

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #421 - Sides A/B

Subject: Eunice Jordan On Battle Mountain & Drewsey

Date: September 14, 1998

Place: Jordan Home - Drewsey, Oregon

Interviewers: Helen Davis & Dorothea Purdy

DOROTHEA PURDY: Okay, here we go. This is Dorothea Purdy, and we're at the home of Eunice Jordan and she is going to talk to us a little bit about Battle Mountain. And Helen Davis is here with us. The date is September the 14th, 1998.

You're going to have to start all over.

EUNICE JORDAN: Mrs. Poer and Oliver and Bryan, they're all buried down here at Drewsey.

HELEN DAVIS: They're buried at Drewsey. Well there is a Poer that is buried up there in the Muller Cemetery, because I got it down on the headstone. There is a headstone there.

EUNICE: Buried where?

HELEN: Up at the Muller --- there on Johnny Sword's ---

EUNICE: Oh, yeah.

HELEN: Now there is one Poer ---

EUNICE: In the Muller Cemetery.

HELEN: Yeah.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: There is one Poer that is buried there, and nobody knows why he was buried there.

EUNICE: Well that might have been Grandpa Poer.

HELEN: Could have been. Now see I didn't bring that information with me, and I should have, now that I find out I'm not talking about the poor house --- P O O R.

EUNICE: Oh, you thought that's what it was.

HELEN: Yeah, I thought it was the poor house. (Laughter) That's the way it was spelled in the paper. See somebody didn't know.

EUNICE: No. And then Mrs. Dietrich --- now what was Ella's name? There is another sister, Ella, and another sister. I can't remember. And then there was a Mrs. Van Zant, she was related to Poers, and she lived over around Canyon or Seneca, over in that area.

HELEN: Well I'll have to go back to that centennial notes now and look and see what else they had. But I just wrote this much down. I wanted to know where the "poor house" was in the Pine Creek area. Instead of that they were talking about people.

EUNICE: You was thinking of a place where they kept people.

HELEN: Yeah, yeah, that's what I thought. Because this man lived there at that place, and his daughter came out to see him.

EUNICE: No, they lived up there.

DOROTHEA: What was the man's name?

HELEN: I don't have the first name. They just have S H E R O T T, and he was the father of Chris L A C H M A N. And they come out to see the father, so I figured it was like a county place where they keep the old people and that ---

EUNICE: No, not.

HELEN: --- because they can't stay home by themselves, and the family can't take care of them.

EUNICE: Well that's where they lived. Now I can't remember Mr. Poer, but I can

remember Mrs. Poer real well. She was a big heavy-set lady. And she lived up there at Pine Creek, or somewhere near the Vanderveer place. And she used to bring garden stuff to Drewsey in her little old hack and a team.

HELEN: Well now I think on Bentz's place, as you go in past their feed lot, there were buildings off over on the right hand side, and I think those people lived there. It was up hill on Bentz's, on that side of the road as you're going that way. And I can't remember now, I'm sure that was what Alicia told us. And I said well we had been up to the Muller Cemetery, and one of those people, a man, was buried in that cemetery. And it would match up with, you know, not taking him too far, and not going to Drewsey. Then I pick up the name in Drewsey, where the people had moved when they left, where these houses were. And they go into Drewsey, evidently, and there are several buried there, of that last name, P O E R.

EUNICE: Poer, yeah.

HELEN: And there are several buried in the Drewsey Cemetery.

EUNICE: Well I know Mrs. Poer, and Oliver, and Bryan and I don't know where Ella is. I know she passed away, but I don't know where she is buried. And I don't know how many of them are buried in the Muller Cemetery.

HELEN: Just one, just one name.

EUNICE: One name.

HELEN: I think we could see where some other graves, but we don't know who they were.

EUNICE: I think the Dietrich; I think there are some little ones of the Dietrich's. And they were related to Poer, she was a Poer, Mrs. Dietrich.

HELEN: I think I remember seeing that name too in the cemetery at Drewsey. Okay, I guess we got that figured out. Now I know now that it was supposed to have been

spelled ---

Okay, let's talk then about this Battle Mountain. When you was first here, living here and everything when you were born, did they signify an area known as Battle Mountain? Did you go up north ---

EUNICE: It used to be part, what they called, well part of the Riley place, was in what they called the reservation, part of Riley's. But I don't know how much, or any description of it. Did you ever talk to Tom Howard?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

EUNICE: He can probably tell you more about that than I can. But I know that --- oh, well they was having an argument with --- Bouvian (sp.?) was having an argument with Bentz on the water and everything. And when the Riley place --- it was still in the reservation when they got that water right for the Riley Ranch. So --- I don't know how far down it came. But Tom, he could probably tell you more about that Indian deal.

I called Beverly, I thought maybe she might have gone with Lloyd and Buzz when they --- they had to cross the river, they left their horses and then waded the river and went up --- on the face of the cliff, it's this way, it's straight up and down. They had to go way back around and then come out. And all they found was some rusty beer cans!

HELEN: Well they're always a telltale, you know who has been there.

EUNICE: Some of the hunters had ---

HELEN: Yeah. On that map that I had, and I just showed it to Dorothea, because it shows the Malheur River ---

Okay, here is your Battle Mountain, and it is supposed to be on Bentz's place. And here goes your river right there, the Malheur River. Then over here they got Moffet table.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: And this is where this big battle was supposed to have been with the army and

the Indians.

EUNICE: Yeah. See our allotment was over on this side, and when they went up there they had to cross the river to get over ---

HELEN: To get over there.

EUNICE: --- there. Yeah. Yeah, we crossed that Moffet table a good many times horseback.

HELEN: Uh huh. And at that time you knew it was Battle Mountain?

EUNICE: Huh?

HELEN: It was, they identified that area as Battle Mountain at that time?

EUNICE: Uh huh. Yeah, well it is still called Battle Mountain.

HELEN: Yeah. That's what I'm wondering is when did they first start calling it Battle Mountain.

EUNICE: Well it was long before my time.

HELEN: Whenever you was a kid? Or before you were born?

EUNICE: Probably before I was born. Yeah, because that happened before I was born.

HELEN: Okay, you were born in 1908.

EUNICE: Yeah.

DOROTHEA: Okay, I'm going to ask a question. What is Battle Mountain? Why did they call it Battle Mountain? Is it an Indian fight, or what was it?

EUNICE: Yeah, it was an Indian ---

HELEN: It was supposed to have been one that was quite a fight, in other words. More than --- it wasn't just a skirmish, it was supposed to have been really a ---

DOROTHEA: A battle.

HELEN: --- a battle.

EUNICE: Really a battle, I guess.

HELEN: And it consisted of a lot of army and a lot of Indians. Because I asked Lloyd Louie if he knew anything about it, and he didn't know ---

DOROTHEA: Know.

HELEN: --- see if his grandfather, Captain Louie, if he ever talked of it. And he couldn't remember, you know --- if being a kid certain things would stay in his mind, but other things you might hear, but you don't remember.

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HELEN: And then sometimes somebody just talking, and then some of that comes back to you.

EUNICE: Well are there any of the older Indians left over there?

HELEN: Well I can't remember. I'm older than Lloyd ---

EUNICE: That they could talk or know.

HELEN: Okay, you've got Maude and you've got Rena Beers, and I think Rena Beers is about the oldest one, I'm not sure. But whether --- it's a toss up, I think, between her and Maude, and I can't tell you what Maude's last name is, I just know who she is. And then there is another lady that is with Maude lots of times, and I don't have her name down on this. But --- and I would have been under the impression that this lady is not as old as what Maude is, but I could be wrong. And that's about the oldest people they have. Because that one Teeman, and I don't remember his name now, but he just died here lately.

EUNICE: Yeah, so ---

HELEN: He lived at old camp all the time, and he was a Teeman.

EUNICE: Teeman.

HELEN: Uh huh.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: But I can't remember what his first name --- I'd have to see the obituary now to see what his first name was. Because I didn't ever think about him being somebody that might know, you know, having heard it when he was a kid.

EUNICE: Old Billy and Martha Washington, they've been dead a long while, haven't they?

HELEN: Pardon?

EUNICE: Billy and Martha Washington.

HELEN: I think they, let's see ---

EUNICE: She used to come over here and wash for Mom when we were still up at the ranch.

HELEN: Oh, okay. Then would George Washington be one of their sons?

EUNICE: Probably, they had two boys and two girls when I was a kid over here.

HELEN: Okay.

EUNICE: And I don't know what the kid's names were. But my two old brothers had a wagon and they'd get them up on kind of a little raise, and then start them off in that --- the two little Indian boys in that wagon, and run them off into the ditch. And their mother said, "Bad boys, bad boys". I can just see her yet. And old Tatsy, he was down here at Drewsey, and he's gone.

HELEN: Who?

EUNICE: Old Tatsy, an Indian. I don't know what his other name was.

HELEN: I think there is a picture of him in that "Lively Little History", if I'm not mistaken. Because I just seen it the other day.

EUNICE: The Indians used to come every summer and help Joe Lillard to hay.

HELEN: Uh huh. Okay, does, Martha Washington then did laundry for your mother?

EUNICE: Uh huh.

HELEN: Okay. And that gives us something to go by too.

EUNICE: She wouldn't, they wouldn't come in and eat. Mom would always fix them something to eat, and they'd all get around in a bunch outside, but they wouldn't come inside to eat.

HELEN: Can you think of something, Dorothea, while you're sitting?

DOROTHEA: I don't know much about this, so I'm not even, I don't even know how to question. I will ask you what your brother's names were.

EUNICE: My brothers? Well I have two half-brothers, that was William and Charles Davis. You probably knew, they called one of them "Wint", you might have know him. I bet you did. You probably knew Bill anyway, because he worked for Cradock's. Uncle Jack and Aunt Mamie were --- their Mother, Bill and Wint's mother was a sister to Aunt Mamie Wintermeier.

DOROTHEA: Okay.

EUNICE: Then there was a half-sister, Ethel, and she married R. O. Williams in Ontario.

DOROTHEA: Married who?

EUNICE: R. O. Williams. The Lillard place used to belong to his father, to Joe Williams. And then their mother died when, the winter Charles was two years old. And then Mom married in 1902, she came from Arizona and California. And then this bunch, there was Cecil, he was the oldest one. Am I going too fast? And then Lyston ---

DOROTHEA: L I S ?

EUNICE: L Y S T O N. And then me, and then Etta and then Clifford.

DOROTHEA: Okay, and what was your maiden name?

EUNICE: Davis. And then Etta married Bert Caviness, and Ethel married R. Williams. And then Charles, he married Johnny Sword's aunt, Martha Muller. He died over there at Burns; he died in '70, March in '70.



HELEN: This Bert Caviness, is he the old fellow that used to work for Jack (Joe?) Fine?

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: Oh, well I know him, knew him.

EUNICE: Oh, well Bert was sure good to me. I liked Bert.

HELEN: He was a nice guy.

EUNICE: We went to ---

DOROTHEA: How to you spell Caviness?

EUNICE: C A V I N E S S.

DOROTHEA: Okay, Caviness.

HELEN: He was quite a mechanic, but he didn't ---

EUNICE: He was a mechanic, a good mechanic.

HELEN: Uh huh, for Jack. Then after Jack was dead, he would help Catherine a lot.

EUNICE: He really liked Catherine.

HELEN: Yeah. She was a nice person.

EUNICE: Yeah. It tickles me every time I think of her when, she

--- was it Helen Davis slapped Catherine, wasn't it? Then Catherine might have slapped her back, she probably did.

HELEN: Well now you know there was another Helen Davis. In fact there was three of us.

EUNICE: Vickers, Helen Vickers.

HELEN: Oh Vickers, okay.

EUNICE: Is the one that slapped her.

DOROTHEA: Slapped who now?

EUNICE: Slapped Catherine Fine.

HELEN: Catherine Fine.

EUNICE: Yeah, poor old Bert, we had to go down to the South End for the state grange deal one time, and then we came back by, especially come back by to see Bert. And he put his arms around me; I thought he was going to choke me. He didn't want us to leave, he just cried. Evidently he ---

HELEN: Who was the person that married Bert?

EUNICE: Huh?

HELEN: Who was the person that married Bert?

EUNICE: Etta.

DOROTHEA: Her sister, Etta.

EUNICE: Etta, my sister.

HELEN: You sister.

EUNICE: Uh huh.

HELEN: Yeah, but what was her name?

EUNICE: Etta.

HELEN: Etta.

EUNICE: Etta.

DOROTHEA: Now your Mom's name was what? What was your mother's name?

EUNICE: Louise, her maiden name was Landing. And they came from, well they came from Arizona to California, and then they came up here in 1901.

HELEN: Could she have been Norwegian?

EUNICE: Huh?

HELEN: Huh?

EUNICE: What?

HELEN: Could she have been Norwegian, your mother?

EUNICE: No.

HELEN: Because I'm going by that last name.

EUNICE: Landing. Her, my grandmother was born in Canada. Her maiden name, my grandmother's maiden name was Hawley, and she was born in Canada. But she married, she was married to ---

HELEN: The reason I ask is that ---

EUNICE: Huh?

HELEN: The reason I'm asking is that, that is a long ways --- ancestors, there, I have a deal that has to do with the Norwegian part of my people.

EUNICE: Ancestors.

HELEN: And they were from Norway. My grandmother was all Norwegian, fully.

EUNICE: Oh.

HELEN: And somebody back east worked up this book, and boy there is names in there that I can't even pronounce, the Norwegian names. But this one name of Landing ---

EUNICE: Mr. Cronin up here, you know, Joe Cronin, his middle name was spelled just exactly like that, my grandmother's, H A W L E Y, was his middle name, and they always kind of thought maybe that he might be ---

HELEN: Related.

EUNICE: --- way back, but nobody ever ---

HELEN: Yeah, there is lots of times ---

EUNICE: Nobody ever tried to find out.

HELEN: Lots of times a mother would take her maiden name and give it, the middle name to a son.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: And that happened lots of times. Did you get the spelling on that?

DOROTHEA: Okay, tell us more about what you can think, or have heard about Battle

Mountain.

EUNICE: About Battle Mountain? Well I'll tell you, I can't tell you anything about Battle Mountain, to be right truthful about it. Only that it was Battle Mountain when ---

HELEN: Well it has been Battle Mountain then for a long time.

EUNICE: That's always been called that as far as I know. And I, there is none of the old, old people left around here that would know.

HELEN: That would have an idea of when it was first named that. Because it would be -- - it would have to do with some of the army stuff.

EUNICE: A lot of people around here now don't even know where it is, or what it is.

HELEN: Well the only reason that I know is because I saw it on this map.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: Got curious. And then Paul Cronin asked me if I had read anything on Battle Mountain. And I said, "Oh yeah, I know Battle Mountain, it is down in Nevada."

EUNICE: Which Cronin?

HELEN: Paul.

EUNICE: Paul.

HELEN: Uh huh. And he said, "No, no, it's up here by Drewsey." And I said, "Never heard of it."

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: So then I went out to the BLM and got a map and it shows Battle Mountain. That was the first I knew we had a Battle Mountain in this country.

EUNICE: That's the first time I ever saw it on a map, is the map you have.

HELEN: Uh huh. And I don't know when this map was done. There is nothing that tells when it was ---

EUNICE: I imagine the BLM would have, it should be on their maps.

HELEN: Well that's where I got this, was from the BLM.

EUNICE: BLM, yeah.

HELEN: And I've got one green book, and it has the Oregon Territory --- see this stuff would have all happened before we were ever Harney County.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: And I think, as far as we can tell, let's see, 1860 some-thing --- 1864 is when Grant County was established.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: Because the gold, the gold field happened in 1862, when they first found gold up here at Canyon City, or Canyonville, or whatever it is, Canyon City. It was two years later when Grant County was established. Before that it was Wasco County.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: So actually our information, again like I say, we don't know when this battle was that they had in this area, whether it Wasco County or --- it would have been in the Oregon Territory as far as I can come up with. It happened at that time. So ---

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: I don't know when Wasco County was established.

EUNICE: It was before ever, that there was any Harney County or anything.

HELEN: Oh yeah, long before that. Because Grant County, like I say, was 1864, and we didn't become a county until 1889.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: There was that much ---

EUNICE: Difference.

HELEN: Grant County was kind of whittled off of Umatilla County also. And I don't have the dates down here on, when they became a county. So I think all that was Wasco at

one time.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: And I was going to look in this, the only thing I have that shows the Oregon Territory. And too many things came up at the last minute, and I didn't get it done.

EUNICE: When you find out where all that reservation was, let me know, will you Helen? I don't know where --- how far down it came. But I know it was ---

HELEN: It took up a lot of land, that first one, because ---

EUNICE: Yeah. It was part of the Riley place, and maybe all of it was under the reservation. Because Vince and Bouvian (sp.?) they had quite a row over that.

HELEN: Well there is a deal that doesn't really show you too much; it just shows you what the reservation was in the beginning. And then, see you took up, over here at Beulah, because the Agency was right off over there.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: And now they mention one skirmish that they had was up over by Castle Rock out here. Now I take for granted your Castle Rock would have been, the name would have been established well before, as a focal point. Well look up over there, that's Castle Rock. Well you go that far, left or right or something, is Castle Rock or something. So they would have had that designated before your Battle Mountain was, ever happened, is my version of how they distinguish where you were at, or where you had to go. And --- I'm under the impression that this battle had to have happened after the miners all rushed in here for the gold, which was in 1862.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: And so I feel that that battle had to have happened after that. Because they had so much trouble with miners down on the Rogue River, where the Rogue River Indians lived. Their big problem in that area, with the settlers and things, was the miners. They

were so mean, and they were just --- see an Indian, well where we going to shoot him, you know.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: And they killed so many Indians, just the miners did.

EUNICE: They just deliberately killed Indians.

HELEN: Target practice.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: And that caused, that was why the Rogue River Indians, when their uproar, and that was about 1853, something like that, to '55, when all that went on. So see that was --  
- And I don't know, they were, most of those miners at that time were all going to California and that.

The Riddle family came in 1851 and settled on Cow Creek down near Canyonville. Then later one of the sons established the Riddle, town of Riddle, he and his second wife. He established the town of Riddle. And it's there at Cow Creek. They had quite a time down there because the Rogue River Indians, well what they did was just like what your Bannock people did here, of getting the other tribes to join in their uprisings.

EUNICE: Uh huh.

HELEN: Which this one here didn't happen until 1878. See so the Rogue River deal was in 1855, '53 to '55. But the Riddles had been there about three years, or maybe it was '54 that it started. Because they had gotten acquainted with the Cow Creek Indians, and then they all got along beautifully. And I was telling Dorothea coming out, there was one boy that was kind of like an orphan in the tribe, and he became ill with something, and it finally killed him. But he stayed with the Riddles, and they took care of him until the day he died.

But the Indians didn't pay any attention to them.

EUNICE: Uh huh.

HELEN: But he and this George Riddle, that writes his history on his family, they were of the same age and spent a lot of time together playing, and all that type of thing. He tells it in his, in the Riddle family history that he writes of. But that was, he says that the miners caused more trouble. It caused the whites trouble with the Indians, because they were so mean, and just like I say, you shoot them for no reason. They wasn't in a fight or anything, they just seemed to want to kill them ...

EUNICE: They just didn't want them in.

HELEN: But, so George he blamed the miners for so much of their problems in that area, in Rogue River and Cow Creek, and down there. So that's --- see I'm trying to associate some of that stuff as time wise, as to what went on up in this country. And, because if they hadn't of had this big battle up here between the Indians and the army --- after, they were getting along before that time, and then when the miners come in then they just upset the apple cart.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: And caused everybody to have all the settlers and the Native Americans, caused them all the squabbling so to speak. But we can't come up --- now Paul said he had read in one of these, I don't know, "True West", or "Frontier Times" magazine, and he can't find it. He don't know what happened to it, but it tells of this battle up here. That's the reason he was asking me about it, if I had come across that.

EUNICE: Oh. If you could just find it.

HELEN: Yeah, if we could just find that magazine, we'd have it made. But he couldn't remember which type of magazine he read it in. And he thought he had it, but he can't find it.

EUNICE: If he could find it, he could probably find all, every-thing you want.

HELEN: If we could find the darn magazine that he had ---



EUNICE: He doesn't know the name of it?

HELEN: No, he couldn't remember what it was, what type. Because there is the "True West", and there is the "Frontier Times", and he has a bunch of those. And then there is some other issues too that they put out. But so much of that stuff is all southwestern, you know, down like Arizona and ---

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: --- New Mexico and that, so many of those stories. And some of them in Nevada. But you don't find too much Oregon stories. But he said there was one, because that is what sparked his interest, because the fact that he had read it at some time. He thought maybe he had gave it to me to read. If I read it, I don't remember it. So I couldn't tell you what magazine it was in. But evidently he has got a lot of them. And I had some that I had read, and had kept and never done anything with them. I gave them to him here awhile back. And I don't think he had a duplicate of the things I gave him. Mine were along in the 1970's.

When I first came, you know, I didn't know people and that kind of thing, and we always went right straight to the mountain, you know, in the spring to the cow camp. So I got a lot of those, and Jim Harden and I would exchange those little pocket book deals. This is Marie Hardin's husband, Jim. And so --- and I don't know what he did with his, and what I had of his I passed on to somebody else, and I don't even know who I gave those things to. But I know, exchanging with Jim a lot.

EUNICE: Jim Harden?

HELEN: Uh huh.

EUNICE: He was in the hospital the same time I was. He had cut his thumb off. And there was another one, there was three of us, Jim Harden, and who was the other fellow - -- all in the hospital at the same time. With an ax --- He is dead now, isn't he?

HELEN: Huh?

EUNICE: Jim is dead.

HELEN: Yes, he's been dead for quite a little while.

EUNICE: Yeah.

HELEN: Because when I was filling in for 4-H I would go --- in fact Myrtle was still alive, and that's Marie's mother, Myrtle Barnes. She was married to a Moore, and he was a jockey, rode racehorses. They said he was a small person. And I can't even remember his first name right now. But Moore was, Marie's maiden name was Moore.

EUNICE: Her brother Charlie.

HELEN: And then married --- then he, see was dead by the time we came here. And about the time we come, she had married this Art Barnes, Myrtle did. And he was an uncle to Jiggs Barnes.

EUNICE: Oh, uh huh.

HELEN: Don and, all the girls. He was an uncle to all of them, to their dad, to ...

EUNICE: These things happen so ---

HELEN: He was dead too when we came.

EUNICE: Huh?

HELEN: He wasn't living when we came, I don't think. Unless he died just right after we came. Because I can't remember him. I think he died just about the time we came here. Because I know his --- all I can remember is Myrtle was by herself. And then Marie and Jim moved to town, and then Jim passes away. And I think that's when Myrtle then moved --- her and Marie started living together. And that's when I would stay with them when I would come in for 4-H, and I would have night things, and then I didn't have to go home then, see, till daylight. I didn't have to travel after dark. Because Jim was dead, see, before I ever came in ...

Myrtle used to tell me so many things too, and I wasn't smart enough to write one thing down.

EUNICE: She probably knew a lot of the old history.

HELEN: Oh, she knew a lot of things.

DOROTHEA: That's the problem with us, when we were children we didn't, and younger, we didn't write any of this down. And I can't remember it either anymore.

EUNICE: Well it's this way with me. Now the folks never talked.

DOROTHEA: Mine didn't either.

EUNICE: They just never talked. Now I'm the only one that is left of the old, of all the grandchildren. There is lots of things I'd like to know, but there is nobody to go to ---

HELEN: Well Opal Cooley told me a lot of things about the country too, and I wasn't smart enough to write that down. See, because I was just --- well I was probably 38, 39 when we moved up here, because I had my 40th birthday in Harney County. Dragging the kids over to, branding, and was supposed to went out to get Steve at the high school, and thank goodness Walt Bailey brought him in, and I didn't have to go out. So then I had to get him over to Frenchglen, because that's where we did most of our branding in the spring.

EUNICE: Tell me where in Missouri did Glenn come from?

HELEN: Where Glenn?

EUNICE: Yeah, your ---

HELEN: His folks went up, let's see, the Davis --- I'm trying to think where they were born. Part of them was born like up in Maine. They were up in that --- when the Civil War broke out, they went north.

EUNICE: North.

HELEN: And they end up in Maine, and then I think they're over into Canada a little bit,

and then they come back when the Civil War is over, they come back out of Canada and they ended up in Missouri. And Glenn's Uncle Bert, who was the oldest in the family, went to school with the James boys at Lees Summit, Missouri. And so then the rest of the kids on down the line were born, like Glenn's aunts and Uncle Leonard and them, they were all born here in the states.

EUNICE: Pam Howard, she is getting some genealogy, so she sent me these papers she found in Missouri, in Carroll County, Missouri. And that's where my grandfather was born, in Carroll County. Well this paper she sent me was three land claims, certificates, for my grandfather Archibald Davis. The first was 160 acres, and then there were two certificates, each 40 acres where he had those land claims. And I never ever heard of one single thing about him, only he was killed by a train. I don't know whether he was in a train accident or what. But that's all, that's all they ever told us. And he was killed when my father was 9 years old.

Then Grandma and all of them but one boy came west. The oldest boy, William, stayed there in Missouri. And Dad was born in Carroll County, Missouri.

HELEN: Oh. I don't know what the county is for Lees Summit. That Lees Summit is the name of ---

EUNICE: I'd show you those claims, but I sent them down to Beverly to see them. I'd never seen one of them before. Pam had sent me a copy of each, she took --- I was so surprised. There he had 240 acres, the deeds and everything for them.

HELEN: I don't know how long the Davis' lived there at Lees Summit before they came west. Because, Glenn, let's see --- Glenn's grandfather --- can't even tell you what his first name is now. All I can remember is that his wife was English. And Glenn's mother would tell about when they would go --- see the family settled at Corvallis, and down in that area, in Peoria, and some of those other little places. But anyway they said that, Glenn's

mother said that this --- be the grandfather of Glenn, yeah. Any-way she was so particular about everything, and she would take a toothbrush, and in her stairways she would clean all around the edge, you know, how you step up. And she'd go around and she'd take this toothbrush and clean that.

EUNICE: Clean behind the ---

HELEN: Glenn's mother, boy, wasn't about to do that type of stuff.

EUNICE: I'm glad I'm not that ---

HELEN: They said she was a little old English lady. And said my gosh she was so particular about everything; it had to be so clean. Well Glenn's mother had all these boys, and she didn't worry about how clean she got this ... (Laughter) She had enough to do just to feed the outfit.

DOROTHEA: How many boys was there?

HELEN: Four. There is 9 kids, so I think it's 4 boys and 5 girls, or visa versa. I could label them if I, you know, stand here and count them all out.

EUNICE: That's Glenn's family ---

HELEN: That's Glenn's family, his brothers and sisters. Well there is 5 and 4, however it runs. I think it is 5 boys. Because there was 3 boys, and then Roy drowned, and then Lee --- okay, it's 5 boys and 4 girls.

EUNICE: Oh they had big families, didn't they? There was 10 in Dad's family. And one little girl died back there, and then the oldest boys stayed back there, and the rest of them all came. So I was related to everybody around here for a while. But they're all about died out now. Getting down to ---

HELEN: Gene Luckey did a real good run down on the different people, different army personnel that was at the, Camp Harney. And he has really got a real good deal, and it's there at the library, and it's right behind the desk. And you can get it to read, but you can't

take it out from there, because it has got so much reference material in it. And ---

EUNICE: Can you copy it?

HELEN: You can use it to look at.

EUNICE: Can you copy anything off of it?

HELEN: Well if you want to sit there and copy.

EUNICE: I guess they would let you.

HELEN: It's Gene Luckey's book. That's where I got some of my stuff, is from that book, as to when the different camps were established, and all that type of thing. Because he writes like in 1867, he writes that there were at least fifteen confrontations between the military and the Indians. So they had a lot of little skirmishes and that.

But then these, the army personnel changed pretty often out there at the camp. They were always bringing in somebody else. The other guy might have sent some for himself, and they were --- they were kind of come and go.

Like up at Allied, they changed ownership of that thing several times, and then their crews that they would have working

--- Like everybody said, well they had one coming, one working, and one gone. And that's just about like what the army was back in the old days here at Camp Harney. They always had one outfit that was, just had moved, and the other one is working, and here comes some new. And they rotated those fellows pretty fast.

But we've got for the first part is --- I thought that this Maj. Enoch Steen, he was working on his army, and he had the army personnel with him. And they were the ones that ran the, oh he claimed the Snake Indians off of Steens Mountain in 1860. But he was really coming through the country trying to establish ---

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HELEN: It wouldn't be known as Battle Mountain until they had this battle, that's the whole thing. We've got to ---

EUNICE: It's been Battle Mountain ever since I was born, that's all I know.

HELEN: Well now see --- but so much of this stuff that goes on in our country here, our area, is in the 1860's. Because I just got up to 1867, and see Enoch Steen came through in 1860. And again I feel that before the gold was discovered in 1862, you didn't have the people fighting and scraping with --- it wasn't until the miners come in, and hey they were just, the miners were all over the country, gold seekers I guess you could call them.

EUNICE: Everywhere.

HELEN: I don't know how many ever got rich, but I guess they did, those that was around Canyon City, they did pretty good.

EUNICE: I guess they found a lot of gold over around Canyon.

HELEN: Yeah, I was going with the 1864, as to when it was, Grant County was established. But you could get information, but then you, we got to stop and think that nobody could get a duplicate copy of anything. And all these records that they would have had have all burned. Because we had three big fires there in that area.

EUNICE: Over there in Canyon, yeah.

HELEN: And so we lose so much history, and don't have any records that's left. But Harney County, not being established until 1889, there is quite a lapse of time in there. But all this fracas is going on. So the, Battle Mountain would have been, two to one, would already have been established before Harney County became a county.

EUNICE: Yeah. That all happened before.

HELEN: A lot of the, somebody has gone through, and in the beginning whether it was Grant County --- and yet some of our land stuff was done at Lakeview, see. And so, I don't know what we ever had down at Lakeview, because they don't distinguish what the

county was. I just take for granted it was, the records that we do have, being from Grant County. Because we have people getting deeds back in the 1870's, or late 1870's, the people are deeding land.

DOROTHEA: And that's a hundred ---

HELEN: And that's before we were a county, so that would have had to been Grant County that that happened in. People getting their land deeds there, or else --- And I don't know how Lakeview got into the situation, but they did.

DOROTHEA: Well I don't know, but they still are sending all their papers if you change land, it still has to go through Lakeview.

HELEN: Huh.

DOROTHEA: Has to go through Cork Palmer, to the courthouse, and the courthouse sends all the papers to Lakeview. They're signed, and then they're sent back to the courthouse. And after they reach the courthouse then they are, what do you call it, registered or, however that, anyway put into the books. And that's when it becomes yours.

HELEN: Have you ever gone up and looked at those old deed books? They're interesting.

DOROTHEA: I'd like to do that someday when I have more time.

HELEN: Well I just stand up there. I put them out on that one long row deal there. And anymore I've been having ... put them up for me, because they're so heavy. It bothers my hand and arm so

--- and that way they're at a slant, and it is easier to see than if they're flat.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, if they're flat, the lights are bad.

HELEN: Well some of that writing isn't the best either. I go to reading --- I'll say, come over and look at this. Can you figure out what that letter is, or this name, I can't come up



with it, you know? Because it would be an odd name or something, and you don't know whether it is --- a W or an M, or just what it is.

DOROTHEA: Right.

HELEN: And some of the writing is really nice.

EUNICE: Well there is a lot of the old records from Harney County then are missing.

DOROTHEA: Before Harney County became a county.

HELEN: Yeah. Well there is still Grant County see. So we lost all that kind of stuff when we were still Grant County. We didn't become Harney County until 1889. So anything previous to that, its all been burned when they would have --- they had three vicious fires I guess that just leveled everything. And so what records --- because you go up to Grant County, and you can't get anything.

EUNICE: You can't get any records. They won't let you have any-thing, huh?

HELEN: See ---

DOROTHEA: Well they're not there.

EUNICE: Oh, they're not there.

DOROTHEA: They burned.

EUNICE: Oh. So that's all lost.

HELEN: A friend and I went up, and we tried to come up with some different things. I was looking ... has it in the family that Johnny Witzel, his great grandmother I guess it is, was the first person to be buried in the cemetery at Canyon City. So we went hotfooting it up there and we went to the courthouse first, then we went to the museum next, and then we went up to the cemetery. And these records have burned, and aren't anymore.

So evidently they just had little wooden crosses or whatever, I don't know, they didn't have gravestones. Because one whole area it has a cement type thing, just like a brick about that size, and it says unknown. And so she is one of the unknown up there,

because they have lost their records, and they have no records of, early records of the cemetery. And I mean we just saw grave after grave that was marked unknown. Because they don't have any records, so they don't know who is buried there.

EUNICE: Well you know when the store burned down here, the cemetery chart burned. And the one they have now is just from memory, most of it Cassie. But then --- And there where Cassie and Clarence ---

HELEN: If somebody didn't have a stone, you don't have a name.

EUNICE: --- Clarence and Cassie Drinkwater are buried, and then Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, and there is a grave, instead of them being this way, there is a grave going this way right in there, and they don't know who that is.

HELEN: Don't know who it is.

EUNICE: So it's been there a long, long time, that one has. And up there at the Gearhart place there are two graves, up on the hill above the shop, and there used to be a rail fence around them. Well Cassie knew who they were, and I think Francis Muller might know. But Lloyd and Francis and I, we walked that one whole afternoon trying to find where --- see Rotha (French) had let the hunters go in there, and they took the rails and burned them for

---

DOROTHEA: Oh, wooden rails then.

EUNICE: Yeah. So there is two graves there.

HELEN: That's on the Gearhart ---

EUNICE: On the Gearhart place. It's up, up above the ditch, above where the shop is; it's back in there. And we couldn't find any trace of it. Francis might remember who Cassie said it was, but I don't.

HELEN: Well I could write him, because we've got their address.

EUNICE: Have you got his address?

HELEN: We have Francis Muller's address.

EUNICE: Have you? I have, if you haven't got it.

HELEN: No, no, we've got it, see because they did the newsletter.

EUNICE: Oh, uh huh.

HELEN: She is a little slow sometimes in paying her dues, but they're up to date again anyway.

EUNICE: Up at Van there is two --- we always thought there was just one, but Ida told me that there were two little ones there. They were Agnes Durkee and Billy Gearhart's two. A little boy, and a little girl, and their names are mentioned in that Grant/Harney/Baker/Malheur County, in that book, they were mentioned in that book.

DOROTHEA: Agnes Durkee ---

EUNICE: I had one of those books and loaned it to Norma, I never got it --- or I'll get it back. She claims she hasn't got it, but she has got it. Kind of bad that way.

HELEN: See I copied all that stuff off, and now I can't find where I put it. In that book she is talking --- I copied all that ---

DOROTHEA: What's the name of the book?

HELEN: And the other day I copied all of the Grant County history, before it comes in, listing the people. There is stuff on them.

DOROTHEA: What is the name of the book she is talking about?

HELEN: We've got a black book up there ---

EUNICE: History of ---

HELEN: It's Grant, and Harney ---

EUNICE: Grant, Harney, Baker ---

HELEN: Baker.

DOROTHEA: Oh, that one.

EUNICE: And Malheur County.

HELEN: I think we've got one in the library. I heard it's kind of out of the way.

EUNICE: See I had Dad's copy. Well I loaned it to Norm and Ann. Well Ann brought it down to Norma, Norma wanted it. She brought it down to her, and Norma swears she hasn't got it, but she has got it, and she'll keep it. Because she always ---

HELEN: Well maybe she loaned it to somebody.

EUNICE: Well that's, probably loaned it to Carol or something, to the school or something. It's hard to tell. I'll never get it back though.

DOROTHEA: Norma, who are you talking about?

HELEN: Norma Miler.

DOROTHEA: Miler.

HELEN: Uh huh.

EUNICE: And Bush had a copy of it, and Bill had it, Robertson. Well Bill let Jimmy Palmer have it.

HELEN: Oh.

EUNICE: And boy, Bush found that out, and she made a trip to Burns, and I'll tell you Jimmy Palmer was glad to give up the book. She got it back.

HELEN: Well she was lucky.

EUNICE: But I don't know, I suppose Bill has it again now, I don't know. She is gone.

HELEN: Bonnie Smith also has a copy.

DOROTHEA: Alice Shepard has got one too, and I told the kids when they get, when something happens to Alice, I want that book. But I don't know whether I'll get it or not. I've got the museums at home, I'm going to send it and get it rebound. I still haven't done it, but one of these days. I don't know how much it will cost us, but ---

HELEN: Well it will be worth it, as long as that goes.

DOROTHEA: Well, you know, we've used it so much pages are falling out of it. And I don't want it to fall to pieces.

HELEN: Well now see what the library did, they copied, had it copied from their old copy. And I think the original that they copied from is back in Peggy's office.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and it's in good shape too.

HELEN: Because I know in the beginning I used to go up there and use it. And then all of a sudden they get it copied, and the new one doesn't have your ... you can't see. But the text is all there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah, and she claims that's the only copy they have, but I know better, because I've seen the other one.

HELEN: Well I used to use the old, the first one. And then they send it in and have this one recopied. The people was utilizing the old one so much that they wanted to keep it from completely going ---

DOROTHEA: Yeah. Well we've got, I think there is two other copies, but they are under people's names that's in cases.

HELEN: Oh.

DOROTHEA: But I want to keep this one in better shape, so I've got to get it rebound.

EUNICE: This one of Dad's, that Norma has, Bill went and had a cook and two little kids one summer, and a lot of scribbling and marking around pictures of people in it. Other than that, it was in good shape. But that one of the Robertson's, that's in good shape.

HELEN: Well I think that we have all that we can come up with.

DOROTHEA: Well it sounds like if she doesn't know any more about Battle Mountain, well ---

HELEN: Yeah, that was ---

DOROTHEA: That was what we needed to know about.

EUNICE: I just don't know anything about Battle Mountain, only it's there.

HELEN: Now I guess that somebody, sometime, you made a remark when you were teaching school, about that the Indians had one of their chiefs died. Could that have been that George Washington?

EUNICE: No, he died over at Burns. See he used to come over here and help in haying. And then --- oh it was after I was grown that he died, old George Washington and Martha. But they are up here, what we call Terry Springs, there is two Indians buried up there at that spring. But they weren't chiefs or anything.

HELEN: They were just ---

EUNICE: They had, I guess it was an epidemic of smallpox.

HELEN: Oh.

EUNICE: And they jumped in the river or something, and then they died, and that's where they buried them, at Terry Springs.

HELEN: Well if they had smallpox, couldn't help but kill them --- jumping in the river and getting --- they probably didn't sweat that type of thing.

EUNICE: Yeah, yeah.

HELEN: And oh, that was finished right there.

DOROTHEA: Yeah. A lot of people down in Harney, a lot of the Indians died of that too. Sweat bath, and then they'd go jump in the river.

HELEN: When they were sick, you can't jump in ---

EUNICE: There is a trail --- sometimes I can see it, sometimes I can't, when you go down this road to Drewsey, look back up there and maybe you can see the trail. Almost to the top of the hill. ...

HELEN: Well, if I'm going to go to that thing for Hirsch ---

EUNICE: You're going to eat before you do anything.

DOROTHEA: Well let's close this off then, and we'll say goodbye, and Helens got a funeral she has to go to.

EUNICE: Has to go to what?

HELEN: Frank Hirsch.

DOROTHEA: A funeral for Frank Hirsch. So we'd better close it off, and we'll go have a sandwich with you.

EUNICE: That Frank Hirsch, what about Frank?

DOROTHEA: He died.

EUNICE: When?

HELEN: He passed away here, oh ---

DOROTHEA: Friday or Saturday.

HELEN: Friday I think it was.

EUNICE: Oh he did?

DOROTHEA: Uh huh.

HELEN: And they're having a memorial service for him.

EUNICE: Oh.

(END OF TAPE)

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