

ORAL HISTORY

Captain Avery Museum

Strong, Alma Hartge

1986.003

Date of Interview: October 1, 1986

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Interviewing: Alma Hartge Strong

Church Lane, Galesville, Maryland

Interviewer: Jennie LeFevre

JL: Mrs. Strong, would you please tell us if you were born in Galesville and in Shady Side?

AHS: I was born in Shady Side on what they say is Parrish Creek, in a house on Parrish Creek. Uh, at that time it was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Forbes.

JL: And would you mind telling us what year you were born?

AHS: 1904, June 28th, 1904.

JL: Uh, what were your parents names?

AHS: Oscar E. Hartge and Alice W. Hartge.

JL: And did you have brothers and sisters?

AHS: Not at that time. I was the oldest, I was the first child.

JL: Oh, I see, uh huh. And uh, how long did you live in Shady Side?

AHS: Oh, probably a little over two years, because the sister next to me was born in Shady Side, but not at the same place.

JL: Uh huh, ... would you mind telling us the names of your brothers and sisters?

AHS: All the way through?

JL: Well, how many brothers and sisters did you have?

AHS: Well, there were 11 of us.

JL: Eleven.

AHS: Nine living.

JL: Nine living?

AHS: Uh huh.

JL: Nine that are still living?

AHS: Yes, uh huh.

JL: My goodness, that's great.

AHS: And, this is the house where we were raised.

JL: And what age were you then, when you moved to Galesville?

AHS: I was, let's see, I was between three and four.

JL: And you said that, that you used to go back to Galesville, I mean, go back to Shady Side on weekends and so forth, then who did you visit?

AHS: My uncle Eddie Hartge and his wife was Aunt Minnie, who was my mother's sister, there was a double relationship there.

JL: And where did they live in Shady Side?

AHS: I don't know whether you've ever heard of where Judge Hayes had his place? That has since burned down and ... uh ... well, it's right straight down, you know where Preston Owings lives ...

JL: No.

AHS: ... if you go right straight down that way toward the river, it would be right there, it was right on West River. Left side.

JL: And uh, uh, could you tell us ... um, what you used to do for entertainment when you were a little girl and go down and visit them on weekends?

AHS: Climb under the house and run around the fields. Just, and then also go over to Cedar Point because there were relatives over there, I would go over there and see them.

JL: Did your other brothers and sisters also go with you when you ...

AHS: No, just me.

JL: It was just you?

AHS: It was just me.

JL: Just you. Uh, as you grew older, like in your teenage years and you would go over to visit them, what did you used to do in the summer for entertainment?

AHS: As a teenager I did not go over there. By that time I had started high school and, and I was 14 and I stayed in Annapolis all during the week and came home weekends. So I stayed home.

JL: Uh, have you ever skated out on the West River?

AHS: Yes.

JL: And could you tell me a little bit about it?

AHS: I didn't, I was not much of a skater, I wore very poor ankles, but I loved to get out on the skate and as I understand it, my father started me up when I was six years old, bought me skates, turned a tomato basket upside down so I could support myself and skated that way.

JL: That's a unique way to do it, but I don't ...it probably was very easy. Did you ever skate at night time?

AHS: No.

JL: No, no. Could you remember some of the people that you skated with?

AHS: Oh gosh yes. Well, I would say, of course my brothers who were old enough at that time and my sister, sisters skated and a number of the village people skated. Oh, I know the Dixon's, of course, very good skaters and also my aunts used to like to get out on the ice and skate, three of those that I can remember who used to skate and two of my uncles, so there were plenty of family out on the ice ... (Inject JL: Un) and my father.

JL: And your father?

AHS: And he was a very good skater.

JL: Oh. Could you tell me what you remember of the "Emma Giles"?

AHS: I remember the "Emma Giles" coming in five times a week during the summer and I went to Baltimore to work, it was after getting through high school in Annapolis, I, in the summer time, traveled on the "Emma Giles", came from Baltimore to West River on Saturdays and went back on Sundays.

JL: How much would it cost to go from here to Baltimore on the “Emma Giles”?

AHS: I don’t really remember but I’m sure it wasn’t very much because I didn’t make much salary.

JL: Could you please explain to me what the “Emma Giles” looked like?

AHS: Well, she was what they called a side wheeler; and let’s see, and may I get something here?

JL: Yes ma’am. Tape goes off/ then on

AHS: They have an “Emma Giles” Day, YWCA sponsors it, you know. And so I usually carry all my things down there that have to do with the “Emma Giles” and have to do with the Bay steamers and ...

JL: The book you just showed me is wonderful because it’s all about the “Emma Giles”.

AHS: Yes, uh huh, yes. And I have a few more pieces, also.

JL: Are there any stories that you could tell me about when the show boat used to come into Galesville?

AHS: I only remember going there once or twice, all ... I just remembered that uh, it was a privilege, I guess, to go and see a show, because it was ... I’m sure I was young, and we just thought it was pretty wonderful.

JL: You don’t recollect what type of shows they had?

AHS: No I don’t.

JL: No you don’t.

AHS: It was too far back.

JL: Could you tell me about some of the people who lived in Galesville at the time that you used to go down and visit on the weekends?

AHS: Oh yes. The Woodfield’s, of course, and one of those girls was just my age and we were very good friends. The Smith’s, who run the ... well the pile driving company now, there was a daughter there, Agnes and she and I were the same age. And, of course, there were the Dixon’s and there were no girls my age, but some of the boys were and, of course the Kolb family and one of those boys was about my age. And then, not right in the village, but there were others who came to the school ... I remember the Hunt’s, Robert Hunt was about my age. Also, the Hopkins’, Randolph Hopkins was about my age, so... um ... I’m sure I’m leaving out some.

JL: Yeah I know, it’s, it’s difficult sometimes when I ask questions.

AHS: Yes, right, uh huh.

JL: Did you ever go to the Andrews Hotel?

AHS: I never did.

JL: You never, never went to the hotel?

AHS: No. Well, I knew Mrs. Andrews and, of course I knew the Nowell family and like ... uh ... Mrs. Mary Nowell, who kept the ... who had the post office there for a while and her, her daughter and my sister were very good, very close friends. And, of course, relatives also. Mrs. Mary Nowell had been a Hartge and ...

JL: I won’t ask you anymore questions, I’ll just let you talk because they said that you have lots of neat stories to tell us, so ... uh ...

AHS: Well, you better give me a few hints as to what ...

JL: Give you a few hints ... uh ... could you tell me something about, um , um, well what did your father do for a living? We'll start with that.

AHS: In later years he was a yacht captain, previous to that he was an oyster buyer, he also caught oysters and sold them. And then, uh, later years he started the, the Hartge Yacht Yard. And ...

JL: Do you know what year he did start the Yacht Yard?

AHS: Either '33 or '34. And, of course, he had a number of his family employed there, he had a lot of boys, that gave us an opportunity for them to work and not have to go away from home.

JL: Well, you said you had brothers and sisters, how many sisters did you have and how many brothers?

AHS: I had three sisters, and so there were seven brothers.

JL: Oh my goodness, no wonder he had lots of young men to help him. And ... uh ... uh ... did he build boats down there or did people ...

AHS: No, he did not. He ... uh ... kept boats there for people at piers (insert JL: I see) and did some repair work. My grandfather had started the Hartge Yacht Yard, he built boats and then one of his sons joined him, he also built boats, but then my father came along and he did not, it was not a partnership, but it was all together as far as the land and shops went and ... uh ... so he kept boats there, indoors and also had railways and they hauled and repaired and ...

JL: Uh huh, uh huh. And could you, um, recall some of the people who came down there, were there people from the city who left their boats down here or just ... was it local people?

AHS: No, they were people from the city, mainly from Washington.

JL: Mainly from Washington?

AHS: Yes. Since I was not associated with the yard at that age, I did not know too many of them, later, later years, I was. But to go back a little bit, after I got through school here in Galesville, I went to high school in Annapolis, that was the only white high school in Anne Arundel County at that time. So, I had to stay, during the week, and just come home weekends.

JL: And you stay with was it relatives?

AHS: I stayed with a relative the first year, after that I stayed at the Y for two years. And then with ... uh ... an older lady, and there were several of us stayed with these people and by the way, one of them was Liza. Zimmerman, whose husband wrote Anchors Away.

JL: Is that right? Well how interesting. How interesting.

AHS: So, when I got through high school I went to Baltimore to work.

JL: And what did you do?

AHS: I was a dental assistant and I was there for three years and then I was married then we moved to Pennsylvania. We lived in Lancaster, Pennsylvania for three years.

JL: Excuse me, what year were you married?

AHS: 1925.

JL: And what was your husband's name?

AHS: Herbert Strong. After living there three years, we moved to Washington, D. C., and lived there 16 years and came home practically every weekend.

JL: Came home, came home to Galesville?

AHS: Yes, yes

JL: I see, I see.

AHS: And then I moved back here in 1945 because my father asked me, if I would please come and help him out at the boat yard ... that they did not have a bookkeeper at that time because my sister, who had been bookkeeper for a long time was getting ready to raise her family. So, I reluctantly, at first, because I liked my other kind of work.

JL: And do you and your husband have children?

AHS: No we do not.

JL: You do not have children. So when you moved, then, back to Galesville, did you move to this house or was it some other house.

AHS: We moved with my mother and father and my husband commuted for, let's see, ten ... (under her breath counted years), for 20 years, he commuted.

JL: And so, you stayed with your mother and father, your husband and yourself stayed with your mother and father and then later on ...

AHS: For seven, for seven years and then we bought the little cottage next to the boat yard and lived there for 21 years and then built this house.

JL: Oh my goodness. Oh my goodness.

AHS: We fortunately had bought this piece of property from my father when we first came home to live and later the boat yard wanted the cottage, where we were living, as an office so we had this house built.

JL: Now, we know that the Hartge family is a very important family in this area and a very, a very prominent family. Could you tell us a little bit about the Hartge family history?

AHS: Well ...

JL: Who was the first Hartge who came into this area?

AHS: Henry Hartge.

JL: And ... uh ... uh ... and what area did he settle in?

AHS: Shady Side.

JL: In Shady Side?

AHS: The whole, no, let's see, it was the other book ...

JL: Is it this one?

AHS: No, no. This is the one.

JL: Oh ... I see, oh, I'm ... And he settled in Shady Side, exactly where in Shady Side did he settle?

AHS: That they called Mill Point.

JL: Mill Point?

AHS: Uh huh. And later, uh, they had, well of course ... uh ... all the children were born in Germany except the youngest daughter and she was born in America.

JL: Now, now what; do you know what year he came to Shady Side?

AHS: Approximately 1850.

JL: Uh huh. And he was ... the, this gentlemen was the one who was the piano manufacturer?

AHS: Yes, and then, of course, his sons worked with him.

JL: And how many sons did he have?

AHS: One, two, three.

JL: He had three sons? And ... uh ... uh ...

AHS: See the name?

JL: Oh yes indeed. Now, he made all these pianos by hand ...

AHS: Well, that I would not know.

JL: You don't know the history of it.

AHS: No, not exactly, um.

JL: Now is, are, are any of these pianos still in existence?

AHS: Oh yes.

JL: How many would you say?

AHS: We have three in the family.

JL: Three that he actually built?

AHS: Yes. This one is ... Henry Hartge, belongs to my sister who lives over on Chalk Point, there's one at the boat yard and I believe that has Hartge Brothers on it, so apparently the sons, by that time must have taken over.

JL: Uh huh ... and where is the third one?

AHS: The third one is in Washington at the time, it's in storage because my niece does not have a large enough place to keep it.

JL: I see.

AHS: And so that's ... and I'm not sure of the name that's on that one.

JL: And how many years did he build pianos?

AHS: After he came to West River he did not build as a manufacturer, he built on order.

JL: I see, I see. And does your family history say how many pianos he actually built?

AHS: No, I'm afraid not.

JL: Well, that's a shame.

AHS: Yes. Uh huh.

JL: That's a real shame. And so this, this was like his main occupation?

AHS: Yes, yes.

JL: And he had learned his trade in Germany?

AHS: Yes. He had learned, I must say, he had learned piano manufacturing. When he came to America he came alone ...

JL: How old was he?

AHS: Let me see ... He was born in 1794, (insert JL: He was born in 1794) so he was, and he came to America about 1830 ... (actually Mrs. Strong said 1930 but obviously a misstatement).

JL: I see, ok, ok. So he came alone ... I'm sorry, I interrupted you.

AHS: He came alone and sent for his family later. His wife and, let's see, one, two, three, four, and his four children ... this, this girl ...

JL: Mathilda?

AHS: Yes, she was married in America ... I mean she was born in America. The rest were born in Germany.

JL: I see. And ... uh ... uh ... so you don't really, actually know how many years that he actually built pianos?

AHS: Well, as I said, he moved out of Baltimore approximately 1850 and came to West River.

JL: Uh huh.

AHS: As I understand, from what has been told me, he came to West River to tune pianos, at that time they had what they called the Hundreds, you know, people were given property by the English people, very large estates and at that time, let's see, Murray's and the Cheston's and the Elsey's and people like that and would ask him to come down and tune the pianos. They also would more or less entertain, as I also understand they had their large properties stocked with deer and other game and he liked that and would be invited to stay down to do those kinds of things. That's when he decided that West River was a very lovely place. And that is why he decided to come here to live.

JL: And, uh, then what year did this gentleman pass away?

AHS: (Inaudible) (Tape was cut off and then cut back on picking up conversation in mid-sentence)
-Oh, wait a minute, no, her father was finally Heinrich Christian _____.

JL: Oh, ok.

AHS: And was born there and died there so I do not, I'm sure my sister would know. I'm sorry.

JL: Then when he passed away, did his family stay in the West River area?

AHS: Yes, yes. His wife ... I have a piece of paper there that I have to return to a relative and she divided the property among her sons and daughters, with the proviso that she could live with them at different times if they did not find that advisable, they were to pay her so much ...

[Tape was once again cut off and then cut back on picking up conversation in mid—sentence.] ... Mary, his wife, Neil O. and his wife, Margaret, Pauline Door (maybe Dore), Clement Siegert, and Mathilda Siegert. These were Emily and Henry's children.

JL: I see.

AHS: And she divided the property among them, so Henry Hartge died ...

JL: And it was with the understanding that she could go live with them from time to time?

AHS: Yes. Uh huh, and I think she lived with Neil O. Hartge ... inaudible ...

JL: Uh, could you tell us what his sons later did for an occupation?

AHS: I can only tell you definitely about Levine, who was a musician and was head of a girl's school down in the south, in Mississippi, I believe, and I think that the others, of course, stayed and helped with the manufacture of the pianos. What they did later, I don't know.

JL: What generation of Hartge are you?

AHS: Fifth, the fifth generation.

JL: The fifth generation. And many, many books have been written about the Hartge family ...

AHS: Well, I don't know about books ...

JL: The family history ...

AHS; But, there have been articles, yes. The only book is the one that my sister wrote, this one.

JL: Uh huh.

AHS: The reason she was able to get the information, I was told that a lot of the family correspondence between the ones in Germany and the ones in America were in the safe of my father's cousin, so I asked one of their granddaughters if she would ask her brother if we could borrow them. And he very graciously said yes. My sister attempted to have them deciphered from the German, but there were not many people in this area who knew the old German and she moved to Florida, she found two professors who knew the old German and that is where she got her stuff.

JL: How interesting. That is interesting.

AHS: And you see this is ...

JL: Oh yes, I see, in 1976 she started, in 1976 she started this or she got it completed.

AHS: Uh huh, it was completed.

JL: It was completed in '76.

AHS: Yes, because it's been 10 years.

JL: It was ten years being completed?

AHS: Oh no, it was ten years ago it was completed.

JL: Oh yeah, but how many years did it take her to actually complete?

AHS: I don't know. A long time, probably, and without her husband I don't think she could have done it, he was a tremendous help to her. You see now, here's the fourth generation.

JL: And you are the fifth, you said.

AHS: I am the fifth generation, yes ... (inaudible).

JL: And is the

AHS: There's my father ...

JL: OK.

AHS: The fourth generation ...

JL: Ok. Is the, is the first Hartge, the gentleman who came here to this country from Germany and his wife buried in this area?

AHS: Yes. And that is something we would like very much to be able to do is to have that old cemetery cleaned up. It's over at Shady Side, but it is terribly grown up and any, there are several of us who said well we would certainly like to see it cleaned up. We hope that maybe we can get it done because I'm sure that there are trees in there now and, of course, it is terribly over grown with weeds.

JL: Are there, are there actually headstones in there?

AHS: Yes, yes.

JL: There are?

AHS: Yes.

JL: With, with writing on it..

AHS: And Henry's, I'm sure Henry's is in there.

JL: Uh huh.

AHS: And he's the one who came to the country.

JL: Why, that's a pity that it's overgrown like that.

AHS: Yes, well you see nobody has been living in that place.

JL: It was back on a family property?

AHS: Yes, it was on the property.

JL: I see, I see. So no one has lived there for a long time ...

AHS: No.

JL: ... so that's why it has gone to the ...

AHS: The property was sold to a Judge Hayes and ... uh ... I'm sure they lived there for a while and then I believe the son lived there but it seemed as though while he was living there the place burned. I do not know who owns the property now cause there's no house there.

JL: I see, I see, well. I, I hope that it will be taken care of.

AHS: Well, we certainly hope so and I think that, you know (Nellie: inserted later) Chicks Nowell, well I think she mentioned something to my sister about it and to see, and there are enough of us if each one would pitch in with a little bit, we could have it done.

JL: I see, I think so, yes. That would be great, well, that would be nice, that would be like a nice old land mark.

AHS: Yes.

JL: It really would be.

AHS: Yes, it would.

JL: Uh, can you tell us some other things about your family?

AHS: Such as?

JL: Such as ... uh ...

AHS: Well, as I said, we lived over, I lived over here with my mother and father, they lived here from about 1907 or 08 until my father died in 1955, my mother died in 1961, but that was their home for their duration, their life time. So my mother lived with my husband and I for two years before she died, but that was because of her health.

JL: I see.

AHS: But it was still her home.

JL: But she would go back to her house once in a while?

AHS: Uh, once in a while, but she had gotten so that we would have to take her back.

JL: Uh huh, uh huh.

AHS: Know, of course, like a lot of elderly people she could remember the old things better than she could the more recent things.

JL: Over all her life that's a fact, they're all like that at some times.

AHS: Uh huh.

JL: Mrs. Strong, you have all kinds of wonderful books here about your family and you have ... uh, uh, uh ... your family history and you have poems written by some lady in your family and perhaps on the other side of the tape you'll tell me who this lady was and ... uh ...

AHS: My aunt, my father's sister.

JL: Your father's sister?

AHS: Uh huh.

JL: And she ... uh ... that's what she liked to do is write poetry.

AHS: Yes, of course, she worked in Baltimore at ... uh ... at a hospital, I think Dr. Kelly, Dr. Harley Kelly, who was well known even in Johns Hopkins, in medical circles, in Baltimore and all over the world. And she worked with him for a good many years.

JL: Uh huh.

AHS: And, but, she, like the rest of us, came home weekends, we're all, just had to get home weekends.

JL: Well, certainly, certainly. Well, let me turn the tape over and we'll talk more about her on the other side here.

[End of Side 1 of tape]

JL: Now, would you like to read, would you like to pick out one of her poems, which ever one you think's your favorite or which ever and read us one of them, it's a lovely book.

AHS: One to my brother, so if I can find that.

JL: OK. (Long pause)

AHS: Why don't I read the one to Dr. Kelly, for whom she worked many years.

“To Dr. Kelly on his 75th birthday”.

I've tried and tried but all in vain
To think of a new and sweet refrain,
To let you know I think of you
And wish you all that's good and true
On this, another year's milestone
Of a life well spent and duties done,

But this is all I can write or say,
May you live for many a new birthday.

JL: Ha, ha, and what, and what ...

AHS: That was in 1933 that she wrote that.

JL: How delightful, how delightful.

AHS: We thought she was an exceptional person. We knew that she was very well read, she liked to read, we used to even say that she studied the dictionary. But ... um ... and she had the welfare of the family at heart, I think that nobody would hesitate about going to her for advice and she always thought about her brothers and sisters and especially her mother and father.

JL: When you all used to come home on weekends, could you tell us what you all did?

AHS: Talk.

JL: Talk?

AHS: And laugh and carry on and kid each other and, well ... uh ... a number of them, the older ones used to sail every weekend, of course they always had sails here, sailing here. And, when I can remember a lot of the boys on Sunday morning hauling the boats over on the side, cleaning off the bottom and then it would be dinner time, everyone, everyone would pile into dinner, then everyone would go sailing, I very seldom went sailing, I used to stay home and help my mother with the dishes.

JL: Because you didn't like to sail, or ...

AHS: Oh no, oh no.

JL: was it because you had to stay home and help your mother?

AHS: Well, I didn't have to, but I'm sure I felt it was my duty.

JL: I see, I see.

AHS: I'd sail once in a while, once in a while they would relieve me of the duties, but the sister, the youngest sister, she sailed quite a bit, in fact she had her own boat.

JL: Uh, what was her name?

AHS: Elsie.

JL: Elsie?

AHS: Uh huh. And ... uh ... Florence, the sister next to me, she wasn't, wasn't that much of a sailor either, although we both loved to sail, when we had the opportunity.

JL: Could you tell me a little bit what the area, Galesville and Shady Side, looked like in those days? I mean, did you ...

AHS: In those days, when we were youngsters, my grandfather's house was over on what we called "this point", Whitestake Point. There was no other house between that and my grandfather's, my father's house, right here. And, my grandfather's brother had a house right across the road which went from the road down to the creek. When I was a child, those were the three houses I remember on this point. Later, other pieces of property were sold and not always to the family, outsiders.

JL: And could you tell me a little bit what Shady Side looked like that you remember?

AHS: Well, of course, I didn't do much ...

JL: When you would go there on weekends?

AHS: No, well, as I said, I stayed right there at my uncle's and aunt's house as a rule, then I would walk over to what we call Cedar Point or West Shady Side I think they call it now, where a number of the Linton's lived. They were related, also, on my grandmother's side, so I would go over and visit with some of them. I very seldom went out into Shady Side.

JL: So you don't recall even any of the stores that might have existed then?

AHS: Oh ... not really. Oh, the thing I remember mostly was the post office when Mrs. Andrews did not have, it was later, it was Mrs. Andrews' brother's wife who ran the post office, Mrs. Mary Nowell. There was a store right near there, but I cannot remember the name of it now. Oh, Owings.

JL: Owings?

AHS: Yes. They had a store close by the post office.

JL: And were, I imagine, then the roads were not paved?

AHS: Oh no. Oh no indeed.

JL: They were not paved at all?

AHS: No, uh huh. I remember riding out with my uncle one time, he had to go up to his wife's sister to get eggs. He had a boarding house.

JL: In Shady Side?

AHS: Yes.

JL: And ... uh ... excuse me, what was this gentleman's name?

AHS: "Eddie" Hartge we called him, Edmond Hartge.

JL: OK.

AHS: And I remember riding with him to go get the eggs and that was quite an event, I wasn't used to horses.

JL: Uh, where did he have his boarding house in Shady Side?

AHS: Right as I told you, you know where the cemetery is? And that was one of the home places.

JL: And how many boarders could he take in?

AHS: Oh I don't think, not too many I wouldn't, I wouldn't say more than eight or ten, maybe.

JL: What age were you during that time, do you know?

AHS: Well, it was before I was, before I went to high school. So it would have to of been, I would say, maybe eight to 12, approximately.

JL: I see, I see. So you would, the reason I'm asking this is, you wouldn't remember even what he would have charged a guest.

AHS: Oh no, no.

JL: And he had a boarding house and there was the Andrews' hotel, do you recall any other boarding houses that were there at the time?

AHS: Yes, cause Charlie Hartge, which was farther up the road, which was next to Mill Point. Mill Point was the original piece of Hartge property. And next to it was, what we called Cousin Charlie Hartge, who was my grandfather's cousin, that was a boarding house.

JL: That was a boarding house also, did he take in ... uh, uh ... large amount of guests then, then

AHS: I think he probably did. When you turn it off, I'll tell you something else.

JL: You said that you and your husband were ...

AHS: Yes, my husband and I were on a senior citizen's bus trip up in the Poconos. While we were sitting out in the lobby after one of the meals, a gentleman came over to me and he said are you a member of the Galesville senior citizens group? And I said, "yes". He said, "I remember as a child, going to Galesville We stayed at a boarding house in Shady Side and my father would row us over to Galesville, there was what they called an ice cream parlor; there and I always, will always remember that." He said, "where we stayed was old Captain Charlie Hartge." He said, "I bet you wouldn't remember that." I said, "I just happen to be a Hartge."

JL: And he was so excited, I bet ...

AHS: He was so excited he called his wife over, she's, and she's, he said oh, come over here, I want you to meet somebody.

JL: That's wonderful, that's a wonderful story. So it's ... uh ... really a small world after all.

AHS: Oh yes. Right, uh huh.

JL: Oh I like that, that's wonderful.

AHS: And he was so excited.

JL: And did he correspond with you and your husband later or ...

AHS: No, really no, it was just one of those casual things.

JL: Oh, but how nice. I bet he just wanted to talk about a lot of things.

AHS: Well, he was so young, cause he was just a child.

JL: Yeah but ... I mean if, but it must of impressed him cause you remembered.

AHS: Oh yes, the name, yes.

JL: Well, my goodness ... (inaudible) to meet somebody. Well, that's great. Is there anything else you can tell us about Shady Side or Galesville that ... uh ... maybe a little bit about some of the stores that were in Galesville at the time.

AHS: The store I remember best was Kolb's store. That was a very old store as I remember, was the post office at one time and the owner, Mr. Kolb, used to run it and the store. Two of his sons were on the Emma Giles, later on.

JL: They were ...

AHS: Two of Mr. Kolb's sons.

JL: Oh, I see, what did they do on the Emma Giles, do you know?

AHS: Oh, I swear by, if I just had that piece of paper.

JL: Would you like to read this letter?

AHS: Yes. "Dear Alma, Thank you so much for the picture of the Emma Giles. It is good write-up of the old days but the thing I remember best is the way black Mary was mobbed when she stepped aboard with her baskets of deviled crabs at the stop in Annapolis. She ran out, always, in short order.

Another thing I remember is standing or leaning against the thick glass in front of the brightly polished brass parts of the steam engine and warming our tummys during the winter trips. (JL interjects: Ohhh) Another thing I remember is friends and relatives getting off at Galesville, brought to the house for a visit.”

(My grandmother’s house.) (Evidently not part of the letter ... I’m alright was it let’ see, was it captain.
.oh)

(Starts up again) “Sarah Wilson used to bring Doughbrines or Doughbriners delicious ice cream and put aboard at Chalk Point. I thought the Emma stopped at Captain Ed Leatherbury’s pier at Shady Side, but I supposed she would stop at other places if there were many summer boarders to get off. I don’t know where Nowell’s pier is or was ...”

JL: This was an aunt who sent you this ...

AHS: Yes, uh huh.

JL: Well, how nice. Interesting, yes. Probably brought ... really brought back lots of memories, too.

AHS: Oh yes. (evidently continuation of letter) “Is Avalon Shores behind the front of the old Lerch place?”

Insert: The Lerch place is where the Chesapeake Yacht Club is now.

“The Yacht Club is on the water front. Cousin Tommy’s place, where there was a wind mill and a big white house. I went there several times with Papa and later with Edmond.”

Then she wanted to know about some of the different people who now lived in Shady Side. ... same time. She was my youngest aunt so she was not many years older than I am, than I was.

JL: Could you tell me what the Emma Giles looked like on the inside? I understand it was very plush and ...

AHS: I wouldn’t say it was so plush. I usually spent a good bit of my time when back and forth down around what was the dance floor and that was where they had places where you could sit, but not real comfortable chairs. Just a place for people sitting together. Also, when the weather was good, I did like to be out on deck and sit there, but they were just benches along there and it was not that plush.

JL: How long would it take it, I mean what, how long would it take it to go from Baltimore to Galesville? How long of a trip was it?

AHS: Of course it stopped in Annapolis, as a rule. I don’t really remember. Gosh, that’s been too many years ago.

JL: Well, that’s ok, I ...

AHS: I would say a couple of hours or more.

JL: A couple of hours, my goodness..

AHS: Oh, yeah ...

JL: Oh my goodness...

AHS: So, I think we used to leave at 1:00, I believe, and probably got here around three, that’s just a guess.

JL: But you would come home every weekend?

AHS: During the summer, because the Emma Giles only ran on Saturday's and Sunday's during the summer months. She just ran three times a week when she was bringing freight back and forth, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

JL: So I imagine when she came into Galesville here, she did come into Galesville?

AHS: Yes.

JL: She would bring some things, maybe, for your father's boat yard?

AHS: Uh, probably, I wouldn't say there was too much. You see, she came into Shady Side first, there were three stops in West River.

JL: Uh huh.

AHS: And so they stopped at Shady Side first, then they stopped at Galesville and then they went to Chalk Point. And then from there out they went on back, and stopping in Annapolis, and then on to Baltimore.

JL: But I imagine it was a very nice trip, though.

AHS: It was, I always enjoyed it. I also traveled on the Tolchester Line going to eastern shore. My husband and I used to spend some weekends over there and sometimes we would go from Baltimore on the Tolchester boat.

JL: And where did it land?

AHS: Tolchester, Maryland.

JL: Oh, in Tolchester, I see, OK.

AHS: So, I saw a lot of the Tolchester. It died?

JL: They tell me that there used to be ice breakers, in the winter, that, do you remember any of that?

AHS: The "Annapolis". Well, the "Annapolis" was one of the Tolchester boats. She was equipped to break ice and winter time she would be the one to come in here to ... uh ... into the different ..., into West River ...

JL: To bring different things?

AHS: Yes, uh huh. Well she did the same thing that the "Emma Giles" would have done if the weather had been better.

JL: Well, I'm glad I asked you that then cause ... really, you know, I don't know anything about this area so I'm, I'm really learning a lot.

AHS: Then the "Louise" was another one of the Tolchester boats. She was, to me, the largest one. She was the one that would come in and take the people over to Tolchester for the day. And then there was the "Tolchester", and the "Annapolis", and the "Louise", and the "Emma Giles". Those are the ones I can remember.

JL: Uh huh. Interesting. But, it sounds like if you were on quite a few of the boats that you did like the water?

AHS: Oh yes. I lived right on the river.

JL: But, now, you were telling me that ... uh ... you liked, sometimes you went sailing, I imagine you went swimming a lot too.

AHS: I did. Yes, we could, those days we had good, clear water.

JL: Had sparkle to it?

AHS: Yeah. And we would, would run down the wharf and jump overboard and swim around and mother wouldn't let us stay in too long though, and during blackberry season we would very often go to pick blackberries over at the place across from, from the boat yard, which is known as Belle Groves. When we got back, we would be allowed to go swimming the second day, the second time that day, because you got chiggers on you. Otherwise, we were only allowed to go swimming once a day.

JL: And did you, did you and your brothers and sisters do crabbing and fishing, too?

AHS: Crabbing, yes. That was my middle name.

JL: Well, tell me about it, we would like to hear about that.

AHS: Well, I loved to crab and I used to stand up in the bow of a boat and push along the shores and look for crabs, catch them whenever I could get, whenever I could. Soft crabs especially.

JL: Would you go alone or ...

AHS: Alone.

JL: You went alone?

AHS: Sometimes I would take one of the younger ones, but they always had to keep still, so they didn't like to go.

JL: Uh huh, but you, you really liked to do ...

AHS: Oh, I loved it. I loved it.

JL: And you'd bring them home, then, to your parents?

AHS: Yes, and I sold em, that was how I made some of my spending money.

JL: Oh,well, where did you used to sell them?

AHS: Right here in the village, I mean a lot of people would like to buy soft crabs.

JL: And how much would you sell them ...

AHS: Thirty-five cents a dozen.

JL: Oh, thirty-five cents a dozen?

AHS: I always remember that.

JL: But I imagine you could sell as ..., every one you had.

AHS: Well, of course, we also, there were a lot of them kept for the house.

JL: Uh huh.

AHS: But there were some few people who knew that I crabbed and they would buy crabs from us.

JL: And if you didn't come to their door, I imagine they would come to your door?

AHS: Right. Yes, I didn't go around and peddle them.

JL: But they knew that you had them so they came directly to you.

AHS: Yes.

JL: Well, that's interesting.

AHS: I still have that reputation. In fact, I have a letter over there that was written to me by my father in 1911, so I was seven years old, and he ... evidently my mother must have written to him, because he asked me in the letter, did you sell enough crabs to buy your new crab net? (laughter)

JL: Well you were young when you were doing it?

AHS: Yes, I was. And weekends, after I, after I went to work or after I went to school and came home, the first thing I wanted to do. But, my father always made me clean out that boat afterwards. He was a stickler for keeping the boat clean.

JL: Uh. .was it your boat or was it his?

AHS: His. It was a row boat.

JL: His, oh, I see, uh huh, Insert AHS: a rowboat. JL: And did it have a name, this little boat?

AHS: The last one, the one that I used for many years was called The "Little Alice" after my mother.

JL: Oh, how nice, how nice.

AHS: And I had that boat after he died, until about two years ago and I gave it to my brother.

JL: Uh huh. Now if you like to crab, what did your brothers and sisters like to do you said ... (inaudible).

AHS: I had a couple of those that liked to crab, also.

JL: But you wouldn't let them go with you, they had to go alone?

AHS: Oh, I had to go alone. Sometimes the two of us would go together, now the one brother, who lives close by now, he and I very often went together. Of course, I could only do it weekends.

JL: Yes

AHS: As I got older.

JL: Uh huh.

AHS: And, when I was doing it younger, they were not old enough to do it.

JL: Alright, now how many years would you say you did this, a lot of years?

AHS: A lot of years, as I told you, well the letter I have from 1911 when I was seven, so I had been doing it then, for at least a year in order to buy a crab net and I still like to crab. Not on the bow of a boat cause I, I've given my boat away. But I like to put the traps over and crab in those traps everyday.

JL: And how often do you do it now?

AHS: Every day.

JL: Every day?

AHS: During crab season.

JL: Yeah, oh yeah. Oh, that's great, that's great, yes indeed. Did, did and did you ever do crabbing in the times you went over to Shady Side?

AHS: No.

JL: No, you never did, just here in Galesville.

AHS: Uh huh.

JL: But, I, I'm sure since you were little here in Galesville, you've really seen Galesville grow?

AHS: Sure have.

JL: Really

JL: Could you tell me a little bit about it?

AHS: As I think I mentioned a little while ago that the, my early childhood was just the three houses on this point. As you went up the road, one, two, three, four, five houses on the left hand side going up. On the right hand side one, two, two houses, the school house and the church next to it and then another house on the corner. And that was in this immediate neighborhood. Oh, since then, there have been many houses that have been built on the waterfront down here that ... uh ... the entrance is from this road, but I remember, I was collecting for the leukemia fund and I made a list of all the places I would have to call on, in this, I had only Church Lane and there were 40- some places I had to call. That shows the ..., how much, the growth.

JL: Indeed, indeed. When you were little, were there churches in Galesville here?

AHS: Yes, there was a Methodist Church in Galesville and as a small child I went there. Later on we went to the Episcopal Church in Owensville. Reverend Mayo, who was the rector at the church in Owensville, was also the rector of St. John's Church in Shady Side. He kept his boat here at my father's and my father, on Sunday afternoon, late, would take him over and I very often went with him. We would walk from the landing at Shady Side out to St. John's Church and that was for a few years, I don't remember how many. But anyway, my father and mother were confirmed at St. John's Church. I was confirmed at St. Ann's Church in Annapolis, while I was going to high school. My sister was confirmed at St. Mary's Church down in Leonardtown, she was going to school there.

JL: Uh huh.

AHS: So that, of course, is our introduction, really, to becoming Episcopalians.

JL: Uh huh, uh huh. So there were only two churches in Galesville, two, did you say?

AHS: White and black.

JL: White and black?

AHS: Yeah, it was just the Methodist church.

JL: Uh huh, I see. And Kolb's store was the only store that was in Galesville at the time?

AHS: No, uh, Harvey Leatherbury's store and later Harry Glover's store and then Mr. Louis Siegert had a store next to what we call the ice cream parlor.

JL: Tell me a little bit about this ice cream parlor.

AHS: It was owned by my mother's great uncle.

JL: Her uncle?

AHS: And, there ... it was a counter like you see in the drug store and you just sat on the stool and, of course, as children we usually got cones. But, uh, that was about it.

JL: Was the ice cream made right there, or was it ... uh.

AHS: I am inclined to think that it probably was, but I don't know, I'm not sure.

JL: But it was a big treat to go there?

AHS: Oh yes. Yes, indeed.

JL: And there was usually lots of people in there?

AHS: Uh, only when the excursions came down on the Tolchester boat.

JL: Oh really? Uh huh.

AHS: Then they would come, they would have enough time, you know, to walk up into the village for a while because they had, they used to carry cattle, the boats and the steamers did.

JL: Uh huh.

AHS: And so they'd have to load the ... uh ... cattle on the steamer from there. They had, at the pier they had a regular pen where the cattle were kept until it was time to load them on the boat.

JL: Were they put on the front of the boat, the back of the boat or down in a hold? I'd just be curious since they carried passengers.

AHS: No, I think that they had a certain area in which they kept them. I don't remember exactly just where it was, I didn't go down there as a rule.

JL: Oh, that's interesting. Is there some other, we have maybe about five minutes left, some other things that you think that we, you might like people to know about this area that you can tell us about?

AHS: Not that I can think of at the present time. I can always think of it after, after this is all over. But, uh, you were asking about the boarding houses ... besides boarding houses in Shady Side, as I said there was the two, the Eddie Hartge and the Charlie Hartge one. Up in the creek there was a sister of Eddie Hartge, who was Mrs. Weems, that was a boarding house, and as you came out the river and right opposite us was the Placid boarding house.

JL: Placid?

AHS: Yes.

JL: And who ran that one?

AHS: Placid's.

JL: The Placid's, ok. I don't know if that was the name of it or whether it was the family that ran it.

AHS: Un huh, it was the family. So, then as you came out of the river and went up into this creek, there was the Will Smith boarding house.

JL: That was in Galesville?

AHS: Yes, that was in Galesville. Then as you came out the river, right next to us was the Hazard boarding house. So, see, there were a number of boarding houses here in this area.

JL: Now, of the houses that were boarding houses in Galesville, are the houses still in existence, do people live in them or is ... ?

AHS: Yes, but not as a boarding house.

JL: Oh no, no, no.

AHS: They're private houses, private homes.

JL: Uh huh.

AHS: And the Placid one is now what we call the Y camp. The Methodist church.

JL: Oh, oh, I know about that, yes.

AHS: Well, that was the Placid boarding house.

JL: Well, I am, I am learning history. Really, that's terrific. Mrs. Strong, we're almost to the end of the tape and I thank you very much, and we really do appreciate it.

AHS: Oh, you're sure welcome, I'm sorry that I just don't have everything in mind, tip of my tongue.

JL: Well, it's hard sometimes, but I ask questions like I do, it's hard, but we do thank you very much and we appreciate it.

AHS: You're certainly welcome.

(End of tape)