it would be

AS: Robert and Blaine you say

DG: yeah, Blaine's great grandfather. So they all settled between here and Danville and uh, there were Indians here in the valley when they came here. And there was some communication between the two races. I think they got along quite well together.

AS: yeah. Do you know, who was the other brother. Robert, Blaine and...

DG: Richard.

AS: Richard

DG: Richard.

MG: Robert Richard and James. Do you know where Griffin's live, sort of near Blubaugh Orchard. That's where James settled.

AS: How then did you get to, since Robert settled this area, did it just kind of stick, and the area, so Greer kind of starts there and ends over there, how do you think, is all this area you think considered Greer, or how did like the town? Was that your great great grandfather

AS: OK

DG: What else do you need to tell. You know the Indians didn't stay here very long after the Greers came. And uhh, the US Government took them out to uhh, Sandusky, Ohio, and to a staging area out there and then from uhh Sandusky, they went to the Dakotas and uhh, probably Kansas and uhhh, I don't know what other state..Missouri, I think they came there. That's about all we know about that.

AS: DO you know what tribe it was?

DG: Mohican, and they were branch of the Delaware.

AS: And so was the river named for the Indians, or what is named before Robert came?

DG: I don't know. I don't know how that came about.

AS: how about you guys, since living here have maybe some river stories, or did you grow up on the river or did you grow up more you know a distance from the river? How was the river a part of your life growing up as kids?

DG: Well you see, we lived on a farm just west of here.

AS: OK

DG: The family lived there for I think a 128 years.

AS: Is the house still there?

DG: Yes.

MG: it's the house out there on the right.

DG: up where that chimney is, up on front of the house.

AS: OK, great. And so then, did you fish down here or go down here at any time, or did you basically farm?

DG: well, we were a farming family, and uhh, we didn't do much fishing. I never fished along the river, I lived and was I lived on this farm for oh, 50 years maybe. 60 years.

MG: Over fifty

AS: Do Greer's still farm that today

DG: NO. John Hipp bought the farm uhh, in the 1963 and so it has been his since then.

AS:OK. Uhhh, how do you, this is more of a personal question, but umm, kind of living here all of your lives and knowing that like the connection you have to the place of Greer, how do you think that's made you, shaped you as a person. I guess in contrast to say, if you would have grown up in New York City, where you know you wouldn't have the roots, and you'd be more city people, and things would probably be a lot more hectic, and how do you think that would compare and contrast to who you are today.

DG: it was pretty quiet around, when I was a boy, there were 7 Greer families in the area, and they weren't all related.

AS: SO , were your family reunions large do you think, were your family reunions large and fun, you know where they big events.

MG: well, in later years, when our cousins were still living, and Dad's brother and sister, we used to get together, well there's a picture in one of those books, of one of those books of one of our get togethers

AS: and were they held on your farm?

MG: usually we held them, they, We kind of the headquarters I guess

AS: Well you probably got the biggest house, since you got the farmhouse I guess, the farm.

MG: So they used to come when they were young, some of them.

AS: Good, good.

DG: Was the farm basically your family, or was it, the outer cousins, did they come in help at hay time? Or was it basically just you guys?

DG: No it was just our family, the our father and the boys, Dwight and his brother.

AS: Oh OK,

MG: I helped up, when they put hay in the barn, to lead the horse.

AS: what umm, so then how was your role different you think from your brothers?

MG: Well, I had to keep house for our family when I was thirteen.

AS:OK

MG: So, mine was mostly housework

DG: Our mother died when we were quite young, so that's the reason she took over.

AS: And so, did your mom get an opportunity to teach you things before, or did you find that you kind of had to do most things on your own and kind of find your own way?

MG: I can't remember too much, she did show me a some things I know. But I wasn't quite twelve when she passed away. There were five of us. Dad, two brothers, and a sister and I, and the sister wasn't in school yet.

AS: Oh so she was younger then?

MG: She used to ride the horse to pull up the hay in the barn for them.

AS: Umm, do you guys have any umm, 'cause the family came from Ireland. So do you guys have any ties other than. It wasn't Robert that came from Ireland.

DG: yeh it was, Robert, Richard and James all came from Ireland. And their mother, and then they had three sisters.

MG: Four, when one of them died when she was young

AS: OK, 'cause I thought you said something about Maryland? Did you say something about Maryland

DG: No I hadn't

MG: yeah, they's umm

DG: OH yeah

MG: yeah they lived in Maryland for a year, and they lived there for a year and then came on this way thought there would be better chance of making a living I guess.

AS: OK. And then umm, could you talk a little bit about the Snowdens, the relationship to the Snowdens and specifically, you know, Professors Sack's research interest, with the African American slave girl who was released and then sent to your family as a housemaid, or is that kind of what she did, or?

MG: She was, the snowden's mother, was uhh, Ellen Cooper and she was a ten years old when They came from Maryland here, and so here brother in law sent this girl, she was the daughter of one of the slaves, and sent her with his sister in law, our great great grandmother, and so she'd have a better chance and so she was with them for ten years I think, before she married this Mr. Snowden.

DG: She went then to Mt. Vernon to live and uhh, she never had any grandchildren, as it was this Negro girl that fame from Maryland, there were no other Negro families in the area that to...TAPE IS SCREWED UP....

AS: Let's get to the pictures, I am really interested in seeing the pictures.

DG: This is Greer back around 1912. Dad had a camera that used glass plates and uhh it used cloth to back over his head, and he took that picture, and this is the uhh a store, and living quarters and it burned, MM.,

MG: about 1918 or 19, 'cause we were pretty young yet.

DG: pretty close. And there was a post off ice here and David' grandfather was the postmaster

AS: Oh ok, I'll have to ask him about that

DG: And uhh, just out of sight was the hotel. This was a Greer, no relative of ours said that there were five rooms upstairs and that was what she told us anyway. Now there was a spring back up in this corner of the town, and the township trustees bought pipe and piped the water down to uhh this trough and that was uhh, that furnished the water for quite a number of people until they began to have money enough to drill wells

AS:hmmm

DG: so there are several wells around town now.

AS: What do you think was the inhabitant, the population number of Greer at that time.

DG: oh maybe...80?

MG: probably.

DG: I would say around 80 when we were young.

AS: And that would be within the area, the confines of Greer itself.

DG: yes yes. Now there was a sorghum mill on this block as this house up here. And there was a blacksmith shop back this alley back this way and there were two grocery stores when we were younger, and two hardware stores.

AS: And were the grocery stores and the hardware stores kind of the center of life, like if you needed anything you'd just go to one of those?

DG: yes. Now this isn't our car, we had a metz and it looked like that. And uhh, I saw that picture one time and I cut it out of a magazine or something so that our brothers and sisters could see what kind of car we had first, that's around 1914 I think

MG; MMhmm

DG: for the Metsz

AS: mhhmm

DG: Now the Metz, what's the one I want to use, parts, were made in Metz Germany and shipped to Bethlehem, PA and there they were combined and uhh combined and made into a car

AS: Oh my gosh, so was it considered a German Car

DG: I presume it was, my uncle sold them so it was just natural for his two brothers to go together and buy that car. Now this is a river gauge down along the river

AS: And what was the purpose of a river gague

DG: Well, so measure the hieght of the water druing a flood or whatever it was.

AS: Now did, it had a door, did someone have to work it?

DG: there was a door and you could go in there and there was solar panel in the roof and the solar panel furnished energy to send a message automatically from there to Wheeling, WV, now it isn't working now.

AS: WOW, is it still working now?

DG: Yes,

AS: that would be a great picture

DG: Now this is the way we used to grind feed for our livestock, you put the corncob in there and the horses would go around and around and around like this. And that furnished the power for grinding our cow feed.

AS: HMM

DG: now this, I know where the first four wells that were drilled in Jefferson Township, and these two wells here were on the Tiscern Farm, and the Tiscerns were Blaines Grandfather and Grandmother and one of those is still in operation yet. Of course this is not loner there, but it is still in operation and produces gas I guess and maybe a little oil. This is a school picture, there used to be a two room school right where this house is now, and I am here on the front so you can tell pretty close to how far back that was.

AS: and then when was that razed? Torn down?

DG: I was away from here I think. I couldn't tell you I guess

MG: The school, you mean here,

DG: Around WWII it was torn down

MG: Cause Martha went into 8th grade here, and then after that they had 1 to 6 didn't they

DG: yeah I had 1 to 6th

MG: I think around 40 or something like that, I am not sure.

DG: Now this is a log cabin down in the valley. It's still standing, but it has been uhh, had a lot of work done on it. A man from Cleveland bought the farm, Joe Chase bought the farm and he did a lot of work on that I'll show you what it looks like now, pretty soon.

AS: OK

DG: There's the house I told you was the uhh, Schaub house, the old Schaub hose

AS: the hotel?

DG The hotel, yeah, and uhh, Lawrence Schaub was the father and Henry and Aleck were the sons and they were cigar makers and they would take the tabacco and make cigaras out of it and then they would sell their supply to the grocery keepers around

AS: Where did they get their tabacoo from?

DG: I don't know, it may have comet from farther farther south from here.

AS: OK

DG: now there is a house up in Jericho Valley still standing yet,

AS mmmm

DG: and uhh this is a picture taken recently, because its color, this is another picture showed, how I showed you the sorghum mill was ahhh here

AS: ohh Ok

DG: Then that was the Beatty Farm was down in the Valley and it was too and the couldn't have a basement, so they built a cave.

AS: hmm

DG: now this over here is the Steiner farm and the reason I took that was that it shows the oxbow of the uhh stream that goes down the valley

AS: that's old

DG: This is what I call that uhh Steiner Island because we owned a 3 acre patch down at the valley as you cross over and go in toward Nashville, and I have never, when that started forming, had a barnch or branches and moss came down here a caught and it kept getting bigger and bigger and bigger, and so that that's still in evidence now. Theres a nother picture of that uhh

AS: is that the same one?

DG: yeah, it's the same one from a different maunal, oh I am going the wrong direction on that... The uhh Kaufmans came from Switzerland and they settled on this ridge headed toward Brinkhaven, so I took pictures, theres stoney farm that they had and they had anthills, they had anthills on that farm were probably 3 or 4 feet in diameter at the bottom. In the 1913 flood, the bridge at Greer was washed out and the bridge at Brinkhaven was washed out and then there was one in between down on Robison's farm. And people would fjord the river down here about a mile from where we are now.

MG: I fjorded that once with my dad or we wouldn't have gone across

AS: Laugh...Oh wow.

DG: that's more of the same Kauffman farm.

AS to MG:: How deep do you think it was whenever you did that,

MG: pardon,

DG: How deep do you think it was was whenever you did that.

MG: well it was deep enough, I. Well if you get through, we had on old buick car, and old 14, 1914 car and we went down to Brinkhaven one day and that busted through the water

AS: did you get wet

MG: no. it wasn't that high. I remember it probably wasn't too high, but then I was glad when we got across.

AS: DO you think that was something people did a lot, that people had to do when the water was up, or do you think they stayed home.

MG: they probably didn't drive as much do now, but uhh they probably stayed at home more.

DG: well after the flood, and this bridge down here had been washed out uhh, A man living on the bank of the river, operated a ferry to take to school kids across in the morning

AS: uhh

DG: and then at night, the same thing, he'd take them back

AS: oh yeah

DG: and there were kids here on the other side of the river that lived up in the German settlement and they'd be the ones that would ride back and forth

AS: And what's the German Settlement?

DG: well there were the Stitzlines, and the Yurgenzes and uhh

MG: the Laverds, would they be?

DG: the Yuregnzes. They were people who came from Germany and settled here, and just across the river, the Yurgenzes, they were people who had come from Germany and settled here. Just across the river the Yugenzes settled and Charles Yurgenze, the oldest of the bunch had uhh, grown up in Germany and then down in the valley or in town was Mrs. Schaub, and she had grown up in Germany, so she and her children settled down here

AS: and when do you think they settled here?

DG: about when I was a boy, about 1911 or 12, or maybe it was earlier than that.

AS: and so were their a lot of factions, like umm, a lot different groups of people by say 1915, like you'd have the Greers from Ireland, the kaufmans from Switzerland, and so then the Stitzlines and the Yurgenzins from Germany, were their any other groups of Europeans that came over besides those three nationalities?

DG: I can't think of any of them

MG: hmhmmm

AS: and how about interacting together? Did you, you went to school with them so were you friends with those, and you had things in common, or did you just kind of grow up all together

MG: we didn't have so much when we came along, but our parents, they probably all went to school.

DG: Now, I mentioned we owned that farm up here and at the very top of the hill were these stones, around, like that, and here, and uhh, I supposed they had been carried there by a glacier and uhh, that's that type of sandstone, I know of no other place around close, they were, they were on our farm.

AS: and so this, areas pretty hilly, I would say isn't it?

DG: yes

AS: 'cause the glaciers did stop right about here?

DG: David would know more about it than I do, but I think that would be his idea. Lets see. Now there is a cabin, the Joe Chase cabin now, and uhh, they did take renters who would want to come in there and want to stay for a few nights in a log cabin, why uhh they could stay there. Now there are two houses right next to each other in town and uhhh the reason I took that picture, they looked much the same to me, and soo

AS: they do

DG: that's the reason I took it. And uhhh down here less than a mile south of here and our uhh one of our relatives built a mill and uhh, that is part of the mill race. And I had a little bit

AS: hmmm so the mill race on the Mohican, and so what was that mill for?

DG: grinding grain, my uncle told me that when he was a boy he used to take grain down there on horseback, get it ground and then take it back home again.

AS: really? Was that the only mill, or was there like a distillery, do you remember? Or maybe another kind of mill, a wood mill?

DG: yeah, uhh, you may not have noticed, we have a stone here on the corner of our lawn and it has a hole driven into and that was the mill stone that came from the Beatty farm. The Beatty farm was next to ours and up uhh up west a little bit, what mill was that? Oh, upp, uhh Ray Schultz

MG: there used to be one acrosst he road there. Dad said there eight mills here at one time. Sorghum mills over here wasn't it?

DG: yes yes I do remember, it depended on water power. Now on the next farm here, down on the Beatty farm there was a mill race that came around each side of that. And the mill race was still there but then its no longer in use.

AS: are any of those mills still standing?

DG: no, all of those mills had disappeared from before our time. Now this, this is where we grew up

AS: Oh ok

DG: the first farm just outside of Greer

AS: and that was taken in 1918?

DG: a little before 1918

AS: ok

DG: Now there was an earthworks up on top of this ridge and the earth works had been put there by the Indians, and if you want to you can read this part that I had written up:

AS: OK. Can I read that outloud so I can get it on the microphone

DG: yeah sure thing

AS: Oh OK. The moundbuilders earth workd was on the simpson farm just south of Greer. It was in the shape of an arc, four or five feet high and between 1 and 150 to 200 feet long. According to the information I have, the Mounbuilders were active in Ohio from 300BC to 600AD, thus this earth works could have been in existence at or even before the time Christ. This Earth works must have been built for ceremonial purposes, as it couldn't possibly have been used for protection. Recently, uniformed oil well men bulldozed it off to make room for oil tanks. Oh? So it's not there any more?

DG: no no, they bulldoezed it off I was down there. See I took that, the picture that goes with that, if I have it, oh, I took the picture with an old box camera and then I had it reproduced and I have a picture here somewhere not too far away. Now that is a part of

the Sorghum mill, these parts here, they have a horse fastened to them and and they go around and around and around like that and put the uhh sorghum through there and here's where the sap would come out and they boiled it down. Now there is part of the wall of the mill that was a mile south, less than a mile south of here

AS: and that's still there today?

DG: yes. now this is a tower over toward Danville, I am sure you've probably seen that

AS: yeah, my uncle climbed that and he said you could see to Jelloway.

DG: yeah, well it's the high point between Chicago and Pittsburgh I believe.

AS: really?

DG: yeah. Dad worked on the railroad for a while, he took these pictures with some camera that used the glass sides and that was the station down at Greer and these others are pictures of wrecks where he had been.

AS: are these in Knox County, or are these all over

DG: I think they are in the area, I don't know for sure

AS: do you know umm a Mrs. Carter?

MG: Alice, Alice Carter?

AS: yeah, she just recently had a fall and she's been in the nursing home

MG: yeah she's been there for a while

AS: I have a friend who is going the aspect of the railroads and I happened to go to, my grandma is Betty Conkle and end of side A

AS: and see here and hopfullyshe can bring some of her books.

DG: well the Schaub's were railroad people

MG: and she's a descendant of Henry Schaub, who he mentioned.

AS: oh, ok

MG: she's a granddauther, she'd be Henry's granddaughter.

DG: now that's the tope of Greer and theres a hut down there, now duringh the winter months there might be a landslide that would throw dirt over the tracks. They had man stationed down there and he kept track of the conditions of the tracks. But you can't very well tell what it is, it's a shelter. Well I got a bunch of pictures like that. We have some fire arms like that. And My brother mounted them

AS: and what were they used for?

DG: I don't know whether they were used for target practice or fun or what?

MG: they were never used when we could remember

DG: there's the latest bridge at Greer

AS: I just drove over that a couple of times trying to find the house.

DG: yeah

DG: and there again is that oxbow I told you about and then the Finans' did you any of the Finans

AS: Martha? Martha is one of the Finans?

DG: yeah, yeah, I did cleaning out there and I saw where a tree had grown up through that ring and I thought that was unusual, so I took a picture of it. Most of these are family pictures now. I started teaching school at the Horn School, its over toward jelloway.

AS: horn school..ok

DG: and are any of those pictures there of a thing at the Greer Institute, or are those family reunion pictures. We have some family reunion pictures. We had two springs on our farm and on one side of the ridge, there was harder water, and on the other side was

soft, so the soft water supply came from near the house and the other was more for livestock.

MG: they used to have a bucket, a wire on a bucket on the porch they had this big wheel and you left the bucket down and dip it full of water and come up and then there was a place out side the front door of the kitchen, poured it in to get your water

AS: oh then you boil your water for cooking, or food?

MG: no that's the way we use it, that's the way we got water, part of the time, then you had this hydrolic ram there too.

AS: what did you do in the winter, did it freeze? In the winter?

MG: I didn't remember, we didn't use it too long I guess, it was too far back for me to remember, but I remember we did crank our water up from the Spring

AS: ha hah

DG: It was usually in warmer weather though

MG: I think so

DG: we had three ways of getting water up to the house and one was with a windmill and another was with a hydrolic ram

AS: mhmm

DG: and another was this bucket that would go down on trolley down to the spring and dip a bucket full of water and then there was a rope attached to and it and I'll show you a picture of it. This is a picture of a bridge down here in Greer, and this was the next to the last one. It was before we have now.

AS: was that wiped out in flood too?

MG: no, we replaced it

DG: next to the last one wasn't wasted. Oh that's another picture of Greer looking to the south, the one I showed you before was looking to the west.

AS: and what can I see there, is it different thins that I saw before

DG: it's headed a different direction, you mean this one right here?

AS: yeah

DG: yeah, that was one heads south and the one I showed you before heads to the west. Those are mostly family pictures. That's yours truly when we was quite young.

AS: hhhhaaa

MG: there's a family picture

DG: huh?

MG: there's a family picture.

DG: yeah, that's what she was talking about.

AS: Ok and then who were the two central?

DG: well there's my dad, and there is his, a sister of his. And here is a brother of dads.

MG: there are only five that are living now.

DG: Five of that bunch

MG: four of us, 'cause our youngest sister wasn't in it. And ummm then Margie Noller from Danville

AS: how much umm interaction did you have from members of other communities.

Uhhmm people from danville or brinkhaven or?

MG: not a whole lot.

DG: NO, No,

MG: when were were younger anyway

AS: so if you lived in Greer you pretty much hung out with people in Greer, kind of not like to day, where people in Danville might have friends in East Knox or Mt. Vernon or Centerburg

MG: mmmm, I think that after we went to High school it branched out more, the jericho community, we got together more, when we had the institute, we'd kind of look at each other I guess

AS: how did the institute help do you think when you grew up, was that a yearly thing or?

MG: yeah, they still meet, it's not the same, but then just to get together mostly.

AS: so what kind of things did they do there, do you remember?

MG: well they'd have different speakers and musical programs and farmers..

DG: speakers were usually for farm program ideas

AS: I got the impression it was kind of like a grange, before the grange was formed

MG: I don't remember if we had Grange then or not, I didn't remember of it.

DG: no I don't know, we didn't belong to Grange, so we didn't know too much about that. Here is my great grandfather, Robert, who came from Ireland and who was a surveyor there and he did the same thing when we came to this country. And umm lets see, that's his wife there. Now this picture shows a wheel right about there

AS: oh Ok.

DG: And that is the one that had a hollow place to turn around and when do like this to it, it would wind the rope up and uhhh bring the water up and there was big funnell right there and you put a bucket underneath and and then tipped the funnel and touching the edge and down into the funnell and into the bucket. You could get fresh water pretty quickly that way. There was a uhhh, oh, hollow place down with stone around it, and that furnished the water so you could get it. This one has a little story. Dad took a picture of six of our relatives and he sent it in to one the farm magazines and he said we are going to give a special offer, can you take a picture of ten kids on a horse and so he went down to the school and got these kids all on there, I think there is about ten on there now, and that was the reason for that picture there

AS: Was that ever published?

DG: yeah, all over

MG: different magazines

AS: do you remember what the magazine was?

MG: lately it was in, uhh, what was it, country magazine?

DG: Farm journal?

MG: then the Loudonville Shopper had it in, but somebody else got the praise for taking the picture

AS: Oh really?

MG: they had it copyrighted didn't they?

DG: Underwood and Underwood did didn't they?

MG: yeah, Dad had taken the picture and there's only of those women, woman, living now, because on that horse the picture was taken

AS: And who was that?

MG: Mabel Thomas, she was a Stizline and she lives at Wooster now I think I saw the last.

AS: OK

MG: but that, the baby in that picture, it was a relative of David's part of the family

DG: they erased that baby picture from the picture

MG: some pictures they did, yeah

AS: and who's Old Topsy?

MG: it was the family horse

DG: I drove her for years

AS: I saw her in about five or six pictures and so I figured she was important

DG: yeah yeah

MG: she's a gentle horse

AS: and so did you guys have a lot of horses then?

MG: they had a team of horses

DG: Grandpa had two teams. I told you about that earth works on the Simpson farm, and that's the reason I took the picture of it and then had it enlarged. Now this down here is Alum rocks and back when we were kids yet there was a camping grounds there, and the Sunday school picnics, and family picnics and different ones like that would meet down there and uhh, so that's uhh

AS: and that's on the Mohican

DG: yeah its down the Mohcian River.

AS: and is that easy to get to from here

MG: Its all grown up now

DG: I belive that it is, it would be summer time when a person would want to go there

MG: the Mansfield boy scouts used to camp down there

DG: mildred and I were down there at a church meeting down near columbus, and a woman ran into us and that's what the thing looked like when she got through. Instead of coming like this the way people do, she came over here and hooked into our car and turned it around 180 degrees and headed back toward Columbus again

AS: wow

DG: we were coming back from Church. That is from South Dakota, Devil's Tower.

That's a picture of Greer looking east and here's the railroad station and the farm elevator and the stores that we knew it are down along here and then over on this side was a hardware store, so we had two hardwares and two grocery stores.

AS: so did you take many trips? I saw south dakota and I saw few other places did you take family trips often or was that sort of a unquie thing?

MG: We never took any very far away

AS: Dad had taken a few trips when he was a boy. His sister and her husband lived in south dakota, so he went out there, he said he was out there for about 6 months, not south dakota alone, maybe like Colorado or like that.

AS: OK,

DG: well, this is our farmstead located down from the hill

AS: how much did you farm, how many acres

DG: we had 200 acres more less and about 1/2 or it could be farmed, because of so many hills. Jeffereson Township was the last township to be setteled uhh, in Knox County, the reason was it was too rough and stoney and no one wanted to come and farm it.

AS: huh...

DG: now we have older buildings still standing, up north of Greer here is the house where she was born, and the house where she was born was built in 1833.

AS: hmhmm

DG: and she was born in 1835

AS: and that was built by her dad?

MG: We don't know who built it

DG: it was built by somebody else, because, up in this part of the house, there is a stone tablet up there and it gives the name of the man who was the mason and also the name of the man who was the carpenter. I took a ladder up one time to see what it was, and that's how I found out. Now grandpa was born a mile south of here at the Robison place. He was born in 1830. Yeah.

AS: ummm and as far as uhh, it seems like most things went on here in the summer time, 'cause the winter time was probably not the most conducive to everybody getting together and stuff, and so I would say do you think the one big summer event was the Institute, growing up? Or was there something else, a carnival, or the Knox County Fair or something that everybody?

MG: they used to have Tchawkwas, isn't that what they called it?

DG: Lecture Course!

MG: in the winter they had five or six

DG: Five and one time we had six different things, they could have been speakers or music, or programs that these visitors gave, or one time they had a magician I believe, they had a man who had been connected to the newspaper someplace.

AS: and where were those held.

DG: Down here in town at the cement block building.

AS: OH OK, so what did they talk about, what kind of music did they play, was it umm?

DG: well one time we had a piano players from the Phillipine Islands

AS: hmm

DG; and then we had plays, sometimes the schools had plays, what else did we do?

MG: mhmm

DG and then of course church activities.

AS: how important were they?

DG: they were pretty important, we didn't have too many things to go to, so, we were limited.

AS: Now did they have danced, or was it bible study?

DW: there were dances, the man who ran the store down here uhh put on dances, but we didn't attend.

AS: was it a Wesleyan Church or what kind of church?

DG: it was Wesleyan

AS: did everybody go to that church?

MG: No, we had people go to Danville, we used to have a Lutheran church over on the hill, and then the Chapel, the Wesleyan Chapel

AS: is it still right at the same place

MG: you go up 514 and its on Chapel road.

AS: ok, how about umm, the catholics,

MG: that's where they all went. they all went to Danville

AS: And so was there a large amount of different denominations, or was everybody pretty much, like was everybody pretty much, like did you have any Jewish people or muslims?

MG: there weren't too many different ones

AS: they were all Christians? As far as Church goes was your pastor a prominent figure in the community?

MG: back then, I imagine so.

DG: up until recently, the township house was right up at the quarter of our lot, and then it was moved up a ½ mile or less north, up this way, I think the man who moved it up there wanted to make something different out of it, a dwelling or something. That township building was built in 1846 I believe, and uhh the kids came there to that school then our dad did

AS: and whenever you went to school, what did you learn about

DG: well, we had reading and history, and geography and health and did I mention arithmetic, those subjects and in the middle of the forenoon we had recess, and in the middle of the afternoon we had recess, and then sometimes we had spell down, where the kids get together and spell each other down. Once or twice we had a meal, we'd bring things in and the stove was such that we could cook the meal

AS: Oh you had a stove in the school house?

DG: oh yeah that was uh a two room school we had two uhh, two uhh stoves, one on each side

AS: And so who would be responsible for getting the wood in the morning? Would it be a student or a teacher?

DG: well part of the time I uhh, I was the janitor and uhh Mr. Heaton furnished the coal, of course at a price and then sometimes the kids would start would start the fire. Walter Temple Jr. one one time and so it varied a little bit that way.

AS: how about college, or further schooling goes, you said you were a teacher so did you go on to college then after high school?

DG: yes, I have degree from Ohio University with a major in Geography, and I have a degree from Ohio University and my degree there is in Industrial Arts and I have done quite a lot of traveling too. I have been to North America South America, Asia, what else.

MG: iran in the hostages, he was there at that time.

DG: no I enjoy travel, I uhh, my first travel I bought a model A Ford and uhh went out the Northern route to a California, went down the coast and then I came back and the southern route, through Arizona, New Mexico, and Northern Texas.

AS: hmm, how long did that take you?

DG: I think about five weeks maybe

MG: I don't remember now

AS: Ok umm, well I think you guys have definitely done a lot, you have helped me out tremendously, umm, just maybe if I can get your ideas, like, what would be some final thoughts, about like, what Greer Means to you? How you see yourself as part of Greer?

MG; well it's always been home to me

AS: that's great that's what I what I want

MG: other people like it, they come here and like to stay, of course we have canoers every summer

AS: pretty quiet

MG: very quiet?

AS: do you guys, living here now, go to Danville to get your groceries?

MG: yeah, of course he doesn't live here usually, I go to Danville, and sometimes I go into Loudonville and have a change of scenery, once in a while I'll get into Mt. Vernon,

not too often.

AS: what about people coming around, do you know pretty much all your neighbors and stuff? No, not anymore

MG: not a lot of them hmmm

AS and what about you?

DG: well uhh, I have always been glad to come back, but then I like to get away some too. I made one trip around the world, by bus and by plane, and that's what I like, that took three months for that. South America, that took more than a month. I used to wonder what buildings were like and everything, in South America,, they have nice buildings there and paved roads, it depends on where you are, in South America

AS: where exactly did you go?

DG: I raveled through eight contries of South America, I went over to New York New York City and took a plane and I went down to Rio then, and then to Argentina and Chile, Peru and I probably had missed one

AS: Ecuador?

DG: Lima, of course that's Peru, but uhh, these were uh, these were organized trips I got in contact with a company that does these trips. One time I would like to have gone to African and he driver of our bus at that time, wasn't in favor of it, he said it would be pretty rough. So I didn't And Money wise sometimes that helps a little too

AS: yeah definitely

DG: I enjoyed my trips out of the country

AS: Did you find that in contrast to Greer, what did you find was the biggest difference. Did you go to many small towns in those countries and so did you see like a sense of community, where every body knows every body did you kind of get that sense when you were there, or do you think that's unique to this area?

DG: well I didn't find too much that way, we did find people who wanted to talk to us, for one thing, they would point to the watch, and that meant well, what time is it? They may understand the time I would tell them, I had had one year of Spanish in college and I remembered a little of my Spanish, but uhh we found people friendly we found people friendly. We camped quite a bit, and one of our experiences, it was either Peru or Chile, I am not sure what was what. We were up around 14,000 feet living in a tent and the getting up with snow you in the morning wasn't my idea of picnic

AS: I definitley don't think so.

DG: I wore about everything I had, I had on, even in bed.

AS: and this was, what year was this?

DG; well it was about, around 20 years ago. I had a letter from one of the kids that was in the tour this Christmas and she reminded me that it was 20 years since we had been on that trip. Now, how would go on a trip on like that? On that south american trip, we had one retired druggist from London, and we had one women who had been a librarian in a medical school in canada, and of course I was a school teacher and we two people from Argetina and one had been connected with the mail service, and the other I am not real sure what he was connected with, not too friendly.

AS: well that's not too good

DG: no. I enjoyed my trips.

AS: definitely, alrighty well, I guess we'll end.

End of interview.

