

Louise Butler: Old Store Building

LB: So, a lot of things went on here when the old store building was there. And Mr. Butler was in the store building. Of course he had a grist mill out there, you know. In the other building beside the old store building.

CT: Oh.

LB: And there was a water hole right behind the old store, just a great big hole that they used the water out of to run the mill, the grist mill.

CT: Hm.

LB: And after Jimmy, of course they sold that, we sold that grist mill, and Jimmy has been working on it. He has bricked around, around, trying to save that hole. He didn't want to fill it up because it had so many, so many memories. There's been animals that would fall in it and horses that would get in it and at one time, Jimmy's, Jay's friends, Jimmy's boy, was up here in a truck, I don't know what he was doing, but they were out there piddling around, and it was at night, and he ran his truck in that hole [laughter]. They had to go get some tractor to pull him out.

Louise Butler: Hog Killing

LB: And it was a gathering place, of course, and when hog killing weather time came, this was a place they all gathered to kill hogs, the neighbors and all. They had a place out there behind the barn and they would all kill hogs together.

CT: UmHm.

LB: And I remember one time Mr. Butler had had a heart attack and he was in the bed and wasn't able to kill, to help kill hogs, and it was dry weather during that time, and we had to haul the water from over to the creek to kill the hogs.

CT: Richland Creek?

LB: Yeah, Richland Creek. And of course Jim had to help with that, but that was always a good time. I know when they would, the first, the time they would kill hogs, Mrs. Butler, I don't know if you've ever heard of stews that they used to make when they would kill hogs, you know. From out of the liver and the lights and the meat. I don't know what all she put in it but it was awful good.

CT: UmHm.

LB: You can't buy things like that now that make it taste fresh like that killing the hogs did. Fresh hogs.

Louise Butler: Conway School and History of the Place

CT: Did your husband go to the Conway School?

LB: He went to Conway, yeah, part of the time, and then he went to Elkton, too. He went to Conway School in earlier parts. I think Mr. Athee Hardy was teaching down there, and I remember Jim telling a tale. He had some friends. Of course he had a lot of friends, but this boy, I won't mention his name, was down there, and was what they call a bully, you know, he was always into everything. One day, during class, he was chewing some gum and he was popping it and carrying on. And Mr. Hardy told him to get up and go throw his gum out. And he said, "I cain't, it ain't mine, it's Dessie Mae's." [laughter] He was always carrying on some foolishness. This old house is, I don't know how old it is, but I'm sure it's way over a hundred years old, the original house. But there's an old

cedar tree out here in the front. A huge thing. It needs cutting down, but it's been here way before the house was built and Jimmy just said he wasn't going to cut it down until it just fell down. It's part of the history of the place.