

Charles N Nielsen  
Oral History Interview #1  
April 30, 2009  
Interviewed by Jean Klein

KLEIN: **0:00:01.1** It is the 30th of April, 2009, and I'm here with Charlie Nielsen, and we're going to be talking about some of his reminiscences this morning. I'll do more of an introduction afterwards when it all gets taped. Start again. This **0:00:20.9** (inaudible) is a matter of deception. (laughs)

NIELSEN: No, no, no. Dwight was a nice gentleman, and I suspected he was the one that collected the bird's eggs.

KLEIN: Although some of them I think were purchased. There are a couple that have local finds, local locations where they were found on them, but I don't know about the rest of them. You know, you can buy those things.

NIELSEN: **0:01:03.4** Yes. It was quite a commercial business in those days.

KLEIN: Now I know we've been perpetuating a story here. Maybe the story is better than the real thing, but let's get the real facts.

NIELSEN: Oh, I'm not an authority on this. Everything I tell you is the history of South Windsor, Dugbert (?) and King version.

KLEIN: That's all right. Everybody has a different take on life.

NIELSEN: Every family up and down the street has a version of the history of South Windsor.

KLEIN: Exactly, I know. That's why everybody disagrees.

NIELSEN: **0:01:52.7** Personal opinions sometimes color the issue.

KLEIN: Exactly, but that's part of oral history. It's the way people perceived life as it was happening around them. So tell me again about this bird collection.

NIELSEN: I have no documentation. I have no reason to feel this way except the gut feeling that this collection is likely the work of John Newbury. John was the oldest of the Newbury brothers, and he didn't marry, or if he did, I don't know about it. Anyway, he traveled. He

traveled quite a bit. He spent a lot of time in Florida, and I suspect especially because some of these birds are not indigenous to this area I suspect he was the one who collected a large number of these species here.

KLEIN:

**0:03:00.3** You're kidding. We have always said these were always indigenous birds, birds that you can still see today if you—well, except meadowlarks are sort of gone. The warbler is gone.

NIELSEN:

There used to be in this collection a magpie, but I don't know.

KLEIN:

Right. Now, there were two magpies, but when I got to put them in here, number one, they didn't fit. Number two, I had never heard of magpies in this area. There were magpies in this area?

NIELSEN:

Not to my knowledge.

KLEIN:

Okay. But then somebody told me later on yes, up in Springfield they've got documentation of magpies. Well, that was my original take, so I didn't tape them because I didn't—

NIELSEN:

The older I get, the more I believe that nothing is carved in stone. In my lifetime and talking to my grandfather, CW Libbert, (?) there were never magpies in this area.

KLEIN:

I was right throwing them out then. I didn't throw them out. I gave them back to the Newbury family.

NIELSEN:

**0:04:23.4** When you get into larger metropolitan areas they have connections all around that we're not aware of. But yes, a lot of western birds have been in this area, and if you were fortunate enough to take a specimen, then you could say yes.

KLEIN:

Right, once in a century.

NIELSEN:

Yeah.

KLEIN:

**0:04:57.9** Was John interested in ornithology?

NIELSEN:

Yeah, John was a gentleman of leisure, and he pursued his varied interests I guess as his interests led him. I didn't know John until very late. When we lived in Vernon one of the families in Vernon—this was during the Depression, and in order to make a living for the family the wife opened up a convalescent home, and John was one of his patients in those times. My mother used to go down and visit him.

KLEIN:

**0:05:58.2** That's nice. Had she known him from when she was younger?

NIELSEN:

Oh yes, since she was a little girl. He's a sort of shadowy figure in Newbury history because I don't believe he left any descendents, and he didn't live in this area. He traveled. Like I said, he traveled quite a bit.

KLEIN:

What business was he in?

NIELSEN:

I don't think he was in any business that I'm aware of. I think he thoroughly enjoyed a lifetime of being a gentleman of leisure.

KLEIN:

How wonderful.

NIELSEN:

**0:06:45.3** The Newburys were a very thrifty family, and by his generation they had accumulated a couple amount of funds. I guess he wasn't interested in farming.

KLEIN:

And Dwight himself pursued farming most of his life except that he pursued skiing in the wintertime as an older fellow.

NIELSEN:

Yeah, that's interesting too, because as the years went by his son and wife, Ellsworth and his wife, became interested in skiing, and they joined the group over on the other side of the river, and eventually he became an officer in the club. The old man got interested. They took him north, and the next thing you know, he's out on the slopes, and he's driving the ski patrol nuts because he won't ski the beginner slopes.

KLEIN:

And using those old Norwegian type of skis. **0:08:03.6** It looked like a Norwegian ship on the front end.

NIELSEN:

Nothing fancy. But they say it was apparently a blood-chilling spectacle to have him on the slopes.

KLEIN:

When I was doing the little booklet, particularly at the time they were having the open house for the—what's his name, not Dwight—Ellsworth Newbury I couldn't find—they weren't very forthcoming in any information they would give me. And of course, what we'd continue to tell here is that according to the family he never shot one of these birds himself. I always put a caveat in there that he was a farmer, and I feel sure he must have shot crows in his cornfield. **0:09:02.7** Maybe they were not forthcoming because there wasn't anything straightforward.

NIELSEN:

I think you're perfectly safe in calling it the Newbury collection.

KLEIN:

But now where would John have gotten all of these? Did he take his little collecting pistol and get these? Of course, their story is that the trawler man used to bring them.

NIELSEN:

I'm eighty-seven years old, and you're asking me. (laughs) These are the people who were eighty-seven years old when I was two years old.

KLEIN:

**0:09:49.7** Right. Well, our memory is supposed to be more vivid of what is back there a hundred years ago than it is today.

NIELSEN:

Sometimes I like to sit and think. Between myself and my grandfather he goes back to where he knew people not from the Revolutionary War. I think I asked him once if he ever knew a Revolutionary War veteran, and he said no, but the War of 1812. We span that period of our country's history, just the two of us. We cover quite a bit of—

KLEIN:

Exactly, exciting.

NIELSEN:

Yeah, in a way I guess it is.

KLEIN:

It gives you perspective in some ways. When we were doing that little Long Hill (?) book in '76 it spanned—she knew her grandfather, of course, and he was a Revolutionary War soldier and had stories to tell.

NIELSEN:

**0:10:59.5** I have eight ancestors that were Revolutionary War soldiers.

KLEIN:

Do you do SAR?

NIELSEN:

I guess the most prominent one was Alexander King up here, because even as a young man he was an ensign in the Connecticut colonial army. The most interesting one to me is Timothy Forbes. Everybody has heard of the story of how Silver Lane got its name.

KLEIN:

Tell me again.

NIELSEN:

This was the route followed by the French army and led by General Rochambeau convoying the money, the silver coins which the French government was going to loan to the Continental Army. They were all in kegs, and this is the route he came, and ever since it's been known as Silver Lane.

KLEIN:

**0:12:24.5** I hadn't heard that story. I'm sure it's written down some place.

NIELSEN:

One of my ancestors lived in East Hartford. His name was Timothy Forbes, and it was his home where they stored those kegs of coins until they figured it was safe enough to move them to Philadelphia. For his action the DAR unanimously decided they would confer upon Timothy—they would make him a veteran of the Revolutionary War. **0:13:00.4** That's how I got the eight, some are actual fighters and one quartermaster.

KLEIN:

Should we name those?

NIELSEN:

Do I want to name them?

KLEIN:

Yeah.

NIELSEN:

I wasn't prepared to, because if I'd known you wanted that, I'd have brought my family genealogy.

KLEIN:

We can do that another time.

NIELSEN:

It involves—good Lord, I don't know, Stowtons (?) and Ellsworths and Kings.

KLEIN:

If you've got it all written down and everything we won't bother with that.

NIELSEN:

Traced back, I've got eight ancestors whose names were on the founder's stone in Windsor and nine whose names were on the founder's stone at Hartford. **0:14:02.1** Very curiously, one fellow is on both stones. The reason he could do this is because in Hartford they chose to cut off the list in 1640. Windsor chose to cut it off in 1641, and during that year this fellow moved from Hartford to Windsor. His name was Allen.

KLEIN:

Was it Allen—what was his last name?

NIELSEN:

Matthew Allen.

KLEIN:

Oh, Matthew Allen.

NIELSEN:

I don't think he was related to the Sage Allen's.

KLEIN:

While we're on it, and before I forget, while we're talking haphazardly here, do you know anything about William Treat from East Hartford, from Silver Lane and East Hartford? **0:15:15.3** He used to belong to the Hartford Bird Study Club at the same time your grandfather did.

NIELSEN:

I know there are Treats down there that I'm descended from but—

KLEIN:

You don't know anything about them?

NIELSEN:

I don't know anything about them personally, no.

KLEIN:

I've always tried to find something, and then out of the clear blue this year we had an email from a student evidently down in North Carolina, and they have a collection of birds in North Carolina or South Carolina from William Treat. She wanted to know why they had—her assignment was to find out who this fellow was and why they had this bird collection down there. **0:16:05.2** But I wasn't able to follow through or get any more information than I had before.

NIELSEN:

I don't know if I have any input. If we get together again, I'll bring along my book on genealogy, my descendents, my colonial ancestors.

KLEIN:

Right, right. Now, are you prepared to talk about anything specifically this morning?

NIELSEN:

**0:16:44.7** Well, sometime I smile because everybody thinks tobacco was the big crop in this area, and I guess it was in the last seventy-five or maybe a hundred years, but before tobacco reared its ugly head this area was known for the grain that it raised, for the rye. We have Rye Street, and hardly anybody now is aware of the fact that that's why it's named Rye Street, and because we have the Scantic River which has the same sort of characteristics as the little rivers they use to have over in England, the early colonists adapted to the Scantic River very readily. They built grist mills and saw mills all up and down the Scantic River. At one time in the 1830s along the Scantic River there were I think maybe eight or ten distilleries. **0:18:06.5** Two of them were large enough so they ran year round.

KLEIN:

They made rye whiskey?

NIELSEN:

They made rye whiskey, and during that period in the history of our nation that area along Rye Street made more excise taxes to the federal government than any other area in the United States.

KLEIN:

Seriously?

NIELSEN:

They made an awful lot of liquor up there.

KLEIN:

Of course, when you read the old books, they could do nothing without their libations. The installation of the ministers and the weddings, it was either rye whiskey or Madeira wine that was imported.

NIELSEN:

**0:18:57.4** I was told in those days up and down Main Street here about every third or fourth house was a tavern, which was about as far as you could walk in the winter without freezing to death.

KLEIN:

I hadn't heard that one before either. That's interesting.

NIELSEN:

My grandfather lived in the King house before the Kings were there. They had a store and a tavern and a post office, and my ancestor, I believe, Roger King, was granted to be postmaster of South Windsor shortly after South Windsor was organized. I think it was sometime in the 1850s, and I'm always amused when I read it to see what we call Washington, D.C. now on that document is called Washington City. I have that.

KLEIN:

**0:20:00.6** Maybe we should get a picture of that.

NIELSEN:

I found it stashed in a copy of *Josephus*, our family copy of *Josephus*. I wish I had a way to verify signatures, because the book purports to be the property of Alexander King, and I don't know Alexander King's signature, but his signature is in two places in that book.

KLEIN:

Do they look alike?

NIELSEN:

Yes, yes, they do. But I don't have access to any documents that he executed during his lifetime so I could compare the signatures, and I'd like to do that sometime. Anyway—

KLEIN:

**0:20:55.6** Do you have any reason to believe it would not have been his own signature?

NIELSEN:

No, it came down through the family. The only thing I know about it historically is about a hundred years ago it was rebound. That's documented in the book itself. Somehow or other there's documentation that it was rebound and gives the name of the company and all that good stuff.



KLEIN:

For the record here, describe what *Josephus* is.

NIELSEN:

Well, the way it was explained to me, Josephus was a Jewish gentleman who lived a few centuries after Christ. **0:21:56.3** He wanted the Romans, who were in control, to be happy with him, so he wrote this version of the bible which was politically correct as far as the Romans were concerned. I have a copy of this. I don't know what to tell you. In that bible, Jesus is only mentioned in two small sentences, and one sentence, which I quote from memory, is simply said, "He was the Christ." I can't remember what the other one was. Anyway, he was very minimized according to Josephus, which made the Romans very happy.

KLEIN:

How is it your family got hold of that?

NIELSEN:

**0:22:58.1** If I can believe what I was told it was the property of Alexander King and was handed down.

KLEIN:

Why would he have been interested? I suppose it might have been part of a gentleman's library at that point, one of the volumes everybody wanted to have.

NIELSEN:

My grandmother Bibberts (?) was born a King and was always told it came down through the family.

KLEIN:

Interesting. I've heard Josephus mentioned many times, but I had no idea exactly what it was.

NIELSEN:

I know it's old, but I don't know what to do with it, and I don't think what I'm doing with it is probably the best thing because I don't think the paper—I know the paper must be pretty old, so it doesn't have the acid content that paper made later on had, like the stuff they used to crank out in Spring Pond.

KLEIN:

**0:24:10.5** Maybe it will last forever like the old papyrus and some of the rag papers.

NIELSEN:

I have a feeling it will last longer than I will. (laughs)

KLEIN:

We have something else. I can ask about it. I have to take one of the scrapbooks from the Grant collection up to the document center in Andover, Massachusetts. She pasted all this stuff in a scrapbook, which is not the way, cheap scrapbook paper, and I have to find out about that. But while I'm there I can—

NIELSEN:

I'd love to find out some more about it. At one time John told me they were going to have this Antiques Roadshow here, but that never seemed to come on.

KLEIN:

No, it didn't. Everybody else was having them at the time, and they weren't sure. You have to do things that are going to bring a little money in here. I think something else coincided with it, something the Historical Society of Hartford was having or something at the same time.

NIELSEN:

**0:25:24.6** Anyway, before we get off the subject of Rye Street, there was one little story I want to tell about a fellow that lived down the street down here somewhere down around where Terry Keyes (?) lives. He had a farm, and he refused to raise tobacco on that farm because tobacco was the devil's weed, and you know what he raised? Rye. (laughs) Rye grain, which was sold to the distillery out there. I always chuckle when I think of him. So sanctimonious about tobacco while he's raising rye. Oh well.

KLEIN:

**0:26:17.3** I always had the illusion that the meadows here were a great tobacco area, that they raised tobacco in the meadows. Then somebody told me tobacco was never raised in the meadows.

NIELSEN:

Yes, it was.

KLEIN:

See, boy, I tell you.

NIELSEN:

In my lifetime the Bibberts had a piece of land down in the meadow, and Ross Bibberts used to raise tobacco down there, and I used to work during the harvest down there.

KLEIN:

Of course, it's being raised now. Maybe they meant tint tobacco.

NIELSEN:

Tint tobacco, no.

KLEIN:

But it's being raised today, of course. People are in on the renewal of tobacco raising.

NIELSEN:

People in this area tended to not be too interested in raising tobacco down in the meadows because that meant you had to build a tobacco shed, and in those days the river used to freeze, and the kids would come over from the other side of the river, and they'd burn the sheds down. Every winter a shed would burn down down there.

KLEIN:

You're kidding.

NIELSEN:

**0:27:35.5** It was kind of an iffy thing.

KLEIN:

Boy, we think we have bad winters now. I don't think it really froze over at all this winter down here. It was just cold. That's fascinating. And of course, well, the reason East Windsor is a separate little town is because they found it very difficult to get back across the river in wintertime. It must have been a lot easier back in colonial times.

NIELSEN:

**0:28:13.3** Oh yes. Ed Bancroft up here used to tell me—he was about my age when I was a teenager. He was a teamster, and during the winter instead of going down to Hartford and across the bridges into Hartford they would go directly over the frozen Connecticut River into Windsor. In those days the test of manhood amongst teamsters seemed to be who had enough nerve to be the last team across in the spring.

KLEIN:

**0:29:01.3** Were there ever any accidents?

NIELSEN:

I suppose there must have been. He never had any stories about them, but I'm sure somebody must have had a mishap. If I know the human race, they're stupid enough to do anything.

KLEIN:

In graveyards you find drowned, drowned in the Connecticut River. People were accident prone, that's for sure. Some of them are documented on the—(person enters the room) Hi.

*Female Speaker*

Hi.

KLEIN:

You have to bring your own chair, I guess.

*Female Speaker*

Private business going on here?

KLEIN:

Yeah, we do. I'm interviewing Charlie here, doing a tape like we did of you. Is Jim downstairs?

*Female Speaker*

**0:29:51.9** I don't know, I just got here.

KLEIN:

I think he's downstairs with Karen.

*Female Speaker*

I'll see what's going on. We'll see you.

NIELSEN:

See you, Gladys. Ed used to tell us about that.

KLEIN:

Just for the record, people don't understand in this day and age what teamsters are. They know, of course, they drove a team of horses, but what did they carry back and forth?

NIELSEN:

All kinds of things, merchandise.

KLEIN:

Farm produce.

NIELSEN:

Yeah, anything that had to be moved. In those days the roads—well, it's only been recently since they started to put in the roads that the roads were travelable. Freight was hauled by local—what they called teamsters. **0:30:58.1** In my time, or early before my time, the wagons were pulled by horses. But it's my impression that during colonial days there were very few horses. Everything was done with oxen. One of the first things the early colonists did in this area when the Indians allowed them to move over into this fertile flood plain is they dug a canal right down through the swamp so that the acreage down there was all drained, and you could grow crops right up to the edge of the canal on either side, and they did this for almost 300 years.

KLEIN:

Now is that where the water still flows if you go down Vibert Road where the water still flows?

NIELSEN:

Yeah, where it still flows. I've got a picture. After World War I—prior to World War I the existence of this crane or canal, whatever you want to call it, every farmer was obligated to supply four days of manpower, and if he had it, a yoke of oxen towards keeping that drain in good shape.

KLEIN:

**0:32:42.0** What did it flow from?

NIELSEN:

It flowed from the Scantic River down back of Bobby Star's (?) called Tudors Drain.

KLEIN:

From the Scantic was there an actual entrance from the Scantic River in the north? **0:33:02.2** I know. Just below the hill, on East Windsor Hill, there's a very swampy spot. It's low enough it could have come from that area.

NIELSEN:

If you want to set the picture, you've got to go back to the Ice Age when there was a mile or mile and a half of ice over top of this area, which is very hard to imagine. And when the Ice Age ended and the ice cap melted, the water all flowed down through Connecticut Valley, and I like to think the swamp is an earlier river bed. I've never been told this by a geologist, but it seems to me natural that the swamp area was the earlier river bed of the Connecticut River, which then moved about a half a mile west.

KLEIN:

**0:34:05.9** Even since recorded time, since colonial times, the whole thing is—where they found the grave down in Bibberts—right in back of Bibberts property there where they found the gravesite there was a whole graveyard which had been taken away by the river.

NIELSEN:

Yeah, an Indian graveyard.

KLEIN:

Yeah, an Indian graveyard that goes way back. Well, of course you know that glacial age Hitchcock came down through here and that there's almost a mile of clay underneath this whole area.

NIELSEN:

That was the problem when they finally set out to repair that drain. Everybody was fat and lazy from raising tobacco, and in those days there weren't any taxes, and they were making money

hand over fist. They didn't want to bother with it, so they said, "Well, they can break things with dynamite, so let's dynamite it," which they did, and I've got a picture of it after they dynamited it.

KLEIN:

**0:35:24.0** Just a big mud hole.

NIELSEN:

Well, it's a straight drain right through. It almost looks like Sugar Ridge after our fleet bombarded that for four days. There's nothing. But like you said, that clay under there, it shook it all up, and it turned it into jelly, and everything slid back in, and they never made another attempt. I guess they decided it was useless to make another attempt to reestablish the dream.

KLEIN:

**0:36:05.0** So that's where we lost a lot of the meadows.

NIELSEN:

My grandfather often told me he was opposed to the dynamiting, and he told them it wouldn't work. That's what he said.

KLEIN:

I'm sure he knew, because he knew the area certainly.

NIELSEN:

But it was hardly even a matter of years before the whole thing filled in, and the swamp came back. Since then it's been getting larger and larger and larger. Now there's not much agriculture down there, and nobody tends to have the drainage systems they used to have to drain the fields let alone the drain. The swamp is probably not as large. It might even be larger than when the colonists got here.

KLEIN:

**0:37:04.0** You mean the particular area down Newbury Road that is—or the hole, it comes all the way down to that road. I know, I tried to walk through there one day. It looks solid, but boy, you get in the middle of that, and you're in for a real bog.

NIELSEN:

When I was a boy every farmer up and down the street had his own personal road down into the meadowland. Every farm along the street had a road, and they're all gone. They're all under water now.

KLEIN:

Well, there's still Newbury Road. Of course, it's under water. You have to put your boots on.

NIELSEN:

**0:37:50.2** It's a little different. Speelman raised potatoes down there for a long time, and he used to haul gravel and keep Newbury Road up above the water line. Old Dwight would go down there and make sure the little brook that flowed there got into the channel and emptied out. But the characteristics of that territory changed tremendously since I was a boy.

KLEIN:

Why don't you describe that more fully? I know we very seldom see meadowlarks anymore because most of the meadows are not—

NIELSEN:

We seldom see a lot of birds.

KLEIN:

And then the old bobolinks, they were plentiful about ten years ago. There was a wonderful bobolink there.

NIELSEN:

The Florida gallinule used to come up and used our swamp as a nesting ground.

KLEIN:

What did?

NIELSEN:

**0:38:57.5** The Florida gallinule.

KLEIN:

Really?

NIELSEN:

Oh yes.

KLEIN:

I didn't know that.

NIELSEN:

You'd see him sitting on a bog down there. They looked like they were holding an orange rind in their mouth, that orange beak.

KLEIN:

That's a real tropical bird to have up here.

NIELSEN:

Yeah, but they came every year. There used to be a colony of black terns up in Massachusetts. And every spring during humid, rainy weather they'd come down and feed on the insects over our swamp area there. But you don't see them anymore either.

KLEIN:

Are they related to the sea terns that you find by the shore?

NIELSEN:

Yeah.

KLEIN:

They're the ones?

NIELSEN:

They look like an oversized swallow because they're dark. The first time I saw them I thought I was having hallucinations.

KLEIN:

**0:40:04.0** But they're small.

NIELSEN:

Well, they're tern sized. The first time I saw them I thought it was some kind of a giant swallow. My mother laughed. After she stopped laughing she told me what they were.

KLEIN:

You had told me about the huge colony of night-crowned black heron up there.

NIELSEN:

Oh yeah, they used to nest up and down the river here in the summer. Homes weren't air conditioned or anything like that. You'd finish supper, and you'd go out with a lawn chair and sit in the backyard and enjoy the cool evening breezes. The black-crowned night herons would fly over. It was almost an endless stream of them on your way to the shore. They would go down to the shore and feed all night, and then they'd come back up here where they had their rookeries. But yeah.

KLEIN:

About how many in a colony?

NIELSEN:



**0:41:22.8** Hmm? How many in a colony?

KLEIN:

Hundreds?

NIELSEN:

Literally thousands. It seemed like an endless stream of them all night. You'd sit there watching the black-crowned night herons fly over until it got almost dusk, and in front of my grandfather's house there was a huge basswood tree. I was told it was the largest one in the state. It was all held together with chains and cables, and screech owls used to nest in that. In the evening when the young were fledged she would bring them down into our backyard and line them up on my mother's clotheslines—everybody had clotheslines. **0:42:09.9** Then she'd go down in the grass and catch night crawlers for them. One day they had a series of sheds behind our house, and one shed was an open carriage shed. I used to keep my car in there, and I walked in there for some reason or other, and she had them lined up on the bench at the end of the shed there. We had screech owls all the time.

KLEIN:

So they were lined up to be fed?

NIELSEN:

Yeah, waiting to be fed. She lined them all up, and then she'd go out and get the night crawlers and bring them in.

KLEIN:

Another mother owl for them. Cute. Where was she living at that point? Up in Vernon?

NIELSEN:

Us?

KLEIN:

Yeah.

NIELSEN:

**0:43:06.1** Yeah, my grandfather's home. What is it? I can't remember the street address. Isn't that funny? If you ask me, it was Station 41, the bus stop. They gave the street address number. I can't remember it.

KLEIN:

We've been backing into this. Maybe we should then talk about—give us a little bit of background on your grandfather. I've got the little thing I wrote.

NIELSEN:

He was an interesting gentleman. That was one of my Revolutionary War ancestors too was David Bibbert, and his son Lorain was a glass blower in the Pitkin glass factory over in Manchester. **0:44:09.8** He married a Roxa Keeney, (?) and they lived over there, raised a family and got caught in one of these regular epidemics that used to sweep through the area, and he died, Lorain died, and one of his sons. Roxa and her remaining—I think there were two more sons—came to South Windsor to live.

KLEIN:

How to you spell Loring?

NIELSEN:

L-O-R-A-I-N.

KLEIN:

And his wife was Roxa?

NIELSEN:

His wife was Roxa. Today I don't even know where they lived in Manchester, but they did. **0:45:09.3** They lived over there somewhere over on Porter Street, somewhere around the glass factory. What else did you—

KLEIN:

So they came to South Windsor because he got—

NIELSEN:

Roxa came to South Windsor with her sons Joseph Watson and Merton. They lived near—well, for a time they lived in what I think of as the Leslie Newbury house. Then they came down and lived in a house on the corner of the Bibbert Road that goes right into the meadow.

KLEIN:

Did they build that?

NIELSEN:

Hmm?

KLEIN:

Did they build that house?

NIELSEN:

**0:46:07.1** No, that house was built by the Brag family. He was a Civil War veteran. Anyway, they came over, and they lived in that area, Joseph Watson, and he had three sons. My grandfather, Charles Watson, was the oldest of the sons, and when he reached maturity he married Mary Elizabeth King, and they lived in the house that was her inheritance from the King family. He raised tobacco and prospered. **0:47:00.9** In those days in South Windsor when a

young man became well established, had a family and was well established, he was considered to be eligible to serve in the legislature. You sort of took your turn. My grandfather used to tell me when he was small his family was very poor, and for ready cash they used to harvest passenger pigeons. He participated in that, and he remembered they used to go out in the clearings in the woods and spread corn all around and lay there with nets. Pigeons would come in, and they'd flip the nets over and so forth. They'd wind up in barrels, and these barrels of wild game were then sent to metropolises. **0:48:04.7** The restaurants depended on them for something to serve their customers. There was no poultry industry in those days. There was no refrigeration. They needed fresh game all the time.

KLEIN:

How long did it take to get to New York City, though? Did they put them in ice or did they just—

NIELSEN:

They put them in barrels and put them on a train and zipped it down there. People weren't as fastidious as they are today and probably had more natural immunities than we do now.

KLEIN:

I'm sure.

NIELSEN:

He used to do that, and then, as I say, he became established. He raised tobacco. He had a big warehouse up there. He was one of two or three people in the area who had a license to sample tobacco, which means after the farmer got his tobacco all sorted out and prepared he'd put it in wooden cases and would put it in what they called the sweat rooms. Then when it came out of the sweat rooms he would hire a sampler to come and take random samples of his crop and—

**0:49:35.2** (end of audio 1)

KLEIN:

**0:00:00.4** Say something. Okay, we're all set.

NIELSEN:

It was about the time that the conservation—conservation was becoming a popular subject. They were starting to think about preserving some of our natural resources instead of expending them. In the legislature he got introduced to that kind of philosophy, and he found he endorsed it. He came home, and he hung up his guns. He was a good hunter. With a .22 rifle, when a flock of geese went over, you tell him which one you want, and that's the one he would bring down for you. He was a good shot. He suddenly found himself endorsing conservation, and he hung up his guns, and he bought a pair of binoculars. **0:01:03.0** By that time his wife had died. She died when my mother was five years old. My mother was the youngest daughter. He lived alone. Well, actually, he didn't. My mother lived with him before she married my father, and then after they married we lived there until I was about three or four years old. He got interested in

conservation, and the Hartford Audubon Society had recently come into existence. It wasn't the Hartford Audubon in those days. It was the Hartford Bird Study Club. He joined that. I think they organized in 1909, and he joined it in 1911 or something like that. **0:01:56.4** (coughs) Excuse me. Immediately he threw himself into it wholeheartedly, and he became a very knowledgeable amateur ornithologist and botanist because at the same time he was in the field with his binoculars he always carried this little canister to collect botany samples. He could tell you in South Windsor where the Hartford fern grew and the white-fringed orchid, which, by the way, is the most overrated plant in the world. It's just this little tiny white thing.

KLEIN:

Sometimes you can hardly see the little—you have to have a magnifying glass to see the orchid—

NIELSEN:

You think of orchids—but anyway, he took to the field, and he immediately perfected his craft, and he was a crackerjack ornithologist. **0:02:54.6** His home up here on Main Street was the unofficial South Windsor headquarters of the Hartford Bird Study Club. He was always available because he retired and pursued his avocations. He was always available, so any birder from Hartford that had money to buy a token to get on the trolley could come out and stop off at his house, and he'd be there, and he'd take them on tours down in the meadow and show them everything there was to see. I don't know what else I can say about him. He was an inventor. Unfortunately he invented a little blowtorch powered by human lungs just about the same time someone invented one that made its own compressed air, so he never sold any. **0:03:57.1** But I do have one. He was a man of many interests. He taught himself how to survey land and lay out drains and things like that.

KLEIN:

He became an official town surveyor, didn't he?

NIELSEN:

Yeah. He had one—behind his house was a shed full of—the first bay was the laundry. That was set up. In those days they always had a hired girl, and that was where the hired girl did the laundry for the family. The next sheds were open carriage sheds, and then he had a shop with a great big one-lunger in there, and belts, pulleys and belts and all sorts. He was a bit of a—

KLEIN:

Jack of all trades.

NIELSEN:

**0:05:01.0** Yeah, he was a jack of all trades.

KLEIN:

Like so many people could be in those days.

NIELSEN:

Then there were a couple more bays, open stalls and things like that, and then there was the outhouse. Beyond the outhouse there were—

KLEIN:

How many holers was that?

NIELSEN:

I think it was a three-holer. I remember down underneath it on the beams was a huge chunk of bog liner. I always wished I'd taken that. Nowadays nobody knows what bog liner is.

KLEIN:

Was it naturally in situ there?

NIELSEN:

Yeah. In our boggy areas you'd find these clumps of very crude iron ore.

KLEIN:

I didn't realize we had some in South Windsor, but of course, if it was a boggy area I suppose it would naturally—

NIELSEN:

**0:06:01.2** Further up in the Enfield area it was so prolific along the Scantic River during the Revolutionary War time they had an iron foundry. They made crude nails, hinges and wagon wheel tires and stuff like that. I think they also cast some cannon, but I don't know. Maybe it was cannon balls. Anyway, there was an iron foundry up there. But that's another story, that and the power mill on the Scantic.

KLEIN:

Did they ever have—for that foundry, did they ever have—I went up into the northwest hills where they have these furnaces for the smelter of the ore.

NIELSEN:

They must have had something to smelt it.

KLEIN:

**0:06:53.0** They must have had this same type of thing here. You've been in the western hills up in Canaan, I guess it is, that they have these remnants of these big furnaces that they melted the

ore in. Do you think they had something like that here? Did they have to—that wasn't bog iron, so maybe the process for bog iron is different.

NIELSEN:

I don't think commercially it was worthwhile in this area. What they did have, I remember up in **0:07:23.7** (inaudible) on the Scantic they had a little shipyard. They built small boats.

KLEIN:

I've read they launched into—this is what they have never been able to understand, how they launched into the Scantic River these—the big things, fifteen to thirty ton brigantines. There's a record in Stiles (?) and other places that they had launched brigantines in the Scantic River.

NIELSEN:

They could have.

KLEIN:

Was the Scantic—well, and another thing. **0:08:01.2** I always thought naturally they launched them into the Connecticut River where the flow wasn't—no, they launched it into the Scantic River sideways. I've never been able to—was the Scantic River larger at that time? It's not very broad right now. It wouldn't hold a brigantine.

NIELSEN:

I think they were just very clever. I don't think any of us today appreciates how ingenious our colonial ancestors were, what they could make out of nothing.

KLEIN:

Necessity is the mother of invention, they say.

NIELSEN:

I know in front of my grandfather's house up here on Main Street there used to be a whole brick walk, and I was always told that was the rope walk. They made rope cables there somehow. The art is long gone.

KLEIN:

**0:09:07.0** Going vertically to the street from the house? Or horizontally along the street?

NIELSEN:

Along the street horizontally.

KLEIN:

Seriously?

NIELSEN:

Yeah.

KLEIN:

At the time of the Kings?

NIELSEN:

Yes, yes. There was a brick walk there. I remember I used to always plow the garden for my mother with my tractor, and I would hook onto two or three bricks every once in a while. They had an eye towards the sea.

KLEIN:

Wow, that's what we forget. **0:09:51.7** When I first came to town it took me a long time to even hear about the traffic and the trade on the Connecticut River, and we were a port town with a port mentality.

NIELSEN:

Go down to Essex, and go up into the museum and read the log book. They used to keep a log book for the river, and see how many boats owned by people who lived in South Windsor were by there.

KLEIN:

That's right. That's the only reason we have these gorgeous houses at the upper end of the street was money made by the trade that was going on, and people knew about the wide world beyond. When I came in the 70s I forgot who it was actually, but that person had never been into Hartford even. They didn't travel very far. But in the colonial days they were much more cosmopolitan, it seems to me.

NIELSEN:

**0:10:56.2** And yet it's amazing, during the early part of the twentieth century and probably the latter part of the nineteenth century the trolleys were everywhere. You could get on a trolley in Hartford and go out through Manchester and Tocqueville and Vernon and Rockville and up to Shenipsit Lake and meet the other trolley there that went down the mountain into Ellington and over into Warehouse Point. You could hook up with trolleys there that would go to Springfield. Trolleys were—and I used to love the trolleys. In the spring they'd open up the car barn there in Hartford and bring out the summer trolleys. They were all open with woven straw seats and running boards. **0:11:53.9** We'd get on those trolleys and go up North Main and go up through—well, we'd go down to the freight yard and watch the Ringling Brother Barnum and Bailey Circus unload. Then they would parade up to Barber Street where they would put their tents up. The elephants would be pulling the cages where the lions and tigers were, and the horses would be prancing along. You'd get up there, and they were setting up the big top, and the elephants are wandering around. That was more fun than going to the circus.

KLEIN:

That's right, that's right. I had that experience when I was young where I was living too. We'd always go down and watch them embark from the trains. Oh, I wanted to ask you, when he became a botanist, did he ever preserve any of the botanical specimens?

NIELSEN:

**0:13:03.7** I don't know that he did.

KLEIN:

He never made an herbarium or anything?

NIELSEN:

No, no. I remember as a kid doing a project for high school, and somewhere I have a scrapbook with a Hartford fern in it and maybe a white-fringed orchid. I don't know.

KLEIN:

I tried to find that Hartford fern at several places. Sally Evern (?)—

NIELSEN:

Sally used to know.

KLEIN:

She knew where it was, but we looked when they were on Sullivan Avenue. They were going to put something in down there, and we tramped through for hours one time but never came across anything.

NIELSEN:

Everything is progress. In the old days they used to plow with a team of horses and a little plow, and they would turn over a furrow maybe six inches deep. **0:14:04.3** Now they've got the tractors, and the tractors get in there, and they turn a furrow, and it's twelve inches deep, and they turn up the subsoil. They got into the wetlands up there on Sullivan Avenue, and they made ditches, and they drained it all out, and they plowed all that stuff under, the Hartford fern and the white-fringed orchid all along Sullivan, and it grew along Sullivan Avenue. I think it's all gone. Then there was a guy who was a businessman. Well, a company that supplies landfill and stuff like that, and he went in on Strong Road up there. For years every once in a while one of his trucks would go up in there and go up the road into the back where the wetlands were and dump a little fill. Now he's got a home up there adjacent to an area where the great blue herons used to nest.

KLEIN:

**0:15:26.8** Do they still? I think they still do.

NIELSEN:



I think they still do. I'm not surprised.

KLEIN:

Well, doesn't that sort of abut land that's owned by the brick company too?

NIELSEN:

Sort of.

KLEIN:

Yeah, it sort of goes through there.

NIELSEN:

Further down a little.

KLEIN:

I think so. Well, the interesting thing about the brick company is that that's where I discovered there are probably over a mile of sedimentary clay from glacial age Hitchcock, and you can still see how it was laid down in layers. **0:16:06.7** I think if you walk far enough you finally come to that West Street area. You get into his property I think from West Street, right?

NIELSEN:

This whole area bears testimony to the passing of the Ice Age and the gradual reduction of the huge lake that was left here in the valley all the way from Middletown to Chicopee. The lake was sixty miles long and twelve miles wide or something like that. It didn't just gradually go down. It went down in stages, and you see the steps.

KLEIN:

Yeah, the various stages, terraces. One thing is the Buckland Road is kind of one of those terraces.

NIELSEN:

**0:17:13.9** So where—to quote one of my favorite friends, he's now retired, and he used to be my favorite policeman here in South Windsor, and he used to teach a course on safe driving for us seniors so we could get a reduction in our insurance. He used to do this sort of thing, and then he'd wander afield, and he'd say, "I digress."

KLEIN:

We digressed a lot.

NIELSEN:

We digressed.

KLEIN:

Nothing happening downstairs today?

*Female Speaker*

I don't know. I didn't see anything going on.

KLEIN:

Nothing at all? Maybe nobody is here. You want to bring in a chair? We have a few more minutes here.

NIELSEN:

**0:18:02.7** I've got fifteen more minutes.

*Female Speaker*

Okay, I'll leave.

KLEIN:

Jim is not there today?

*Female Speaker*

I didn't see him, no, unless he came in after I was down there.

NIELSEN:

I'm just looking at that kingfisher there, and I have to say, that's a girl.

KLEIN:

Oh? How do you know?

NIELSEN:

That's one of the few bird species where the female is more ornate than the male.

KLEIN:

**0:18:28.3** That's a kingfisher you're talking about?

NIELSEN:

The males don't have that band across their breast.

KLEIN:

Now if John collected all these things, who preserved them? John must have preserved them then. Dwight Newbury, did he preserve these or did he—

NIELSEN:

Dwight gave them a home all those years.

KLEIN:

Yeah, but who preserved them? Who was the taxidermist?

NIELSEN:

I don't know.

KLEIN:

Of course, in my mind I speculated he probably knew Dr. Wood.

NIELSEN:

**0:19:02.3** I kind of have a feeling that John was kind of what you might have called a fiddle foot. He didn't want to stay in one place too long. Maybe Dwight did do it. Maybe I'm not giving him enough credit.

KLEIN:

So maybe he did collect these himself. My explanation is that he lived through the period just like your grandfather when the Audubon movement started, and they wanted to preserve things instead of killing them. In retrospect, he never killed anything.

NIELSEN:

My grandfather used to tell me in his later years when he'd find a rare species in this area and they would ask him to collect it for a sample he said it broke his heart. Here's a man who—

KLEIN:

Completely changed.

NIELSEN:

Yeah, completely changed on the matter of—

KLEIN:

**0:20:08.3** Now, I think was it you that told me also that it—the Peltons (?) had nothing to do with this except they ended up in the house, or I guess Mrs. Pelton took care of the person that was in that house and inherited this, what we call the Pelton collection over here. But it was John Hayes that did the actual taxidermy for those.

NIELSEN:

That could be. I didn't tell you that. Maybe Joseph did.

KLEIN:

Yeah, he could have. He said they didn't do any of that. Oh, it was Eli Hayes.

NIELSEN:

That's a touchy subject with them. The Hayes are part of my ancestors. But there was one of them—I don't know which one it was—was dedicated to eliminating the bald eagle from this area.

KLEIN:

**0:21:05.7** Why?

NIELSEN:

I don't know why. I have no idea.

KLEIN:

Purposely?

NIELSEN:

Yeah. He would spend hours trying to get a shot at an eagle. There again, that's all hearsay. I don't know.

KLEIN:

But you took it that it must be true, so you don't like him.

NIELSEN:

I keep asking myself why would he have wanted to do that?

KLEIN:

Maybe they kept stealing stuff from his henhouse.

NIELSEN:

I don't know. The buteos the blame for what the accipiters do. You see this hawk up there circling around, and you come back a little later, and one of your chickens is missing. Then you say, "That sucker got that chicken." He didn't get that chicken. One of the accipiters came in there, a sharp-shinned or a Cooper's hawk came zipping in there. But they got the blame. You're lucky if you see an accipiter if he doesn't want to be seen. They're some flyers, I'll tell you. They can go through the woods—

KLEIN:

**0:22:25.0** Now who are the accipiters?

NIELSEN:

The sharp-shinned hawk, the Cooper's hawk and the goshawk.

KLEIN:

They're a little smaller, right?

NIELSEN:

The first two are a little smaller. The goshawk is pretty good sized. But they're unbelievable acrobats on the wing. They're the ones that would slip in and take the chicken.

KLEIN:

**0:22:56.6** Of course, I was quoting I think from one of the newspaper articles or one of the magazine articles that I read where they would even—I imagine it was the larger birds would come down and steal a baby out of a basket when the woman had the baby next to her while she was working in the garden and picked up the blanket. Eventually the baby fortunately fell out of the blanket. I can see in a way they might have—just like the fishermen up in Maine always have something in for the gulls. They're always shooting gulls up there.

NIELSEN:

Those gulls are something else. The one that don't get enough credit for the destruction he does is the great horned owl. They have no sense of smell. It don't make any difference to them. Primarily they live on skunks. **0:24:03.8** If it's black and white, they'll eat it. A lot of people have a black and white cat that never comes home. Where did pussy go?

KLEIN:

I would think a cat would be tastier than a skunk, but maybe not. Maybe skunk meat is—

NIELSEN:

Well, what can I tell you?

KLEIN:

Why don't we wait another time? I wanted you to tell me too about some of your early memories and how South Windsor, the Main Street, the town itself, differed. I remember you telling me last time about how—a cute little story about how when you were kids you'd always bet which—

NIELSEN:

(talking at the same time) High boy and low boy?

KLEIN:

**0:24:57.7** Right. And also about your grandfather's propensity for finding Indian artifacts and where they ended up and that kind of thing. We can talk about that.

NIELSEN:

I could talk forever about my grandfather and my aunts.

KLEIN:

Yeah, a little bit more about those three girls that joined the bird study club with your father and became—I guess it was your mother, wasn't it, that became the recording secretary?

NIELSEN:

Could be.

KLEIN:

What did your dad do, actually, your Nielsen dad?

NIELSEN:

My dad originally trained for clerical work and when he was a young man—

*Female Speaker*

This a private meeting?

KLEIN:

Yeah, just a little bit, but we're almost through.

NIELSEN:

When he was a young man, he was secretary to Midge Waples (?) in Hartford when they built the Bulkeley Bridge, because they didn't have women secretaries, and that's what he did.

**0:26:10.6** As the scene changed, then he took on other jobs. He worked for my uncle Peter Bosson (?) in the grocery store. His last job, clerical work, he worked for Travelers Insurance Company. It was just before the big Depression. Travelers got on this kick. They were going to save money, so they were going to get rid of all their men. They were staffed by men, so they hired women. Then they found out your insurance records were all on cards in big drawers, and the women weren't strong enough to lift those drawers out of the cabinets, so they had to hire women. Even that was a better deal. FDR crossed them up. He passed the minimum wage law, and it wound up costing them more, but by then it was too late. They laid all these men off. I remember my father for a long time he'd drive around and visit all the fellows he worked with. One or two of them got so depressed they committed suicide. It was bad. Then along came the Depression. That didn't help.

KLEIN:

**0:27:40.4** How about public works?

NIELSEN:

Hmm?

KLEIN:

How about the public works program during the Depression during the early 30s there?

NIELSEN:

Public works was—yeah, that was a help. The only thing is it depended if you belonged to the right political party.

KLEIN:

Did we get anything done here in South Windsor from the WPA?

NIELSEN:

Did we do what?

KLEIN:

**0:28:08.1** Did we get anything done on this scale here in South Windsor?

NIELSEN:

I don't know. I don't remember. About that time—I told you about my brother with his bad case of polio. About that time my father bought a home in Vernon, and we moved to Vernon.

KLEIN:

More country?

NIELSEN:

He didn't know anybody much out there, and he belonged to the wrong political party. The foreman or whatever you called them, his name was Charlie Dart, and he was a nice guy, and he gave my father as much work as he could. But it was all political.

KLEIN:

Doesn't change, does it? No, you didn't tell me about your brother. He got polio?

NIELSEN:

**0:28:58.6** Yeah, he had a very severe case of polio. It crippled his right leg. His right leg was about as big around as my wrist.

KLEIN:

What was his name?

NIELSEN:

John. And his arch was like that. They took him up to the Shriner's Hospital when he got a little older, and they operated on him. Then they switched the cords from one side of his leg to the other and pulled it, broke his arch. The only trouble is they left his leg about an inch and a half shorter than the other one. He was a proud son of a gun. He wouldn't wear built-up shoes.

KLEIN:

Pushed your hips out.

NIELSEN:

Pushed his hip out.

KLEIN:

And everything else.

NIELSEN:

**0:29:50.6** But the medical profession knew so little about polio at that time that they told my father they had a suspicion living here in the river valley in this humid air was somehow responsible, so he bought a home out in Vernon up in the hills up there.

KLEIN:

Up until that time, were you still living in the ancestral home?

NIELSEN:

No, no. My grandfather made the mistake of—I did something wrong, and he swatted me, and my father said, “If he’s going to get punished, I’ll do it.” My grandfather said something like, “Well, this is my house, and I’ll do what I damn well please.” The following day we moved out.

KLEIN:

Boy, that was quick.

NIELSEN:

That was quick.

KLEIN:

**0:30:48.7** That was CW?

NIELSEN:

Yeah.

KLEIN:

He had things the way he wanted them.

NIELSEN:

He had a short fuse, I guess. I don’t know. He always treated me well, though.

KLEIN:

How old were you at the time you moved out?

NIELSEN:

Three or four.

KLEIN:



Well, let's cogitate on what we said today, and I'll look this over, and then we can set another time. And be thinking about what we'll cover next time. I think some of the changes that you've seen along Main Street and the town itself, what's happened, and perhaps—everybody likes to hear about the schools you went to. Did you go to Union School?

NIELSEN:

I went to Union School for two years before we moved. Arlene Bidwell was my second grade teacher.

KLEIN:

**0:32:00.9** Great, I want to hear about that. That would be terrific. Think of some of the things about that.

NIELSEN:

She must have been all of eighteen or nineteen years old or something like that. But I thought she was ancient. Lovely woman.

KLEIN:

She remained so until the end of her days, I think. Well, let's hope we've got this now and I will—(tape pauses)

NIELSEN:

Back you in a corner and want to know whether you were for Smith or Hoover. Hoover? Smith? You said Hoover, boy, did you get it.

KLEIN:

**0:32:46.2** Smith was Al Smith?

NIELSEN:

Al Smith.

KLEIN:

He was Catholic, right?

NIELSEN:

Yes.

KLEIN:

And they had a lot of people in town for Al Smith in those early days?

NIELSEN:

A lot of the Lithuanian kids. They were looking for an excuse to cream me anyway.

KLEIN:

That would be great. And then there was a colored section of town where the brickyard was. Did you know anything about that?

NIELSEN:

Yeah, and there's one called Crow Park.

KLEIN:

Okay, we'll go into that kind of stuff. What the town was like. It's so different today. This is what really gets me, how different it is.

NIELSEN:

My mother had a maid, and her married name was Skanks.

*Female Speaker*

0:33:43.7 (inaudible) named Skanks.

NIELSEN:

She had a little accident with her car, and she was telling my mother about it and her husband's reaction. He was mad about this, mad about that, and he ain't never yet asked me is I hurt.

*Female Speaker*

It used to be the kids from the brickyard used to go to Ellsworth when I was going to Ellsworth.

NIELSEN:

The brickyard was later, yeah.

*Female Speaker*

We only had maybe one or two black people in the whole high school.

NIELSEN:

I used to come back—after I came back from the service I was working with the Republican Party. I'd go over and hang around the polls all day and do this and that and go pick up these old ladies. Right after 4:00 all the help up at the brickyard would get off, and Lee Grant would grab a handful of cigars and stuff them in my pockets. He'd say, "Go up and get those fellows out of the brickyard and tell them which lever to pull." Okay.

KLEIN:

No guarantee, but I guess it really worked.

NIELSEN:

Didn't change much.

KLEIN:  
That's true.

NIELSEN:  
Just the names have changed, that's all.

**0:35:06.6** (end of audio 2)

**A**

accipiters	30
Audubon	21, 29

**B**

bald eagle 29  
bird collection 2, 7  
bobolinks 16  
brickyard 36  
brigantine 23  
buteos 30

**C**

Connecticut River 12, 14, 23, 24  
Cooper's hawk 30

**D**

Depression 3, 32  
distilleries 8

**E**

East Hartford 7

**F**

Florida 2, 16

**G**

goshawk 30  
great blue herons 26

**H**

Hartford 6, 7, 11, 12, 21, 25, 26, 32  
Hartford Bird Study Club.....7, 21

**I**

Ice Age 14, 27

**J**

Josephus 9, 10

**K**

kingfisher 28

**M**

magpie 2

**N**

night-crowned black heron.....17

**P**

polio 33, 34

**R**

Revolutionary War.....	5, 6, 19, 23
Rye Street	8, 11

**S**

Scantic River	8, 14, 23
Silver Lane	5, 6, 7
Springfield	2, 25

**T**

teamsters	12, 13
tobacco	8, 11, 12, 15, 20
Travelers Insurance Company .....	32

**U**

Union School	35
--------------	----

**V**

Vernon	3, 18, 25, 33, 34
--------	-------------------

**W**

War of 1812	5
white-fringed orchid .....	21, 25, 26
WPA	32