

Orleans County Historical Association

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Orleans County Historical Association

Oral History Project Interview

Mrs. Ethel B. Martin
12226 Martin Road, R.D.
Medina, New York

Ethel Britt Martin was born Nov. 25, 1889.

The interview was conducted by Mr. Arden McAllister
of Medina, N.Y. at the Martin home.

M Mrs. Martin

Mc Mr. McAllister





Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to collect information about the historical development of Orleans County by means of tape-recorded conversations with people whose experiences reflect the county's growth.

These tapes and transcriptions will be preserved as educational resources and possible publication (all or in part).

I hereby release this tape and transcription to the Orleans County Historical Association.

Ethel B. Martin

Signed

Dec. 6th 1979

Date

Understood and agreed to:

Arden R. McAllister

INTERVIEWER

Dec. 6th 1979

Date

For the Orleans County Historical Association, Dec.6, 1979,
Mr. Arden McAllister of Medina, N.Y. is interviewing
Mrs. Ethel Britt Martin of Martin Road, Medina, N.Y. at
the Britt home.

Mc Mrs. Martin, I would like to begin this interview by asking
you when and where you were born.

M I was born in the Town of Ridgeway November 25, 1889; Ninety
years ago at the place where my father was born. It's on the
Bates Road, where Anderson lives. ... My Grandfather moved
up from Madison County and he had to take this place on the
Bates Road until later in the summer. So, my father was born
in June at the same place, and then moved over onto the Ridge,
where Bozard lives now. Then my father bought this place on
the Bates Road. I was born there as well as my four brothers.

Mc What was your father's name?

M Bruce Britt.

Mc And what was your mother's name?

M My mother's name was Kate. She was a Britt. They were distant
cousins. ...

Mc Mrs. Martin, would you name your brothers?

M My father was married before, and his wife died, and there was
one girl: Mabel. So I had a half-sister, and she lived with
her Grandparents until she was about 16. Then she came to our
house and lived. Then I had the four brothers: Edwin, Orren,
Claude and Paul.

Mc I think the Britts are related to Mr. J. Howard Pratt (Gaines,
New York) in some way?

M Right! J. Howard Pratt is my first cousin. His mother and my
father were brother and sister. I am very proud of Howard.
He is quite a lad. ... He was 90 years old in August, and I
was 90 years old in November. So, we are that near and we
have always been very close.

Mc Mrs. Martin, were you related to the early pioneer in Ridgeway:
Jeremiah Brown?

M Yes. He lived on the farm that Horace Bird has (Jeddo, N.Y.). I
have been able to trace it that far. Yes, I was a descendent of
his, I understand. (NOTE: See H. Bird transcript)

Mc What did your father do for a living?

M Well, he was a farmer most of the time. He was like some other young men. He wanted to try something out and he tried painting. He told me that he painted the house on the Bates Road, where Charley Ward used to live. Do you remember that lovely house on the west side of the road? He used to tell me that he worked on that. But it was just for a short period of time, then he went back and was a farmer.

My father built greenhouses, two of them, before we left the Bates Road. So, I had experience in that - I used to have to water the plants sometimes. You would have to do that when the sun wasn't shining. He put up two large greenhouses.. I call them large: 60 foot they were. That was quite a good sized building. My mother enjoyed working with him, transplanting. She'd often have a girl come to do the house work and she would go and help Father. It was a change for her, so that was nice. Those greenhouses on the Bates Road, Andersons are using them. I've been there and got plants. (Note: Anderson's Greenhouse).

Father left the farm in 1908 and he went into Medina, on Hedley Street. Then he was in the coal business, over on Gwinn Street... That was about 1909 because that was when I was going to school. I went to school in Middleport.

Mc I want to ask you about your first school Mrs. Martin.

M Let's go away back to District #2. That was Ridgeway. You know where that is? It was a large brick school. It's a dwelling now. We had a higher room, and a primary room. In the winter time, the older boys would come to school. You see, they didn't have to work on the farm and they would come to school in the winter. They got some education that way.

Mc Wasn't there another little school on the Bates Road, near you?

M Yes but we weren't in that District. We didn't belong there, so I never went there.

I had about a mile and a half to go to school, from the Bates Road up to Ridgeway.

Mc How did you get to the school?

M With my two feet most of the time, excepting when it was real bad. Then they would hitch up the horse and take us. There

would be two or three of us walking home in the snow, and we'd say that they had nothing to do so why didn't they hitch up the horse and come and get us?! But of course that didn't hurt us to walk that mile and a half. Very often someone would give us a ride.

Mc Mrs. Martin, you started to say that there were two teachers and two rooms?

M There were two rooms: the primary room, and the advanced grades. I think it was fifth, sixth and seventh and eighth. We didn't have a kindergarten in those days. But the kids would come very young and they'd stay in the primary room. We often had a man teacher in the winter because as I told you, we would have these older boys and they needed better guidance than the ladies (female teachers) would be for them.

I don't think you ever knew Lee Wells? He taught there one winter; I can remember. And, I think, Jay Oakes from down on the Lyndonville Road, was there one winter. I can remember: the boys would really wrestle with the teacher!! Yes, I can remember that!

Mc Some of them were kind of tough boys?

M That's why they needed a man teacher. They didn't have respect for the woman, I guess, that you would expect them to have. So, they usually had a man for mid-winter; then a lady would come in for spring and fall.... The salary back when I taught school was \$10.00 a week, and I paid \$2.50 for my board. ...

Mc You went through the eight grades at the Ridgeway school, and then where?

M Then I went to Medina. I hadn't passed all my preliminaries, so I couldn't go into the high school. I hadn't got my Geography so I could not sit in the eighth grade. I sat in the seventh grade. I went in the fall and went into January; then I tried all my preliminaries. I can remember the teacher coming along and saying, "Now be careful! It all depends on this, Ethel. You have everything else. Be careful!" Oh, this made me nervous!

M Mr. Bartlett was the Superintendent... He was very nice. If I met him on the street he would say, "Ethel, how are you getting along?" I remember telling him about my drawing. I said, "I wish I didn't have that and then I could spend more time on the preliminaries". And he said, "You don't have to take it". So I dropped it and took it up the next year. And I got into the High School in January, as I had planned.

Mc Where was the school at that time?

M It was the old High School; the old Academy I think they used to call it. ... I never had to go in the eighth grade. I finished up and went into High School in January. I was so happy about that!

Mc How did you get back and forth (from your home to the school)? You were still living with your family on the Bates Road?

M We were still living on the Bates Road and every Monday morning I went in to school. My father would take me. Those were the days of basket-boarding. You took the food for a week. You paid one dollar a week and you had the same pie for five or six days, and a loaf of bread. And you'd take all your meats, like that. Living on a farm as we did, my father would often take a bushel of potatoes in, and vegetables, that the people that I lived with could use.

Mc Who did you board with, Mrs. Martin?

M Nathan Gilbert. I wonder if you knew him?

Mc I knew him very well.

M Well, Mr. Gilbert and his wife.. you see, I had known her. She had taught at Ridgeway. I was very lucky to get in there. They were just like a mother and a father.... I lived with them until, well, way late. She was older when she had her first child, and then I had to leave and go to another place and board for a while.

I went up to Middleport one year for teacher training and I basket-boarded. My father would take me on Monday morning. Hattie Kitteridge was my teacher.

Mc One year was all that was required (for teacher training)?

M Yes. I was very ill, so I couldn't go to my graduation. I remember my mother got my dress all made, and it hung there.

E. Hadden 4 1/2



Ethel Pratt with
three other employees
429 Main Street, Reeds



Oak Orchard on the Ridge School. Taught grades 1-8
1909-1911 at \$10.00 per week for 32 weeks.

I had a very severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism. I remember the Friday after I finished the exams. I was so cold, and I ached from head to toe! I went to bed, then I got up the next morning and came down and tried to wipe the dishes... I couldn't do it. Mother put me back in bed, and I was in bed until way along in August. I never thought I'd make it. ... Wasn't that funny. I didn't have it afterwards. That's when I had Doctor Goodsel.

Mc In those days the doctor probably came to your house?

M He came to the house, and that man would sit maybe an hour, talking to me about my condition and all because I think it must have been something very unusual. I tell you somebody else that had it and that was Nellie Mallison. She had it before I did. But it was very unusual. As I say, it was August before I got around and I wanted to go to my school. I hadn't got the report of my exam and I said to Mother, "You look at the letter and if I didn't pass, don't say anything!" (laughter) You know how kids worry!! ... In August they always had their school meetings, and my father took me. I thought I would like to get on the trolley line so I could go back and forth, and live at home. But I didn't. Many others had the same idea.

I went over on the Ridge (Road) to Oak Orchard; that's where I taught. I lived with Mr. and Mrs. Stinson. Do you know Maynard?

Mc Only by name; yes.

M He was the grandson. I had him in school.

Mc What year did you graduate?

M I graduated in 1909.

Mc And you got your first teaching job at Oak Orchard on the Ridge?

M Yes, for \$10.00 a week and \$2.50 for your board. I had very good board. Of course they furnished everything; I mean the bed linen and everything. You didn't have to do that. We took our own food.

Mc Where did you teach next, Mrs. Martin?

M I taught two years down there then I came up here to the school on the Bigford Road. ... I had been there probably a couple of weeks and a knock came at the door. I went to the door and here

was this nice looking young man. He wanted to borrow a book for his father. His father belonged to the Maple Ridge Culture Club and they had to write different topics, a paper on that.... Anyway, I went back to the library, which was not very extensive and I got a book and gave it to him. But his father did not want the book. That was (just) the excuse he had (used) to come to the school. The young man asked me if I would like to go into Buffalo the next day. We didn't have movies at that time, but we had stage shows. They had matinees and then an evening play. So I went, early in the morning, with him and had dinner. We went to the matinee and we stayed for the evening. I landed in Medina at 2:30 in the morning!! He had no way to get back home because he had not driven the horse down. So, my mother called out and said that Charlie's father had called and said that if he would call him, he would come and get him. (But) he kept right on walking. He says, "I'll walk home. I know better than to call my father at 2:30 in the morning, to come and get me!" That was the beginning of our romance.

Mc What was the young man's name?

M Charles Edgerton Martin.

Mc Did he have the farm that was nearby the school?

M Yes, he was on the farm then. We were married in 1912.

Mc Where did the wedding ceremony take place?

M In the home at 124 Hedley Street.

Mc Oh yes. Your people had moved from the farm into Hedley Street. Did you go on a honeymoon?

M Well, we went to Buffalo. We had planned to go to California. He had gotten the farm work all taken care of. It was October 8th, 1912 that we were married. About the 6th, it was on a Saturday, they were filling silo and his father got cut on some of the pipe. Of course the juice from the corn was on the.. whatever it was .. he got cut with. They called the doctors. Doctor Maynard was one of them, and Doctor Eckerson. His father had blood poison in that, right away; it developed. We were to be married on a Tuesday, and on Monday they had to take (his father the finger off. They had to remove it. It was done in the home. ... Therefore we didn't know how things were going to be. But we kept on planning, and we were married on Tuesday.

Of course, Father Martin couldn't come, and there was a nurse there taking care of him. After the family had left (for the ceremony) he had her go and get his clothes, his good suit, because he was coming down to see us married. Well, she got the clothes out, but he wasn't strong enough to get dressed and come. It wouldn't do. It satisfied him, I suppose, that she got the clothes. After we were married and some of the guests had gone, I didn't throw my bouquet as they usually do. I took it and brought it out to Father Martin. Then we went to Buffalo on our honeymoon. We got back the next day. I did help clean up after the wedding. He came back to do the farm work. So we didn't go to California until, oh land!... it was after the family had grown up. Then we took our trip. ... We drove; we had a new car.

Mc Who performed the wedding ceremony, Mrs. Martin?

M It was Rev. Vail from Albion. He was a Universalist from the Pullman Church. ...

Mc Did you continue teaching (after your marriage)?

M No, I was busy on the farm. ... It was four years, I think, before I had any family.

Mc How many children did you have?

M I had four boys and one girl. The eldest one is Warren, then Charles, then Bruce, Pauline and then Roland.

Mc You had quite a family!

M I had the same number that my mother had. She had four boys and one girl. I was the eldest one.

Mc Did you return to teaching after the children were grown?

M Yes. That must have been during World War II because my boys, you see, went into service. ... I came down here to this brick schoolhouse on the corner of Wheeler and the East Shelby Road. Doctor Roach was the doctor that came out there. You know they'd come around to your school. And really, that was a dangerous place to have a school! We didn't have any play yard. Sometimes some of the farmers would let the boys and girls play ball in another field around there. But I worried. I think I dare say that was a wonderful experience. I didn't know how the "other half" of the world lived until I got down there.

Mc Would you tell us a little about how they lived?

M Well, I would find some of the sandwiches and such things on the shelves when I got ready to close the school. And I would throw those all out because that was only bait for mice, which we had around there. ... I opened some of the sandwiches, and for a filler they had cabbage leaves!! I mean, they weren't the choice of heart. Really, that was true! Therefore, I went to having hot meals at noon. I had a spoon in one hand and a book in the other. It was just an old oak stove with just one burner on top. You would have to go there and keep stirring whatever you had cooking. I was very fortunate. The mothers would send in food, a casserole or something.

When I taught up in White Pigeon School, we had a brand new table that the District got us. The Medina District; that was Mr. Wise. It was a lovely table. I set that table up and they brought their dishes. Each one brought their own dishes and silver and we'd have one hot dish. We all sat around that table. Grace was said, and it was a regular family gathering. It looked so tempting that when the Art teacher came out there one day (that was Mr. Bull.. do you remember him?), he said he would like to eat dinner with us. So I invited him to sit down. And he did.

(end of side one of taped interview)

Mc Where was the White Pigeon School located, Mrs. Martin?

M On the East Shelby Road, seven or eight miles out of Medina. ... Could I tell you that they used to bring water to us? Do you remember Everett Britt? He was the janitor of the (Medina) High School. They brought a big can of water out for me to have there. They used to say, "If there is anything you want, tell us and we will get it for you". And I guess they would.

Mc Was Louella Hoyer the Superintendent of Schools at that time?

M That's right! She was a dear friend of mine.

Mc A very capable person.

M And a very congenial person. Everybody liked her. I think the members of the District liked her. I never heard any complaints. She was always very nice to me I know.

- Mc The centralization of Medina School District must have taken place right about that time.... What did you do?
- M They wanted to put in a new floor up there. The floor was built right on the dirt and the cracks were about like that (demonstrates). When it was a cold day, I used to take newspapers and put them right over the tops of those and we would get back by the stove. They told me if it got too bad, to close the school. Of course if you kept it open only for one hour, that counted for a day.

So anyway, the last year I was up there, they were going to come up and lay a new floor there. Well, those seats all had to come out and the new floor put in. It would have been a real expensive job. I said to Mr. Wise, "I don't see why you do it. You are not going to use this after another year, and think of the expense! You might better let me come when it is suitable. ... Even if we close the school, it would be cheaper than to lay a new floor". ... I couldn't see going to all that expense. ...

- Mc So they did close the school, and then you went into the Medina school system?

- M Yes, they closed all the District schools. ... I said that I didn't want to teach anymore. I was through. The boys were getting out of the service. Well, I was sitting there and the telephone rang. They had hired a teacher for this retarded group (of students), but she didn't come. They called and wanted to know if I would take (the job). "Well", I said, "I really hadn't had special training for it". They thought I had. So, that's what I did, (Taught remedial reading), and I got along, I think, very well there. I had one or two that were quite problems, but I would send them over to the office. I was in the Central School, upstairs in the High School... (Note: For further information and pictures of schools in the Medina School District, see the transcript of the interview with Clifford Wise, # 1). *in Public Library*).

- Mc Let's go back and talk a little bit about some of your memories of when you were a farm woman.
- M You want my experiences on the farm? Well that will be quite something. I had had some experience at home because we had a

family. As I say, very soon after we were married I came right out to the farm and I had threshers for one whole week! And they stayed over night. There would be four of them. And everything was so new. I covered up my nice, new table that I had. It had a pedestal, and I covered that over with carpeting so they wouldn't mar the standard part of it. Then we used the red tablecloth for them. I had 12 or 14 for a meal. I baked bread every day, and churned and made butter every day, and made dessert.

Mc Did you have to do this all by yourself?

M Yes, unless somebody came in and helped a little bit. You would have a great big plateful of bread to put on the table to start with. That was passed around and it was empty, and then you'd get that filled again. (Mrs. Martin then repeats this experience)

Mc That was some experience for a bride!! (laughter).

M Whether it was the men or not, they didn't get sick! (laughter)

Mc Did the farm also have some hired men as regular workers?

M Yes. We had a tenant house right up here. We burned that down since we came up here, or the remains. We had a tenant house here, and then one down there.. You know where Roland lives? Well, across the way there was another house over there which we called the Rorick House. We had a man living there. We had two. Sometimes I had to board one for a time.

Mc Did you ever have to have a large number of people during the harvesting?

M Yes. When we did that, we'd have 12 to 14.

Mc Where did you usually find those workers?

M Right around your home area. There were some men that would do that business right along, you know. A little threshing. I don't remember the salaries. It was not very high, but they got their dinner and their supper. Then if you had the threshers, a good many times they would stay overnight and you would have to get their breakfast for them. And we didn't have dishwashers and such things! ... I'm telling you, it was a lot!

Mc In those early days, did you have to go outside to the well to get the water?

M Oh yes. But I didn't have to because Charlie had to have water

put in the house and we had steam heat. We had a nice bathroom, and that was unusual in those days.

Mc Did you have electricity?

M No; we had what we called the Delco System. It was gas. ... All of a sudden that would go bad and you would have to go and put water in, or something. Surely during the evening when you had company, something like that would happen. But that was wonderful. We had that, and we had the steam heat put in which was very, very nice! Now, Roland has had that big house insulated and, oh, it is so much warmer!

Mc Did you do a lot of canning in those days, Mrs. Martin?

M Yes, we had to do canning. We didn't do any freezing in those days but I did do a lot of canning. I was married in October and I had canned a lot of things at my home all ready to take to our new home.

Mc When you first lived on the farm, you probably had horses?

M Yes, we had horses. No tractors at all, not at first. We did have a car, but you put those away in the fall. You couldn't run a car in the winter.

Mc But you did have a car when you were first married?

M Yes. I went with him and helped pick that out. I remember the salesman took me for a ride and he said, "How would you like to ride in this all the fall, or this winter?" I said, You need not present any ideas at all. Of course I'd like the car and would enjoy it". But the salesman was just a teasing, you know. He took me for that ride and Charlie bought that car. I don't think we have any pictures of it but it was one you let the top down.

Mc Touring cars, I guess they called them. Do you know what kind it was?

M Maxwell. Then we had a seven passenger Mitchell. I've forgotten where he got that. I know I belonged to a Card Club and I thought "How nice it would be if I could drive that big car around and pick them (other members) all up. And I did!

Mc You must have learned to drive quite early?

M Yes, I did. I had to or else I didn't get anywhere. We had a Ford Roadster that I used to drive quite a bit. I didn't drive the Maxwell so much. We got the larger car and I drove that. I took the children back and forth to school to Medina. That was before we had other transportation for them.

We closed the school up here. Got down to one or two pupils and it didn't pay to hire a teacher out there.

Do you remember Mr. Holman? He was the first ~~gone~~ (school bus driver). He had part of a station wagon, or something, and he carried the children back and forth. Mabel Snell had one (a child) going to school down there; High School. We used to take turns taking them back and forth, until we got the transportation busses.

Mc I suppose living on a farm, you raised a lot of your own food? ... Do remember the old grocery wagons that used to come by?

M Well, indeed I do!! Jenny's had one, up here to East Shelby and it was quite a large one. Of course you could call in the morning and say that you wanted so and so; say a sack of flour. or something extra like that. He would bring it along to you. We used to buy sugar and flour by the barrel.

Mc Where would you go on Saturday nights? Would you usually buy your groceries on Saturday nights?

M We would go into Medina (on Saturday night). That was our big time to go. Some people would go real early and get their car parked. Then they would walk back home. That would be the people in town. Then they'd come back and sit in their car all of the evening. ... Now on Saturday evening, they aren't even open down there. Are they?

Mc Not any more.

M Saturday night was the big night!

Mc All so very big, until World War II.

M My father had a Meat Market , over across from Maxwell's. Do you remember that?

Mc No, I didn't know about that.

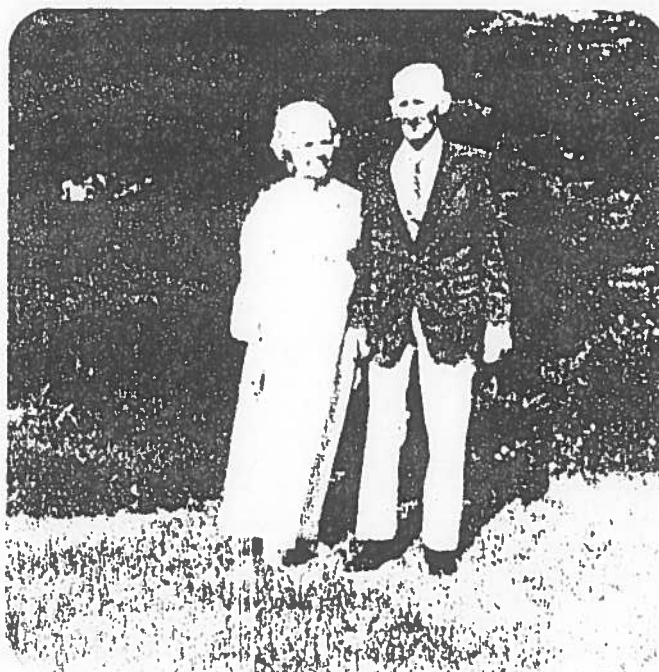
E. Martin

12 1/2



Happy 80th Birthday

Ethel B. Martin - Nov. 25, 1969



Mr. and Mrs. Charles Martin 1972

M He had a Meat Market there for a time. Of course we got our meat there, and we would end up there Saturday night, and then come on home. But we didn't always go on Saturday night like some people did.

Mc Saturday night was a sort of social event, as well as going into town for groceries and shopping in general?

M Yes. Of course you had some of it brought to your home with what we called "grocery carts". We had one here, in Millville, Otis Lyman. I traded with him for quite some time; and with Jenny's up to East Shelby. It was a great big help to have those.

Mc I suppose sometimes on Saturday nights you would go to the movies?

M No, we didn't. But that was a popular thing to do. ... I wasn't a great hand to go, but some people went all the time. ... They would have matinees and you would try to get your children in to go and see something like that. I remember I did.

Mc Do you remember the circus, Mrs. Martin?

M Oh yes!

Mc Where would you usually go?

M We went to Buffalo. We always tried to take the children when they were small. We used to have some (a circus) around town once in a while, but they were small ones.

Mc Did you ever go to Bent's Opera House (in Medina) ?

M Yes. I remember when we lived down to the farm; I came up there to a matinee one afternoon. ...

Mc Mr. (Charles) Hood used to put on programs up there, I guess?

M Yes, he did.

Mc (Going back to earlier days:) When you graduated from Medina High School, were you sick at that time?

M I didn't graduate from high school. I went right to Training Class. There were three of us that left school and decided that we wanted to be teachers. We didn't have to be high school

graduates to go into a Training Class. There was Rena Clay. Do you remember her father? He was a minister over to Shelby Center. I keep in touch with her; she is in Lockport. Then there was Edna Alchon. You remember the Alchons: Jessie and Edna? No, we didn't graduate from high school. There were the three of us got in (Training Class) and we went on and then went right to teaching. ... I've been to summer school and things like that, to get refresher courses.

Mc What about your religious life, Mrs. Martin?

M I always used to go to the Universalist Church at Ridgeway. Now, of course, the Universalist Church isn't there. Yes, I always went there. I'd take my brothers and we'd go to Sunday School and church. Then when I came to Medina, I went to the Methodist (Church) for a while because I had some friends there. Then, when I was going to be married - oh, did you ever know Mabel Tinkham? She married a Pintler. Well, she lived on the corner of Hedley and West Avenue. She was going to be married the same fall that I was. They wanted her to be married in the church. She was a member of the Methodist Church there. Well, I wasn't. I had always gone to the Universalist Church. Charlie was a Presbyterian. I have forgotten who was the Presbyterian man (Pastor) there, but he (Charlie) didn't care for him for some reason or other and wanted to have Mr. Vail. So we had (Rev.) Vail come right to our house. We were married at home. They had home weddings more then. ... (see page 7).

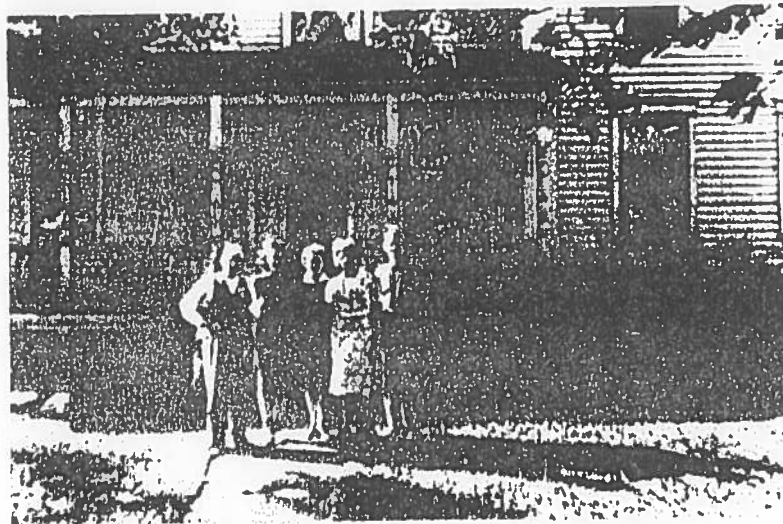
Mc You had a rather popular Sunday School teacher at the Methodist Church?

M Yes, Mrs. Mack. She was a Matron in the Eastern Star (organization). I was an officer in the Eastern Star after I was married.

Then I got my family and couldn't get back and forth very well to go to the meetings, so I had to discontinue that. But I really enjoyed the Eastern Star work. It was a very nice group.

Mc You have been a member of the Presbyterian Church in Medina for a number of years.

M Yes I have. I joined there finally. We had quite a celebration



A. Bartlin

14 1/2

The
Barnstead

11906 Bartlin Road
Bedford, N.Y.

Charles Bartlin

(The right)



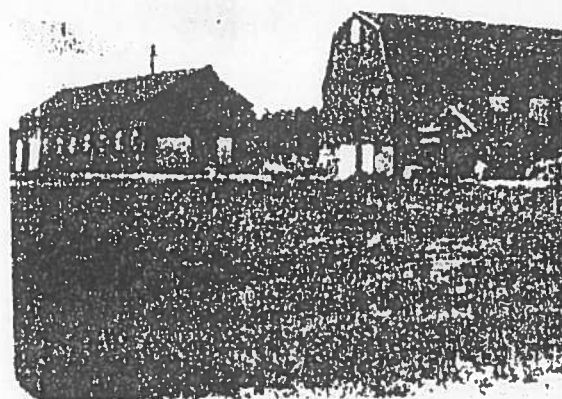
11906

The Barnstead

11906 Bartlin Road, Bedford

Photograph
of
Charles Bartlin

Roland Bartlin's Barn
1931



for my 90th down there. They wanted it. The girls thought I wasn't strong enough. They wanted to have a reception or something on my 90th birthday. I finally decided that I didn't see why I couldn't go downstairs and sit in a chair there, and they could come and greet me. (I thought it wouldn't tire me too much) if I didn't talk a lot and if they wouldn't; and if they came along and shook hands with me. And that's the way I did it. ... It was all very nice. ... Then we had a family gathering. We went up to the Apple Grove (local dining spot). You know, they have that room. We had it all to ourselves and we had our family all together. Oh that was a big one! I wish you could have seen the plants! And the cards!

Mc That was just wonderful!

M Yes it was, a big event. And that's when I got my tag. One of my nieces came out with that. It's got my 90 right on there. So that was really something. I am still getting things and it makes me feel as if I have never done anything for anybody. ...

Mc You have mentioned the church and the Eastern Star. What other organizations?

M Well, I belonged to the Medina Study Club. I have been very active in that right along. ... I've been a member of the Home Bureau for a long time. ... I belong to the Twigs (in connection with the Medina Memorial Hospital). I worked there until we finally disbanded our group. (Forsythia Twig). We did quite a bit, were quite active and I enjoyed that. ... Than, as I say, I was a Sunday School teacher.

Mc What about the Red Cross?

M Some time ago I did do Red Cross work. I also helped on the Red Cross Blood Bank. I had a list that I had to call, for donors. ... I guess I have had quite a few things. ...

Mc You have mentioned travel. On your second honeymoon you went to California. Have you had other trips Mrs. Martin?

M I have been to California four times. Isn't that wonderful!? We have driven, and we flew. And I don't know how many times we have been to Florida. You see, I have a son in Florida: Charles. They live in Orlando (Florida). Warren was here for my birthday, from California. He flew out. He was here for about four week. We had quite a time.

Mc Do you have any special memories of the first World War?

M I'll tell you what. That was pretty soon after we were married. Charlie thought he had to go (into the service) for a time. You know, they were hollering about their taking the farmers; that they were needed back here. Finally he got by without going, but he was called in for a physical. That far.

Mc Did the flu epidemic, at that time, hit your family? Quite a few people were ill.

M No, but I would say that my brother was ill. I remember that he had pneumonia. We got by with that very well.

Mc Do you remember Armistice Day, Mrs. Martin?

M Oh yes! They had a false one. Do you remember? ... I remember that one of my boys was little. He took a bell and we ran out with a flag, I guess. He ran to the men and told them. Charlie said, "It doesn't sound good to me, I'm afraid". And, you remember, it was a false alarm (Armistice).

Mc Yes, it was two or three weeks before the real Armistice.

M Then they came out, some men. We had a big dinner bell. Now I've forgotten if this was in the foundry or where, and they put the bell on the truck. Charlie told them they could take it. They'd go around, I suppose, ringing that bell through streets and country! Oh yes, that was quite a day!!

I had a brother, Warren, who had pneumonia during that time, in New York. He was very, very bad and my people went down. It was the second time he had it; but he got through. ... I had no one that was crippled or injured, or anything, in the first World War.

(end of taped interview)

The interview was conducted by Mr. Arden McAllister of Medina, at the Martin home.

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