

Interviews

Life Along the Kokosing

---

2-11-2000

## Interview with Jim Gibson

Sara Sanders

Jim Gibson

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digital.kenyon.edu/lak\\_interviews](https://digital.kenyon.edu/lak_interviews)

---

### Recommended Citation

Sanders, Sara and Gibson, Jim, "Interview with Jim Gibson" (2000). *Interviews*. 31.  
[https://digital.kenyon.edu/lak\\_interviews/31](https://digital.kenyon.edu/lak_interviews/31)

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Life Along the Kokosing at Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Interviews by an authorized administrator of Digital Kenyon: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact [noltj@kenyon.edu](mailto:noltj@kenyon.edu).

LAK-SS-A021100.A

Sara Sanders

Interview with Jim Gibson–Knox County Historical Society Museum director

P.O.Box Harcourt Road Mount Vernon OH 43022

2-11-00

no co-workers present

SS-I'll just start by saying this is Sara Sanders interviewing Jim Gibson at the Knox County Historical Society on Feb. 11 2000 at 1:30 pm.

How are you today?

JG- Good, good. Glad you're here. Go ahead with your questions.

SS- My first question was just a really, really broad one, basically, what can you tell me about Andrew Craig? Where did he come from, what he did...

JG-Well the Norton History the 1862 History, that's when it was written, has, and I'm sure you found it–there aren't that many major references to him in there. This is kind of- other writers after this book tend to just go back and pretty much steal what Norton said. They may have paraphrased it or they may have quoted it but it's basically the same thing. But he was, um, he came here, at the time before statehood actually right about the time of statehood, let's say between 1800-1803,4. And part of the reason I got interested in him I grew up near Wheeling, WV, and that's where he came from to here. Wheeling is a much earlier town of course because it was all part of VA at the time OH became a state and I knew that when I was growing up and I studied WV history when I was in school. But you know how history is when you're in school. It's a lot more interesting no so...That whole part, I mean when you think that VA bordered OH, that's sort of changes your perspective about things because now the western part of VA that became WV was more the rough and tumble mountainous part of the state and all the aristocrats lived over in Richmond and the eastern part, but when you think the OH river was the border between what was the US at the time of the Revolution and just across the OH River was wildness, Indians, and all that. So Craig came here before the time of statehood, he was with an Indian woman, and he stayed until I believe about 1808-9 and then it was getting to built up to suit him, he was one of those Daniel Boone kind of guys and just decided 'no, no, there's a 100 people here, that's way too crowded for me so I'm moving on.' So he went to Greentown, and I think that's the Greentown on down toward the western part of OH, I think, I made a little not to myself just to check on that to be sure. But it says in this history I think-the Williams history-which was written in 1912, it has never been reprinted. It's a little harder to come by although I'm sure the Kenyon library has it. But it says: : (52) first of all, this chapter on early settlement lists him as, it just lists the early people in each township so he's the only guy it mentions in Clinton township which was Mt. Vernon, being here prior to 1801. So that's really early, there were lots of Indian's here and no white people at all, so he probably was the first white person to be here, "though he proved not to be a permanent settler." And then over here on 55-56 in Williams it says: "He was from a bleak and broken mountainous region of VA....and was in this country when OH was in its territorial condition," so that's before 1803. This again is probably pretty much taken from Norton. But anyway, it says he was here with....it says that his hut was about ½ mi east of where Mt. Vernon city now stands. And that's right about where the point of the parking lot of the bike trail.

SS-So right where the marker is?

JG- That's right. And see the society owns that parking lot area too. Which is essentially the,

basically, the very first settlement that became Mount Vernon. Uh, but then it says, um, when Mt. Vernon was laid out in 1805, uh, and then he was here when Knox County was formed and that was in 1808. Uh, and he was its oldest citizen and stayed here until 1809, and then he could not easily rest when white men got thick around him, that would have been forty people probably, or fifty, and then he went to an Indian village green town and from then out to the far frontier and preferred Indians to white people. So he was just one of those Daniel Boone sort of characters essentially. And then we lose track of him, uh, after that, now it does mention him again over here and it talks about this Jersey settlement which I, um, don't quote me on this, but I think Jersey settlement was out on, in that area around Green Valley Road where, when you're going to Mansfield, you cross the tracks, uh, just before you get to, uh, is it Clever?, or not Clever, uh, Carter Lumber. And just before there there's a tracks that you have to slow down and kind of wind around. If you go to left that's Green Valley Road and I think that's where the Green Valley settlement was down in there, that was pretty early. An it says, um..., the lone Jersey man came who was, uh, you know other settlers came from Jersey, New Jersey area, and they called it the New Jersey settlement. Um, and that was Young and some of these other people who came after Craig was here, so maybe there were even fewer than fifty people, it'd be ten or twenty that he thought was too many. But, uh, but he's, you know, we credit him as being the first non-Indian person here. Um, so anyway, uh, I'll give you these notations.

S- Okay

JG- I'm sure you have, or I would think you have...

S- Yeah, I definitely have read the quotes...

JG- Right

S- Or the one before at least

JG- Right, and there's...uh, and see he's not even in the index to this. Uh, so you to kind of leaf along to find it.

S- Right. I went to the Library and they didn't even...they hadn't even heard of him, so (laugh). He is an elusive character, I guess.

JG- Right. But an interesting one I'm sure.

S- Yeah. So, um, you said that he was with a...an Indian girl?

JG- That's the story and its just, you know, that real brief reference that he uh, uh they got together in Wheeling. And see Wheeling was, Wheeling was uh, an active city even at the time of the American Revolution. And, uh, and it was, again being part of Virginia, I remember growing up and my Dad showing me in downtown Wheeling where there was a, uh, auction block for slaves. Uh, that was kind of still there, it wasn't, uh, commemorated especially in a noteworthy way, but Fort Henry which was on the Ohio River, was active, played a part in the end of the Revolutionary War. So uh, Wheeling being, you know, right on that far edge, but it was a very important town because it was right on the National road and when they built the National road there was all this, uh, deciding about where it would go and it went, of course, through Wheeling and then it went just straight west to Columbus, and Zanesville and so forth. So Wheeling was, Wheeling was a pretty well built up town when Ohio was just...

S- Territory.

JG- Just territory and trees.

S- So along with that, um...I did read in one of the books that he was living in a Indian settlement or in... with an Indian?...I'm not even sure.

JG- Well it might have mentioned that it was with her, but then he, but when he went on, wherever this screen town is...we maybe need to look into that further to be sure...or Green

town...that's it. Um, then apparently that was an Indian...that was truly an Indian settlement not....there were no white people in it and he preferred to live the Indians.

S- That's pretty interesting.

JG- Yeah, yeah.

S- Um, so what is the implication of the Kokosing with all this?

JG- Well, now everybody's been asking me that and I'm kind of formulating my own thinking about it, but the point I made with Sasha, and it's a...(pause)...I need to read more myself, but my thinking is that...see rivers were very, very important at that time. And I was telling him about Johnny Appleseed, which, who was here right about that same time. Uh, had...he was just fascinated with the idea of planting apple trees ahead of pioneers moving west, and when he ran out of apple seeds, when he was in this area, he walked back to Pittsburgh. Now, when I was growing up Pittsburgh was about as close to where I lived as Columbus is to here, which is just like forty-five minute/hour drive. Uh, but to drive from here to Pittsburgh, even on the interstate would be three, three and a half hours...that's driving on interstates.

S- Uh-huh, that's where I'm from (laughs).

JG- Are you from Pittsburgh? Right. Okay.

S- So just think of that. I mean when you go home to Pittsburgh think of walking home with no bridge across the Ohio river. Just imagine what that would have been like. And, uh, and so rivers just played this hugely important role. And so when he got back to Pittsburgh then he loaded, Johnny Appleseed that is, loaded up uh, two or three canoes full of apple seeds in leather bags, tied the canoes all together, put himself in an additional canoe, and then he rode, rode them down the Ohio River not to Wheeling. It would make sense, you'd think, "Oh, he would go to Wheeling and then he would come here, or he would go to Steubenville and come straight across." Steubenville is just about straight across from here. But no, he went to Marietta because that's where, that's the waterway. He didn't want to drag three canoes full of apple seeds from Wheeling on the ground all the way back to Zanesville and to here. So he went to Marietta, changed rivers, you know at Marietta then the Muskingham joins the Ohio, and then he turned and came up, so he's rowing then against the stream (Laughing) coming from Marietta to Zanesville. And then in Zanesville the Muskingham river is formed by the Wahanding and (pause) something else, and he went up the Wahanding, where it branched, you know the two branches kept, you know forks keep coming together to form rivers. And so then he went up the Wahanding, uh, toward Coshocton. Uh, which is where the Kokosing ends, flows into the Wahanding over around Coshocton. And then he would go to where the Kokosing joined the Wahanding and then turn of and then come toward Mt. Vernon. And then he would get off the Ohio River, or the Kokosing river, right down there by the viaduct, right there where that marker is, uh, which is where he owned land. But just think, think about what a job that would be, I mean that's not...That would be like a four, five, or six month project to go from here back there and come back. Uh, but they didn't think in terms of hours and days the way we do, they thought "Oh, I've got to go to Pittsburgh in April and I'll be back in September." So, so then you can see how important the Kokosing was. And, and to the people who settled here, they chose settling the town right exactly on the river because of the river. The river was how you brought things to town. And, uh, some of the very early beautiful homes in Mt. Vernon I've been told had exquisite furnishings in them that were brought, uh from the East, from New York or Philadelphia, to Ohio, uh, by wagon, and then brought to Mt. Vernon by river. So it was the only way to get anywhere other than by walking or riding horse. And since you had to cross it was tough. Imagine crossing the Ohio river without a bridge. It would be pretty tough, so being

in a boat, or having a boat to do it, just doing your entire trip on the river would make a lot more since. So then when you think of the Kokosing in that way, of being, you know, a branch of a fairly small river, and its essentially a feeder into the Ohio eventually. Um, that that was how people who came, a lot of people who came here came that way, and a lot of people who, uh, did commerce, it was really the main source of commerce. They shipped grain and they shipped all kinds of things, by way of river. So, uh, so it was essential. Ah, but now, and even when trains came along, and the canal didn't come quite through Knox County, but close, and I'm sure people who shipped things to Newark or Coshocton or Roscoe got things on the canal that way if that was convenient for them, but even more so when the railroads came and then 100 years ago when cars came, and then the river became not important for that anymore, it was too slow. So anymore we don't think of the river, people have often said you know gee, the river's nice, but what does it serve and especially in the summer when it's pretty low, it's just not, it's a creek basically. I guess its role then started out as being very important. If it hadn't been for the river, MV would not have been where it is. So...

SS-I've also heard stories that some of the settlers chose this point along the river because it reminded them of the Potomac.

JG-That's right, it did. And, ah, those people, Patterson, and Bell, and Smith, and Ben Butler, they early, the people who laid out MV as a town. They came from the east, at least a couple of them, it doesn't say precisely which, ah, but they were familiar with that area. They were from, the people who came here were from VA, and Frederick, MD, the people who settled Fredericktown were from Frederick, MD. All that area is fairly close to Washington, D.C. and where Washington's home was. There's just one sentence in the histories that refers to it, but it's a neat little reference and you just want to know more. As a matter of fact, I think it's Norton that says that there was a little doctor in town and we don't even know much about him who was here in 1805 too, so the guys that owned the property, they must have been kind of getting together and laying out the town trying to get it established as a town, ah, you know legally, through the government, and here's this little doctor here. I think it's Norton who says that it was this little doctor here would said it would be nice to recognize George Washington. He'd died just 5,6 years before that. Everybody loved GW, ah, dearly, it's kind of hard to imagine about that too, but people just worshiped him. And I was talking to a young school group yesterday and was saying you know if they had a chance-they essentially offered him the chance to be king, you know about that-they essentially said you, know, here we are setting up a government, we haven't quite established what it's going to be, and we want you to be in charge and if that means being king, then fine. And, and I always say to young kids, if somebody said to you, you know here you are, we want you to be king and that means all you do is snap your fingers and bring me more, ah, backstreet boys CDs, that's all they think about. Bring me more McDonald's nuggets or you know whatever, Pokemon cards or whatever and people would do it for the rest of you life, and they were saying, ah, man that would be great. Well then just think how strong a guy GW was to say, no, we just went through this giant war to break away from kings who don't treat people fairly and so you know, I'm gonna be president, president will be fine, I'll be happy to be president and then he even limited himself to two terms which set that precedent up until FDR, so, ah, he was just acclaimed, the first president and then his second term they had an election. But he was just dearly loved and devoted, he left his home to fight the war and then he went back to farm and then they asked him to come back and be in charge of the Continental Congress, to write the constitution. He did that and then they asked him to be president for 8 years so he really gave upmost of his older years and then only had a couple of

years after he retired from the presidency before he died. So, he was just dearly beloved in everybody's hearts. And I thought it was neat that named the town, not after him, they didn't call it Washington, they called it MV, so that shows even greater respect for his estate. So that's the story as I know that. You're from Pittsburgh...

SS-So, when did the other, you mentioned the settlers from the eastern part of the country, when did they start coming in relation to Andrew Craig? How many years after?

JG-Not long, when OH got statehood in 1803, then the federal government was interested in having settlement in the new territories, the new states. And again I was talking to young people yesterday and I learn these things that's why history-studying history as an adult is nifty because things that you just knew as little separate facts when you were younger kind of all fit together and make a little sense. I'm interested, personally, in post office history of the county, I've done research on that for years. Ah, and you might think, why would you do that? But what you learn when you get involved in that is not just about the mail system, but the fact that when the town got a post office, the government who delivered the mail to those post offices wanted the roads to be better. So a town that had a post office got better roads quicker than towns that did not. So there's a little fact that makes kind of sense. And then the federal government, by wanting people to come to the new territories, and of course this happened earlier, but there were a lot of revolutionary war soldiers who were paid partly in land, ah, pieces of paper that entitled them to 100 acres or 500 acres or whatever, and they didn't necessarily have to cash them in right away. So here they are, the rev. war ends in 1783, and there were a fair number that came, but as soon as OH became a state in 1803, there were people living in the east, ah, who said Philadelphia, and Boston, and Richmond or wherever are getting too crowded for us and really to them were-you know, they were getting to be good size cities, and they wanted to strike out and go out into the new territory and so many of them were ex-soldiers who had this land document so they cashed those in and came out here, but the amazing part of that story is that this is like 20 years after the AM. Rev. War ended, it ends in 1781 and then it's 20 years later that OH becomes a state and then it's maybe 4-5 years that they come. SO we're looking at maybe 25-30 years after they finish their war service. These guys are in their 40s, they're like 45 at a time when life expectancy was 42, so already they're like somebody whose pushing 80 right now in terms of life expectancy and they say oh, let's pack up and go to OH. That's just remarkable to me to think about that. So they come out and of course they had children too and so they were tough pioneer type people and fought in the war and so forth. Ah, and they pack up and come here. And the federal gov. was wise because they didn't want wimpy people settling and fighting Indians, they wanted strong tough guys that knew how to shoot guns. So they tended to encourage stronger people to come out and of course stronger people were the ones that had they idea that oh yes I can do this, we can pack up and go to OH where there's Indians and trees and not much else and I mean they truly did have to clear the forest and build cabins and all of that. So, ah, but it was, I don't have those numbers in my head, MV didn't grow dramatically but between 1805-1815, when Dan Emmet was born, there were a couple hundred people living in what we would think of as MV. But then there were other communities. Clinton, do you know about Clinton? Clinton was a separate town. Ah, if you drive out Mansfield Road, if you just go by Dan Emmet School up by Mansfield Rd, there's Faith Lutheran Church is on your right, just a few blocks beyond Dan Emmet School, and then you go, oh I don't know, quarter of a mile, half a mile beyond that, on your right, Fairgrounds Rd turns off to your right which goes directly to the fairgrounds, if you go just a little bit further, there's a road that turns to your left call Clinton Rd. Now at one time that was a totally separate town. And it was a competitor of MV, actually in was the town

that competed with MV to be the county seat. People talk about it being Fredericktown, and Fredericktown was in the mix, but Clinton was really a fairly advanced town. They had a post office before MV did. They had a newspaper, a very early newspaper in OH started in 1812 or 13 there. They had a little chair factory. They published at least one or two books, the newspaper was kind of in the book printing business. This is all before 1820. They were a thriving little community. It's only about a ½ mi long. Clinton Road runs from Mansfield Rd and then it dead-ends on upper Fredericktown, so if you drive down there there's not much to it. And Snowden Rd., where the Snowden family lived is right perpendicular to Clinton. But that was a, can you see that house in the top...okay that's the tavern that was in Clinton, that's the painting of it. It was there from 1810-1940, so long before I came here, but it was still standing 125-30 years after it was built. And it was the post office, and the meeting place, and the Masonic Lodge met there, it was thriving little town. So, Clinton was a separate town. And a lot of people settled in Clinton rather than MV, again because oh, there's 50 people living in MV- too crowded, so let's all go up and start Clinton or build up in Clinton. And then Fredericktown kind of came along shortly after that, and Danville a little bit after that, and Martinsburg and Centerburg and those towns as separate communities. You think, well you know if there's a nice town-MV, why would people start others? Well, you know, there were religious reasons, the Catholics all went to the Danville area because they all wanted to be together and so, when you think of how our county forms-and then early on Richland Co. was not separated as a county until years after Knox Co. was so Mansfield and all of that area was actually part of Knox Co. for a number of years because they all were Indians up there and it was pretty wild up there, more so than it was here. But anyway, there wasn't what you'd call dramatic growth, but there was I suppose steady growth, and people were coming along and opening little stores and bars, taverns, lot of taverns and a hotel, and then Kenyon comes along in 1825 or 6 and that, you know, that changes things in the county too and more students are coming, so it just kind of had steady growth. But I have the numbers written down other places-but the county, the county did grow like in the 1820s and 30s and 40s it was growing fairly well.

SS-So when did MV actually assume the county seat? Was that a lot later-

JG-That was in 1808. And again it was, the stories that are in the county histories, there's kind of 2,3 versions of the same story, and there are people who've told me that that same story has been applied to other places, I don't know if in OH or other places, it's just a kind of neat story. Have you read that? The story is that these people were coming from the state to make a decision about who would be the county seat, and it was MV, Clinton, and Fredericktown had asked to be considered too. Now you have to understand too, and I'll show you a map over here in a minute that if you look at a map of Knox Co., there's a little notch down here where Centerburg is, well the three townships that were directly above Centerburg were part of Knox Co. until 1848 that when Morrow Co. was formed. I still don't quite know why they formed Morrow Co. It doesn't seem to me they needed another county then, and it's small. But anyway, Knox Co. was almost rectangular, perfectly rectangular, it didn't have the notch in it. Ah, but the commission, or the people from Columbus came to decide who would be the county seat. And the story is that the people-the MV people who were trying to get MV chosen, ah, when the examiners were in MV, everyone was very polite and sweeping their streets and the ladies were all dressed up walking down and the men were tipping their hats and all of that. And then when they went to Clinton, they got some rowdies from MV to go to Clinton and act drunk and bump into the commissioners. Probably something like that happened. It was kind of a sham and Clinton was just furious and they contested the whole deal and for several years after that tried to

get it overturned and tried to get it reconsidered because it was very important to be the county seat and so much of peoples' business in those days, what they bought in property, or, there was a lot of lawsuits, people sued each other in those days for little things, fights and things. Ah, but any legal business had to be carried on at the courthouse, so to be the county seat meant that everybody came to you rather than you going somewhere else. So Clinton, eventually just kind of dried up. They lost their post office in, I think, 1820, or 2, and their post office went away. The newspaper that was published there moved into MV in 1815 or 16, and so all of the big stuff they had came to town. Ah, and so the Clinton people, the powers that be up there were very unhappy but the everyday people just said what's the big deal. But it was, it was probably a 15 min ride in a buggy or more from downtown MV out to there-I mean you can do it in 3 min in a car, now you don't think of it as being much, but it was a trip. So people thought, well if this is where it's all gonna be happening then we may as well live in MV too.

SS-So could you tell me a little bit about the growth of MV since then?

JG-Well the town grew, especially in the 1820s, the town grew pretty quickly. Ah, after it got a base of people and then Cooper's got started. Cooper's started their company in 1833, and so I sort of mark that as the beginning of the industrial time, ah, in Knox CO. And they were small for a while but they grew into the 1840s and they had some fairly main contracts and so forth.

(Break)

SS-We were talking about Cooper's.

JG-Right, Cooper's was started by two brothers, Charles and Elias Cooper, who were from Knox Co.

(technical difficulties)

JG-...well I'm far from an expert on that. The area from the square down to the river was, was the essential part of the town from the beginning and always remains so. When you look at S. Main St. now, compared to N. Main St. You know, N. Main St. businesses just go a block or so and then it's residential after that. And there were, where the Y is now, there was, ah, an exquisite, beautiful home that was there until the 1960s I think it was torn down. Ah, and where the parking lot for the living center on N. Main, that's where there was a Presbyterian church there that later moved to another area and then they, ah, sold the church to the city or to-it became the library, it was the library for many years. But S. Main St. has always been the really busy, hustle bustle part. Ah, one thing about the development of the streets that is kind of interesting, and again something I've just read about recently, ah, E. High St. and W. High St. are a good deal wider than S. Main and N. Main. And when you go out E. High, it has a more kind of boulevard look to it. It's at least one lane wider on each side than S. Main, if not more than that. Ah, because the people who laid out the town though that commerce would go east and west. They thought that going to Coshocton would be where everything was happening. As we now know, Cleveland won out over Coshocton. So the road to Cleveland, you know, N. Sandusky St. that goes up to Mansfield and that way, or even Wooster Rd., Rt. 3, that goes, that's 3C Highway, that was Cleveland to Columbus to Cincinnati, ah, is, ah, a lot lesser of a road in terms of the wideness and so forth of it than E. High St. would be. People thought that they wanted E. High St. to be the big entrance to the city for everyone who was coming from great distances, then it turned out to be more from the north than it was from the east and west. So that's why so many nice houses are on E. High, and E. Gambier, and E. Vine streets, because they thought that was sort of pointing toward where all the important people would be coming in to town that way rather than from the north. But the businesses essentially, the business end of town has always been S. Main St., basically. And even when you look at W. High and E. High,



the shop part of the town just goes a block or so and then it becomes very residential.

SS-What about the town's society? What did people do for fun, where did they go?

JG-Well...

SS-I mean, that could be 1800s, 1900s...

JG-Yeah, well, I'm sure that as businesses began to grow, and you think of Cooper's and then of, around the time of the Civil War. There were more and more business on S. Main St. Ah, there were literary societies, and there was the Woodward Opera House, of course that had a lot of other people.

(interruption)

...there were, the Woodward played an important part and there was another opera house in town so there were dramatic presentations, there were groups that came through town that were theatrical groups and musical groups that put on plays and so forth, local people put on plays, there was a lot of that-musical groups would perform, and church and those kinds of things were important to. After the Civil War then, and then it became, really there was a lot more stuff that happened then, there were a lot more stuff that happened then, there were more important people who came through-Dan Emmet and the minstrel groups, you know they came and performed here, as did others. So it was, I'm sure there was a major side to the society. Of course the-when you think of the Henry Curtis House-have you been by it?

SS-I've been by it.

JG-You should drive by it and just kind of pause and take a look because it's really an exquisite home, and it had a ball room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor where they had dances and ladies came...

SS-Do they give tours there?

JG-No, it's a private home now. Maybe one day it will be open again but their kind of doing some restoration. But ah, it's quite a place, 14 ft ceilings all over and a lot of the original furnishings were in it at least until recently. But ah, a nifty place and they were, I'm sure at the pinnacle of Knox Co. society and so they had fancy dress balls with orchestras and all of that that played there.

SS-What are some of the things that you think are unique to this area, unique to MV that the people that are taking this tour would like to know or outsiders coming in, new people moving in would like to know about the character of the town?

JG-Well, people sometimes complain about how many nice buildings and homes have been torn down in MV. But, and there have been quite a few torn down, but there are an awful lot that are still here that wouldn't be in bigger cities, Columbus has lost most of its elegance. And you look at E. Broad St. and even N. High St. in Columbus at one time was a pretty fancy place to live. And so most of the neat homes on E. Broad in Columbus-well think of Pittsburgh, I'm sure Mt. Lebanon and all that area, I'm sure that's still a very nice area to live, but still a lot of the really elegant homes have probably become funeral homes or law offices or whatever, they're not residences anymore. Where as here, ah, there are many, many nifty homes in MV that are still in the hands, the name of the people living there is the same name of the people who built it. They are just direct descendants of those people and they, ah, sometimes, I think they kind of take it for granted because they are so wonderful and they just, well it's our house. But to me it's just a wonderful, beautiful place. And there are quite a few houses that could have been lost that weren't, that have been saved. So, that's one thing I would say to people. And you hear that from people who come to town, they'll say wow you have such beautiful places.

(interruption)

...so that's one thing, and when bus tours come through and when we get this part of the museum

all done, we're gonna be hoping to have a lot more outside travel groups that come through, and they almost always remark on the beautiful Greek revival architecture and other architecture that's here. So that's certainly one thing. And this is just a nice place. Ah, I keep hearing about people who are moving here or Apple Valley to live who still work in Columbus, drive everyday back and forth-I would consider that a pretty big commute. But people often say that real estate is more reasonable here and the homes are beautiful and nice and the schools are good and crime is low and all of those kinds of things. And people that live in big cities and even Westerville and the suburbs of Columbus are saying just kind of like Andrew Craig, it's getting too crowded, the crime's too bad down there, it's nasty, you can't go anywhere, you have to get in your car to drive everywhere and hear you can walk to the bank and all of that so that's a plus.

SS-Okay, I'll just ask one more question. Where do you see MV heading in the future?

JG-Well, it's population isn't growing, ah, in a real noticeable way, but Apple Valley's is and the rest of Knox Co. and Centerburg is growing greatly so if everybody says it's just creeping this way. We keep hearing where we are here that this end of town is gonna build up and that ah, between here and Mt. Liberty that there's gonna be a lot of growth that happens. City water's just coming by here soon, and so that's gonna change, that's going to ah, if restaurants want to come into town they need city water, sewage and those kinds of things, so once that happens out here this end of town will probably expand. It's gonna be growing, and this Focus 2100 group that's been doing so much planning and recommending is coming to grips with some of the things that are, ah, to somebody from Columbus are very minor-traffic problems, but to people who live here, they aren't. So, they need to be thinking of Coshocton Ave. and the congestion out there and can they have little access roads to get to Wendy's and to Big Bear and the hospital and so forth without just everybody going out to Coshocton Ave. That's part of the problem and about bringing traffic around maybe the outside of town, and trucks and how do you deal trucks coming through town and it's more of a problem. So those are just basic things that every town faces, but we are, I mean our day is coming simply because of our proximity to Columbus and as it continues to grow and come this way-you look at Westerville, if you drive from here to Westerville you can just see all of that construction and malls that are going up on this end of Westerville. Westerville used to be just a lot like MV and it's always been a dry, you know Westerville was the base of the Women's Christian Temperance Union for Oh, if not for the whole country. And they never allowed alcohol to be served-you couldn't even buy 6-packs of beer until recently in Westerville. They were very strong about that. And now these little places are opening up on the edge of town then their outside the city limits and they're in the townships and they can do that and that's making people down there upset too, and that's what happens with any kind of city growth. But I'm sure the traffic problems and housing problems are the things that any town faces when it grows.

SS-Well thanks a lot...