

Interviewing Mamie Crandell

1984.006

Deep Cove Road
Church ton, Maryland

Interviewer: Jennie LeFevre
(Interview Undated)

JL: Mrs. (note actually Miss, never married, but Jennie LeFevre persistently used Mrs.) Crandell, Mrs. Crandell, could you tell me where you were born?

MC: I was born in an old house at the ... near Dent's Road ... in 1898.

JL: In 1898.

MC: Huh, huh ... I'm 86 years old. April the tenth.

JL: Could you please tell me, uh, who your parents are?

MC: William G. Crandell and Margaret Owings Crandell.

JL: Did they always live down here in this area themselves?

MC: Well, as I can remember, I don't know ... I've never heard; the times I can remember, they lived here. And I ... and I had four brothers and three sisters, and two sisters, three girls and four boys.

JL: Would you mind telling me what their names are?

MC: Uh, Herbert Crandell, William B. Crandell, Jr., LeRoy Crandell and Claude Crandell. And sisters' name is Lilly Crandell Simmons and Marie Crandell Armiger ... she's been, ... one married Armiger and one married Simmons.

JL: Could you please tell me where you went to school

MC: Churchton, Churchton ... and it was, uh, right cross from the ... where the bake shop is now, it's a little bake shop and it used to be a school ... two-room school house, but now ... they made it into a house and somebody moved ... made a house out of it.

JL: I see....would you remember who some of your classmates were, Mrs. Crandell.

MC: Uh, been so long ago, I forgotten cause most everybody lived out there. I know my sister-in-law, Mrs. LeRoy Crandell, was one of my classmate, that's my sister-in-law, but a lot of 'em, I don't remember cause its been so long ago.

JL: Would you happen to remember who any of your teachers were?

MC: Well, Miss Frances Bennett and, uh, I think, Miss Ethel.. Miss Ethel Andrews taught me a little while ... not very long cause she started; Shady Side after it but Miss Frances Bennett was my teacher.

JL: Uh huh, could you tell me what ... what your brothers and sister did for entertainment when you were young children?

MC: Well, wasn't much to do 'way down here unless they had a festival at church or a picnic or something like that. But after my brother finished school, Claude, he went to Baltimore and worked in a insurance company so he lived in town but the others lived around here.

JL: I see.

MC: One of my brothers lived back here, he's dead now.

JL: Did you ever do any skating?

MC: Oh yes, I used to ice skate. I loved that; I loved to skate.

JL: Could you tell me who are some of the people you used to ice skate with?

MC: Oh, with everybody, with everybody, everybody we used to go to Shady Side then to skate (undecipherable) with different people in Shady Side but I don't ... it's been so long ago, I've forgotten the names ... you know people, we grew up with ... the Crandell boys, John Crowell's brothers and ...

JL: Could you tell me what you remember ... uh, some of the stores that were in Shady Side at that time?

MC: Well ... uh, W.M. Owings was there and Nowell's, I've forgotten ... I don't know her first name but Miss ... Miss Ethel Andrews' father, Nowell, he kept a store there ... and kept a post office, they used to have a post office in Shady, but Nowell's store and, uh, Owings, I think they the only two still ... and Wallace Owing's in West Shady Side.

JL: I see Could you describe to me a little bit what you recall what the Nowell's store looked like on the inside?

MC: It was just a plain ... just a nice little plain store ... it's just like.

JL: Had barrels of stuff sitting there?

MC: They ... the country stores kept everything. You know, the ... clothes, sometimes, rubber boots and, everything just to ... and barrels of flour, they used to sell flour by the barrel and different, you know, just different things. They kept a little ... just like a country store, they keep everything.

JL: Huh, huh ... you had a ... friends up in Shady Side as well as in Churchton, then?

MC: Huh?

JL: You had a lot of friends in Shady Side?

MC: Well, I had friends, yes, and my uncle lived there. And after they moved, I didn't go too much either ... I used to go when I was young, but went over there when I was young buy then we'd go to Deale and do different things. There wasn't much to go to and I can remember when the mud used to be almost up to the road was so bad would be almost up to your ... past your ankles, way up to ... and you'd have to ... we, we drove with the horse and buggy ... we used to call 'em buggies and, uh ... see, wasn't any automobiles then but later, of course, there ... the cars, my brother-in-law ... and we just, I don't know ... but we had a better time than today and I tell you one thing, you could walk up the road anyplace and didn't ... any hour of the night and didn't any body bother you. But now you can't. And that was the most wonderful part of anything. And we used to have a ... we used to go to Baltimore on the steamer Emma Giles.

JL: Could you remember how much it used to cost?

MC: I don't remember what it cost but it wasn't much, I know.

JL: How often would you go ...

MC: Oh, we'd go ... cause I had relatives in Baltimore. Oh, we'd go sometimes on a vacation and I don't know, well, I remember we had a little,-- the Nowells had a little small.. uh, like a little yacht, like a steamer, like a little steameboat, uh, but it was small and we used to go to Annapolis. Go to Annapolis every day. And stay up there and then bring you back. But I don't remember the cost because it's been too long ago but we used to go on that too, sometimes.

JL: Could you remember how many ... how many passengers do you think the Emma Giles carried?

MC: Oh, I don't know, it was a lot, I don't really know how many, but it was a lot of people who used to ... but see I had....I had an aunt who lived in Baltimore and we used to go up there and visit her and stay.

JL: I see.

MC: ... for weekends, ... couple of weeks.

JL: I see, ah so, when ...when you would go down to the Emma Giles, there would be a lot of people around.

MC: Oh, yes, it was ... I remember one time, I tell you ... before the truck used to deliver down here, you'd have to have things ... groceries and things, different things, sent on the Emma Giles.

JL: And they'd have to go with horse and wagon and pick them up?

MC: Yeah, and then the trucks started coming, see, and they started delivering ... once a week, once or twice a week.

JL: I see, I see. So, could you tell me about, uh, your father's store ... where was your father's store located?

MC: It's right by Dent's Road, right, it's not far up ... you get past here. You know that sharp - when you go around here ... that sharp turn you go around well, that next old house, it's a big house, it had a store on the front.

JL: Okay, could you tell me, uh, how many years your father ran that store?

MC: Oh, it was ever since I can remember ... he's been dead now about ... more than fifty years, I guess ... about fifty and it, uh, my brother ... brother ran it a couple years after but, oh, every since I can remember and I'm 86. But ... I ... so about 20, .I guess 20 years ago or 25 years ... when. We moved out there about 20 years ago.

JL: Did your father run it until he died?

MC: He ran until he died, yes.

JL: I see.

MC: And he ... my mother died when ... and he died ten years later, after my mother. And my brother ran it awhile, because then he went to Baltimore to work.

JL: Could you tell me a little bit about the people who used to come in your store?

MC: Oh, everybody. We had a lot of colored trade and they was all nice and ... and every different people was coming but see, there was the store at Shady Side, didn't see too many people ... some people from Shady Side came but most of ours was colored trade.

JL: Could you remember who some of the people were, Mrs. Crandell?

MC: Oh, the Davis' and the Moldens, different Howlins and ...

JL : But they ... some of the Scott family as well.

MC: Uh, well, one of 'em used to live across the road like, but he just died ... ah, James Howell and the Moldens ... they're the old people, they have a son still living in ... he and his wife ... and that's about all the regulars and _____, and then the Jones', Armiger, John Armiger lived down the road from us.

JL: Now, did ... did your father's store have a big pot-bellied stove in the store?

MC: Yes, he did. Had a big pot-bellied stove in the store and ... cause that's the only heat you had, see.

JL: And everybody'd sit around this stove and talk?

MC: Yes, they'd all sit around and talk and have a good time.

JL: Now, can you tell me what they used to talk about.

MC: I don't know cause so much ... my father, when they would get to talking, like he wanted us to go in the house cause he ... I guess he was afraid they'd say something see ... they wouldn't like for us to hear something and we were young and we'd go in ... in the house, inside, so we couldn't stay ... you know, when a whole crowd of men get together, you don't know what they're going to talk about.

JL: That's true ... so ... so you never really heard them tell any unusual stories or any funny ... any strange things?

MC: No. .no, cause my father always said, you go in the house, go inside.

JL: Un huh, did you ever help your father work in the store?

MC: Yes, I did ... my sister, too ... my sister worked more than I did. I used to help her and we'd sell kerosene and everything and I'd lift five gallons of kerosene and take it to peoples' car and my sister did the same thing and it wasn't ... then, I didn't mind ... lifting ss.

JL: Well, you were young, it didn't matter.

MC: Well, now I can lift ... the girl at the grocery store the other day tell me, she said, "You mean to tell me you can lift this bag?" I said, 'certainly'. I said 'I'm not an invalid'. But I don't ... I don't stay here alone.

JL: Well, that's good ... that's good.

MC: I have ... my nephew and his wife.

JL: Well, that's good, that's very good, really.

MC: And, uh, so that makes it nice, see, I'm not real near, but my neighbors are nice, I have nice neighbors, very nice.

JL: Well, that's good ... that's good. Uh, could you tell me, Mrs.

Crandell, have you ever been married?

MC: No, no.

JL: You have never been married?

MC: I'm glad I didn't 'cause I ... my sister, see, fell and broke her hip and she had a farm up to Lusby and her husband died and we went up there and stayed a couple years and then she sell ... she broke her hip but just before she moved and she ... she lived here ... we lived here about 17 years and when she couldn't ... she could walk with a walker then she broke her wrist and she had to use a wheelchair.

JL: You lived with your sister in this house for 17 years?

MC: Yes, we been here 17 years.

JL: I see ... I see ... you and your sister bought this house together. Did you and your sister buy this ...

MC: No, she bought it.

JL: She bought It ...

MC: It's her home, wasn't mine ...

JL: I see, I see.

A: And she left it to me cause see, I took care of ... I had two sisters and one died in 1980 and the other's died in '81 or 8- ... but she lived a year after she was ... both of them, I looked after both of them and that's why ... so I was glad I didn't marry ... but I ... I had plenty of chances but I just didn't see anybody, never saw anybody that I really wanted to spend my life with.

JL: I see ...

MC: And I think you should be in love with anybody before you marry.

JL: Yes, ma'am, I do too.

MC: I'll tell you ... I was glad I could take care of them ... helped them.

JL: I see. Could you tell me what you remember ... do you remember the Shady Side Beverage Company?

MC: Shady Side what?

JL: Beverage Company. They used to make soft drinks.

MC: Oh yeah, Leatherbury ... yes ... we used to go out there ... then they had sort of little restaurant like, I think they used to sit ... ice, ice cream parlor, we used to go out there and get ice cream They had an ice cream parlor. Yes, they sold beverages.

JL: And they made the ice cream right there?

MC: I don't know whether they made it or not ... I guess so. I know we used to go there and eat ice cream. Yeah, I remember, was Leatherbury. And they lived right on that corner about where that school is....back in the ...

JL: I see. And how did ...

MC: the family ... I don't think there's but one of them left now. I mean, all of 'em are dead but Allison(?) and ?

JL: Uh, do you happen to remember a saw mill in Shady Side? Or was that long before your time?

MC: No, I don't remember a thing _____.

JL: No, you don't recall that, at all. Do you recall any of the, uh, men who had, uh, who built boats in Shady Side? Do you know any of the ... remember anyone talking about any of the men who were early boatbuilders?

MC: No ... I think of some men, but I don't remember anything about that much at all.

JL: You just don't recall.

MC: See I just didn't pay that much attention 'cause I was younger ... and I ... just didn't ... wasn't used to them, I guess ... because I know ... I don't know, I didn't care for the water ... I didn't like, uh, bathing,

'cause I couldn't swim and I ... everybody think that's so funny 'cause we lived here, right near the water but I just didn't ... I was afraid of water. ... but I liked to skate ... but I didn't like ... the water.

JL: So, from the time that you helped your father in the store up until, ... until he died and he gave the store up, then ... then where did you work, Mrs. Crandell?

MC: We lived there 'till about ... let's see ... we been here 17 and we lived up my sister's, I think, 2 years ... 18 – 19 about 20 or 21 years ago, I guess, about that when we left our old home place.

JL: I see.

MC: We sold it ... Whitby bought it ... I think, he died and so I don't know ... what ... what whether they sold it anymore or not, I don't ...

JL: Uh, did you and your sister get a job then or did you just stay at home?

MC: No, see, my sister was married, her husband was a farmer... and the other sister married Walter (Neve?) Simmons lived around Swamp Circle. She, uh ...my sister, he ___ was a farmer, her husband, and she sold her place and built down here, then our brother lived back here and he wanted us to live near him.

JL: I see. So, you, you have not worked yourself ... you have not had a occupation, so to speak?

MC: No.

JL: No, I see.

MC: Only just ... I never worked out ... because, they didn't want me, ... they, I mean, she took care of me, my sister, about ... see, they got Social Security which I don't, I don't get Social Security 'cause remember they got, she got work on her own, down on the farm, and my sister from her husband ... they get Social Security, but I don't.

JL: Uh, could you tell me, maybe, some of the things you did for entertainment as a young lady in your teenage years?

MC: Oh, did we used to go to, ... well, we had a lot of people come in ... a lot of youngsters would come in, we'd have parties and things like that.

JL: Could you tell me what ... some of things you did at the parties?

MC: Oh, we just played games and things like that.

JL: What type of games?

MC: Well, it's been so long ago, I forgot ... all kinds, I think, you know, different, just different.

JL: Did they have a party, like once a week or more often ...

MC: Oh no....not that often ... when we'd go into church, we'd have some kind of meeting or something and then we'd go to that and they would serve refreshments.

JL: What Church?

MC: St. John's Episcopal Church.

JL: Oh, I see ... that's the church you went to?

MC: Yes, that's the church I was confirmed, my sister and I, both.

JL: Is that the same church that's there now or was it the ... the early church? Was it the same ...

MC: Huh? No we went to the early church ... was there first when I was growing up ... see, the new church hasn't been there that long, you see but they have a nice minister down there now _____.

JL: Uh, I understand that the church used to put on nice suppers.

MC: Yeah, they did. There used to be wonderful suppers and my, Uncle Owings, his wife, they used to have them sometimes at the front of that hall, I guess it is their house, they'd have suppers ... they'd let 'em have them, the church ... the church style.

JL: Uh, what uncle is this, Mrs. Crandell.

MC: Huh?

JL: What uncle is this?

MC: Uh, Owings ... William Owings.

JL: William Owings.

MC: O-W-I-N-G-S ... Owings see, then they moved to Annapolis.

JL: Oh, now I hadn't heard anyone tell me that ... that's interesting.

MC: Yes, we lived there for long years. They're children were born and then they ... then they moved to Annapolis after ... their older children were older see, had some younger children when they moved away. They lived in Annapolis for some time, yes it was right there....right there where, between Bernie's (Keep?) and I don't know, right beside, you know, right near the church but it really looked better than they had it. You know, 'cause they used to keep such a nice looking lawn, keep the place looking nice and our place too, looks terrible now but looked good when we had it 'cause my sister and I used to go out there and cut the lawn, keep it cut ...

JL: With a push mower?

MC Yeah, with, power ... a power mower.

JL: A power mower...

MC: Mine needs cutting now but ... but I'm waiting for it to rain ... see before because it's all drying up ... Mr ... Mr. Ferris, in Shady Side cuts mine for me ... 'cause I couldn't go out there now, I'm too old ...

JL: Uh, would you say that Shady that the Episcopal Church then in Shady Side is your church? And you been going there many, many years?

MC: Uh, we used to go when younger ... I haven't been there lately because, see, I don't drive ... but I look at Dr. Schuler on television every Sunday, every Sunday.

JL: But that was your church when you were a young person?

MC: Yeah ... when I used to ... and my sister, after ... after my mother died, my sister and I were confirmed.

JL: In St. John's?

MC: Huh, St. John's and my father used to go, uh there often, his people were Methodist but he used to go there cause my mother was Episcopal (undeciferable).

JL: Uh, Mrs. Crandell, could you tell me what you think might be some of the oldest houses in Shady Side?

MC: I don't know 'cause ... I guess, I don't know who has them ... but I think Nowell's house is right old but I don't know how old ... just how old it is. I don't know ... Miss Ethel, somebody like that could tell you ... because they lived there all their life and I really don't know ... because I'd go to church, go down to the church or I'd go skating ... but I mean, I didn't really go there too much and after my uncle moved, I didn't go to Shady Side much ... we used to go down to Deale 'cause we knew people down there, too, see.

JL: Were there any places ... any places to dance down in Deale?

MC: Uh, not not, when we were coming along, but later Nowells used to have a place here ... Miss Ethel Andrews' father ... you know that big old brick house ... well, they'd hold dances there but not ... not in our ... I guess we were about, maybe 23 or 24 or 25 or something like that when they started it, I think. They would have dances there every week and ... and I didn't move down to Deale 'cause I don't remember 'em doing ... I didn't dance much but I'd just go watching.

JL: Everybody tells me they went to watch.

MC: Yeah, I did ... I did too. I didn't dance much because I ... I wasn't much of a dancer ... and my brother could really dance, one that lived in Baltimore ... just ... just my brother and I living here, ... he lived in Baltimore.

JL: Oh, I see.

MC: He lived in Baltimore ... and my nephew and his wife was staying with me ... they lived with me. He's gone to work ... they're just ... they're young people, see.

JL: Uh huh. Uh, when you were a little girl growing up in Churchton, could you recall for me who you think was the oldest person living in Churchton then ... that you recall as a real old person when you were a young lady ... a young child.

MC: I don't know ... because I never thought anybody was old ... you know, ... I respected older people and I ... my aunt was, she used to take me around and I always thought of her as a young person 'cause she was so nice to me. And I ... I don't know, lot of ... children today, they don't respect old people. But I did when I was young ... I loved old people.

JL: But you couldn't recall who you think maybe was the oldest person that lived in Churchton ...

MC: No ... I don't remember 'cause I ... I used to go to school and all but, I mean, I didn't mix with 'em too much ... I'd come from school, I didn't go to ... they didn't have many things in Churchton to go to ... only school, see, but we used to go to Deale a lot but I don't remember any old ... it's just, we'd go there to the ... we'd have a picnic or something like that ... a picnic in the churchyard, Methodist churchyard and we'd go to that and we'd ... but I don't remember much about the older people 'cause ...

JL: You mentioned something earlier about the mail ... could you tell me again what you had said earlier.

MC: No ... I said the mail we'd ... mail used to come from Churchton and we'd go all the way to Shady Side and then could go back, because the postmistress of Churchton would bring our mail in a big bag 'cause we had a store ... in a big bag and people used to get their mail from ... from our store before they started putting the boxes out here ... in later years, they put mailboxes out here ... had put them out, but they, a lot of people around, colored people, would get their mail there ...

JL: At your store?

A: At our store ... we'd keep it for them in the storage area room ... and then.... later on in later years, they had the mailbox, they had to put mailbox ... out.

JL: And then they finally get.... finally got a post office here?

MC: And now, see ... they have a mailman that goes to Churchton and we have a different community and it all goes around, see ... in the front creek and we used to have a Mr. Gordon Phipps in the '50s ... but he was real young, he was our mailman and he really was a good nice mailman but he ... taken him out and put him on a shorter route, now, and we have somebody else. But he seems to be nice, ... but Mr. Phipps was a nice man.

JL: Uh, could you tell me what you recall of Dr. Dent?

MC: No, I just remember that ... he was good to us and always attended ... and my mother had the ... kidney stones and we could call in at any hour of the night and he'd be right there ... to give her a shot and he was just ... just a wonderful man, that's all I can tell you ... but I ... remember, now I used to play with his daughters, they ... she was ... I'd go down to the office and ... and he would try ... he'd drive a buggy and a horse first and then later, of course, he had a car ... and he had a wonderful wife, too, she was Mrs ... her name was Belle Hodges Dent ... she's a Hodges from Galesville.

JL: I see ... but I imagine it was fascinating to go in his office.

MC: It was ... yeah, it was ... and he was always so nice, he's such a nice man.

JL: Would he tell you what all the different things were in his office?

MC: Oh yeah, he'd sit down and explain to you and talk to you, he ... just, he'd just ... he was just a nice person and, I felt that if I could get Doc Dent, I'd be ... if I was sick, I ... I would get well ... when he would attend us.

JL: Well ... I think a lot of people did have confidence in him.

MC: Uh huh, I did ... we ... all of us, uh, we all ... we loved him ... he was just a nice man ... you know, 'cause I don't ... I was young then and I didn't pay him much attention, you know, you don't, and now, I'm sorry that I didn't ask my mother and father ... you know, about the family and different things but I didn't and because I was at the age that I wasn't interested and now I'd like to know.

JL: Well, sure ... of course ...

MC: And I wished I'd asked my sisters more ... they probably knew more than I did ... so I don't know cause ...

JL: Mrs. Crandell, we thank you very much for talking to us ... we really do appreciate it.

MC: Well ... I didn't tell you much

JL: Yes, yes mä'am, you did. We thank you very much.

MC: Well, you're welcome but you've been so nice.

JL: Oh mercy, you have been nice ...

MC: No, I mean, you have ... you're very nice.

JL: Thank you very much, ma'am.

