

LS 0159 – LS 0160

Lennart Setterdahl: You have collected plenty of information of Your forfathers: grandpa John Gustafson, and Your grandma. For instance: Your grandpa Gustafson, he was born in Chicago, in 1854.

Donald Gustafson: He was born in Chicago in 1854 and another brother was born in Chicago and the family moved to Andover in 1857.

Lennart Setterdahl: So Your grandfathers father, he came from Sweden in 1852.

Donald Gustafson: he came from Sweden 1852 and he was born in Horn, - and - he married Anna Nykvist - and they left for the Unated States.

Lennart Setterdahl: They came with a big group of Swedes then?

Donald Gustafson: Yes.

Lennart Setterdahl: From the same area where they were born?

Donald Gustafson: From the same area. Yes. And when he came to Andover, he was a blacksmith and he worked for John Larson with wagon making and he made lumber wagons and he put (?) on the wheels.

Lennart Setterdahl: In Sweden?

Donald Gustafson: Yes. And he worked with that for several years and then he bought a small farm, out north west of Andover. And then he had that farm to about 1882, then he went back into Andover.

Lennart Setterdahl: What was he doing then in Chicago between 1852 and 1854?

Donald Gustafson: We do not know! I do know that they lived where the mercheandise market(?) is now.

Lennart Setterdahl: Right downtown!

Donald Gustafson: Right downtown. And -

Lennart Setterdahl: But You have no records from anything about what he was doing?

Donald Gustafson: No. My cousin, that lived in Chicago, told me about their living at the mercheandise market(?).

Lennart Setterdahl: (? Överhoppat )?

Donald Gustafson: Yeah - he should have!

Lennart Setterdahl: But there are no records to verify anything

Donald Gustafson: No, that is just what I have learned.

L: Did he come out then to Andover; probably to Erland Carlsons, or to Esbjörns, do You think?

Donald: I think possibly they knew about it when they came from Sweden.

L: About Andover?

Donald: About Andover, but I can't verify that either.

L: There was also sickness then on the boats comming over, - also in Chicago. Did some of them die in cholera?

Donald: None of there family was affected. My great grandmother and my great grandfather; my great grandfather Peter Svensson came from Sweden. He had a son and a daughter; one was 20 years old and the daughter was 18, I believe and the daughter got the cholera when they were at Prinston, comming to Andover.

L: That was on Your mothers side?

Donald: That was on my grandfathers side.

L: Oh, Your grandfathers side!

Donald: It was

L: Yes, Your mothers side though: morfar.

Donald: Yeah my grandmothers side. And then, since they got to Andover, they stayed with a Johnson family, south of Andover - and - my grandmother got the cholera too - and she died and there were several other people around there that got the cholera and died. So they buried 17 people in a common grave.

L: That's the one that there is a stone?

Donald: There is a stone marking the grave, but there are only four names on this stone.

L: It's interesting though, reading this account, that it wasn't Your

Donald: My grandfather did try to get some other relatives to donate some money for a memorial stone and nobody answered. So this Gustav Johnson, and my grandfather, bought the stone and (?) it there and they just put the names of four people - that are that contributed. There are two other besides. Because there are four names on the stone.

L: Some of the relations perhaps moved away from Andover?

Donald: Most of them had moved away - and the people are dying.

L: But the first contingent, that came in 1849, -50, and -51, they stayed a few years in Andover, before they started to move to Nebraska and to Kansas?

Donald: Yes. Most of my relatives stayed around Andover, all of them did - in fact.

L: Did they get good land then, or how could they stay on? They were happy with it?

Donald: They were happy and they got (?).

L: How did they pick the land?

Donald: When they first came, they were supposed to homestead it. My great grandfather homesteaded a piece in - see - where was it? - south west of Andover? But he sold it later on and bought a farm in Osco township. He bought it in Osco township.

L: Do You know, checking to all the recors from Andover, were there any Yankees around here on the homesteads before the Swedes?

Donald: there were quite a few, according to the names that I read in the flat box. There were several English names on the farms.

L: Why did they sell out then?

Donald: They just didn't stay around here. They moved on.

L: So they didn't have too many acres of land then?

Donald: No. The farms were mostly devided in 40 and 60 acres roods. And my grandfather bought a farm in Andover township: 6/15. At first he bought 100 acres and then, later on, he added 80 acres to it. There was a large orchard on one corner of it. on one corner of the 100 acres he bought, there was a log cabin, where a man had lived.

L: So they had an orchard on it. Did they have orchards on the farms?

Donald: They had a lot of fruit trees on the most of the farms. But this was a kind of the largest orchard on this farm. Old people did stop when they did go by and picked some apples!

L: Who planted that one? Was it Your grandfather?

Donald: No, it was already there when he bought it. And there were several different people that had owned the land before.

L: So there had been different owners. But they had the idea though to plant fruit trees.

Donald: There were a lot of fruit trees. Later on; by the buildings and the houses, they had a lot of fruit trees planted all over and a lot of fruit, raspberries and (?)berries.

L: All the goodies.

Donald: All the goodies. I remember large cherry trees, several large cherry trees and when I was a boy, I picked just a milk bucket and picked cherries.

L: If we go back to Your fathers side. They decided then to come to Andover in 1857. He bought a house then, right in Andover?

Donald: Yes, he bought two lots in Andover and he had a house on one lot. They bought a timber lot were they could cut wood, a timber lot. A timber lot ( ? överhoppat ).

L: Oh, I see.

Donald: Then in about 1864 he bought a 130 acre farm, just north west of Andover.

L: That was all then during that time?

Donald: Yes. Black smithing. Then he started doing some farming too on it.

L: This wood track they bought, what kind of wood was it? Was it hard wood, or?

Donald: I don't know anything about it. All I have is that they paid taxes on the wood lot and they gave the direction and where it was. It usually would be oak and hickory and

L: Could that wood be used for sawing boards, for construction of houses?

Donald: I imagine it could, but I don't know.

L: It was mostly for fire wood?

Donald: Most for fire wood that it was used, that was what he bought it for; for fuel.

L: At that time, they didn't use any coal for the heating?

Donald: I don't know about that. There were several small coal mines.

L: But You never heard of it?

Donald: I never heard of it. No. No.

L: There were no coal mines in this property?

Donald: There was a small coal mine of my grandfather Andersons farm and they; they did mine it a little bit to get coal, but then the water came in, after they got down a little way, so they abandoned that. It is still; You can still see a spot where it was.

L: Was that mined by themselves?

Donald: By themselves.

L: Oh I see.

Donald: But they didn't last very long.

L: There was a shallow?

Donald: There was a shallow and there was to wet and they didn't have any way to pump the water up and there wasn't a good enough vein to spend money on it.

L: But the fire wood, that was the main ?

Donald: The main fuel then.

L: Fuel, And then the Karosene in the houses?

Donald: Yeah.

L: Your grandfather, he was 69, if I remember right, when he died?

Donald: When he died, yes.

L: And You were about seven years old?

Donald: I was about seven years old when he died.

L: What did he tell You about Andover, from when he first came here?

Donald: I don't remember much about it. I remember going out with him and doing a tour and with the hogs to town. I would ride with him on the wagon to the town and – I know he used to tell me to “sit and watch the horses, while I go and change the shirt”! And he also weared a white shirt when he was going to town!

L: So they were all dressed up then?

Donald: He was real particular how he looked when he went to the town.

L: Did he talk any Swedish to You?

Donald: Not very much. He never

L: He wasn't able to talk Swedish?

Donald: He was able to talk Swedish, but my own parents never talked Swedish around.

L: They never did use Swedish?

Donald: No they never used Swedish. My dad could understand it some, and my mother could understand some, but they never talked Swedish around me.

L: But Your grandfather, he

Donald: My grandfather could talk Swedish.

L: He had to converse with his parents?

Donald: With his parents, of course, they talked Swedish.

L: So he was very particular when he went to the store?

Donald: He was real particular when he went to the store, or went to the town! Even with the pigs.

L: Even with the pigs!

Donald: Yeah – even with the pigs, right up to town, which seems to me a kind of unusual!

L: Did You have a slaughter house then in Andover to carry the pigs and the cattle to?

Donald: No, they did take them to the railroad. They had a place; a stock yard, they called it, in Cambridge and the freight train did take them to Chicago.

L: So Andover never had any?

Donald: Andover never had any railroad, and no place. They had a grocery store in Andover, but

L: So Cambridge was the big town then?

Donald: Cambridge. That's right. And they used to drive their cattle on the road to the town when they shipped cattle.

L: Oh I see. They brought them.

Donald: Sometimes they did even drive the hogs to the town.

L: How did that work though?

Donald: They had several men, some of them would be on the horse back and they had several

L: And they followed the road?

Donald: They did take the road to the town.

L: What did they do then approaching the traffic?

Donald: Well – there really wasn't much traffic, more than the horses. They did drive off on the side of the road and went up on the bank with the horses. I helped to drive the cattle when my dad bought steers from out west, I helped to drive cattle from (?), when they came in to the (?) land and then we drove them on foot from (?), right to our home farm. I was pretty young then, I must have been about eight or nine years old, but I rode on a horse behind!

L: And they wouldn't stay out on the neighbours farm?

Donald: No, they wanted to go ahead and close the gates. There were no fences along. ( ? Överhoppad mening ).

L: But there were no fences along the roads though at that time?

Donald: Not; not very many. There were some hedge fences ( överhoppat ), or; what You call a hedge. Hedge fences.

L: Natural fences.

Donald: And; there were hedge fences along the most of the roads!

L: That was used quite a bit here in Andover?

Donald: Oh yes. That was about all they had, these hedge fences.

L: And that was a good way to keep the animals out?

Donald: It was worked good for the cattle, but they finally had to put a low, about 26 inches (?) wire along, to keep the pigs from going out. One job for the hired man, in the summertime, was to go out and trim the hedges. They did trim it down, so it won't get **so high**. He usually trimmed it about three times a summer.

L: Oh - three times!

Donald: Yes. I have trimmed hedges many days. They get tall, the trees, and then he worked gaps and he did (?) it, so he made gaps in the fences.

L: How high did You keep it then, was it to 7 Ft, or?

Donald: About to 5 Ft. He had to keep it short enough so he could use a knife then, to cut it. He cut it along the side and then across the top.

L: He used a knife to cut it?

Donald: He used; what we called a hedge knife. The handle would be about 2 Ft long and (?) be about a Ft and ½.

L: Soft enough (?) so You could slice it off?

Donald: Oh yes.

L: You didn't have to cut it off?

Donald: No. No. We used the knife and we had to cut the top in an angle.

L: Did You burn the stuff?

Donald: ( ? Överhoppat ). The branch wouldn't be very big.

L: No no.

Donald: And they just dropped off.

L: And it was a common sight then around Andover?

Donald: The hedges was – yes.

L: It looked pretty though in the spring?

Donald: ( ? ) And then, some would let the hedges grow, to make hedge trees and then they did saw them for hedge poles, they made them to long lasting fence poles. And they also started up a branch for fire wood, Just (?) bring coal, it is real hard.

L: (?)?

Donald: Yes. And the (?) hedges, they don't work good in the fire place, because that it sends out a lot of sparks.

L: Oh I see.

Donald: Course in the stove, that didn't bather. It makes a real hot fire.

L: For how long did they continue with this hedge system, or when did the barbwire come in?

Donald: Oh they even used barbwire, mabee on the top of the hedge, They got so there were a string of barbwire on the top of the hedge and mabee along the side. After a few years it seemed like the hedges a kind of died out in the places. And – when I was, – I just had started at High school – we pulled quite a bit of the fences along the road with a team of mules, just pulled the hedges up with the roots. And then we even had big trees, dividing in the field, were we had a pasture for the horses and the cattle. And - I remember - when they pulled out the big hedge fences, the big trees. They had a steam engine and they used a cable and pulled it up with a steam engine.

L: And a new day was dawning.

Donald: A new day was dawning. And, of course, I got to work out then on the Saturdays, when I would be at home from the school and we used to go and cut the hedges with a two men saw, cut it into poles and then cut up the branches and the hole, what was been, enough home for the fire wood.

L: So - Your work day was already cut out.

Donald: Yes.

L: If You got the gap in the hedge when it was really used for the fencing purposes, - how did You replant?

Donald: We usually didn't bather. That was when we put in the lower 26 inches (?) wire. We just (?) inside the fence.

L: So You just can't remember replanting anything?

Donald: No.

L: So there was actually a weed then, or a natural wild hedge to grow?

Donald: No, it was

L: It was planted?

Donald: It was planted, on a purpose.

L: So Your grandfather then - for instance –

Donald: Yes.

L: he had replanted.

Donald: Right.

L: I see. But where did they get the new shoots from?

Donald: Well they took, what You call: the hedge apples. They cut the apples in pieces and piled them just like seed and the seed is in the apple.

L: I see. And they would grow up then, fast enough?

Donald: Yes. Yes.

L: So that is what they used! And that fruit could not be used to anything else?

Donald: No no.

L: It was just laying there?

Donald: Yes.

L: No type of cattle would eat it?

Donald: Some times the cows would eat it and then the milk could get an awful flavour.

L: Oh, I see - and they spewed it up then after?

Donald: No, they did eat it! They would eat it – and – so, sometimes, they just had to keep the cows away from the trees for awhile, until the apples had dropped.

L: So the wood apples would flavour the milk?

Donald: It would flavour the milk. The most cows would eat them, but there were a few that stopped, they didn't eat them. And the squirrels liked the hedge apples, they liked to eat the seed! The last year I put a couple of hedge apples out and the squirrels, they – they did eat the hole around, they did leave the middle, but they did eat all the seed around.

L: I usually picked some up when I was out in Kansas, they had a lot of it and they are good for the crickets.

Donald: Yes, that's what I understand!

L: Yeah! They disappeared! If You have them out in the garage.

Donald: And they said they are good for the spiders too.

L: That I don't know, but I know the crickets disappeared.

Donald: Yeah.

L: But; at the first frost, You have to take them up, because they get

Donald: They get brown and mussy. And my wife liked to use them for decoration in the house, but after they have been in the house for two or three days, they get older. And I don't like the older - so!

L: It's like a poison.

Donald: Yeah – they don't smell good then.

L: No. But it is a very nice fruit though, when You see it out in the wild.

Donald: It is very nice looking and You can make a very nice decoration, if You can stand the smell!

L: That's right.

Lennart Setterdahl: So Your grandfather, he lived close to Your fathers farm?

Donald Gustafson: He lived on the farm with my father until he died, and he went to his daughter who lived in Moline and during the wintertime he lived with her.

L: So Your father: Emens Gustafson, he took over the homestead then?

Donald: At first his brother Elmer took it over in 1909, when he got married - and he lived on the farm until all about 1913 and then my father took it over. - And his sister was married and lived in Moline - they lived in Moline for about three years and she moved out with her husband, to keep the house for him and for my grandfather. And then his younger sister was at home then too. But his sister died during the summer, so; he had to get along himself for awhile. Then my father married my mother in 1915. My grandfather lived with them until he died and he'd live with my aunt in Moline in the wintertime; and then he went out in the summertime.

L: If we look at Your grandfather. He was a blacksmith. What kind of tools did he use in his farming base?

Donald: When they cut the grain, I think they used the hand (?) and

L: How about corn? Were they planting corn?

Donald: They were planting some corn. Now my grandfather was planting quite a bit of corn! But; I don't know what kind of planter he used. I have the hand planter that he used to use first, they had a little box they had to seed them in and You were going ( ? överhoppat ).

L: So You never remember him comparing with the Bishop Hill system?

Donald: No. No I don't remember. No. No.

L: That was never applied here in Andover?

Donald: No. I remember when my father used the team of horses with the planter and he used a check roll wire and my grandfather raised broom corn and wheat and oats and .. and corn.

L: He took care of the broom corn himself then - or?

Donald: Yes, he'd hire about nine or ten then, they would come when they cut it. I have a book that lists how each of these men worked, cutting the broom corn. And also when they cut wheat, and oats and. They were about nine or ten men when they were working. I just read across that the other day, (?) each man worked.

L: So there were a lot of Swedes then in the area I suppose?

Donald: Oh yes.

L: How did they sell the corn and the wheat? They sold it in Cambridge?

Donald: They didn't raise a lot of wheat. I know they were growing a lot of wheat for their own use.

L: Was this not the right climate for wheat, do You think, like winter wheat for instance? There is not too much.

Donald: They still don't raise much wheat down there.

L: It is not the right climate?

Donald: It's not there - no.

L: ( ? Överhoppat ).

Donald: Yeah, - and corn.

L: And corn. But they used all the grain that they received in the harvest?

Donald: The most - yeah. And they had a few pigs - and if they had cows.

L: It was no grain sold then to the elevator?

Donald: My grandfather sold some corn to the elevator ( ? ) 200 dollars with the corn. And I know my father always sold all the corn that he raised?

L: When he sold that corn, was that sold in the fall or in the spring?

Donald: It was – it was sold - what he sold was in the fall, late in the fall. I remember – when I was a young boy – they kept about twelve horses on the farm.

L: Twelve horses!

Donald: mhm. Two of them would be used for riding, or on the buggy, and the rest of them worked; they used two teams of four horses ( ? överhoppat ) and so for. And then they had four extra ( ? ) four shoulders, when they got lame – and then in the hot days they changed off at noon.

L: They took half day each then, the horses?

Donald: Yeah.

L: Oh I see!

Donald: My father also had a hired man. He hired a man the 1th of March and he stayed to the corn harvest.

L: I see. But it was a lot of work during the wintertime too then? He took care of the horses then himself?

Donald: Oh yes. When I was small, just in the grade school, my job when I did come home from the school was to take the horses out to the water tank - and give them hay and feed them corn. I fixed two out of the time. The stalls were so two horses could be together at the stall.

L: Did You have a windmill then, pumping up the water?

Donald: Yes, we had a windmill for to pump the water. My dad, or my grandfather, made a concrete tank and it was approximately 12 by 12. It was in two sections, 12 by 12; two 12 by 12 and a bit of wall in between. In the wintertime they shut off one side and just did keep one side with the well, or something, that kept the water on.

L: But what happened when there was no wind over Andover? Did You have to pull by hand then?

Donald: You had to pump by hand.

L: Pump by hand.

Donald: I have pumped many times with my hands!

L: So with the first breeze you started the windmill?

Donald: And then the windmill!

L: And that was working pretty good then?

Donald: Oh yes. It usually worked really good, until right in the summer, ( ? ) and the wind was blowing. The rest of the year around there used to be enough wind to keep it going.

L: And it was used only for putting water, no electricity?

Donald: No, just for the water. We got the electricity on the farm when I was – oh! – it was 1924. We were one of the first ones that had electricity.

L: It was quite early then?

Donald: Oh yes. ( ? Överhoppat ). The most of the places around, just fether east and fether south, they didn't get electricity for years and years after.

L: What did people say then? You know people are always reluctant to change over to something new.

Donald: Well. We had a neighbour that wouldn't hook on for awhile. We used lamps and everything before, karosene lamps and we were keeping using karosene lamps!! So we never had like – from the first day – we never were! And my wife and I moved on that, when the people moved off and we were first married. And we used the lamps, and everything, in the house, but they (?) electricity, and we were with the lamps, that for about four years, until the farm was sold. ( ? Överhoppat )! So I know what it is like to use a hand worked mashine!!



L: You know about the old traditions.

Donald: Oh yes! I started out, working from driving four horses and using horses and I had always (?) horses to

L: How did the farm change from Your grandfather? What did Your father change on the farm?

Donald: Well – my father and my grandfather found a partnership for awhile and then when he died my father bought out his share of the farm.

L: Could he change anything when his father was living, for instance, from anything to another, when his father was living?

Donald: He started; he put up a silo and started feed the cattle with silage.

L: Your grandfather?

Donald: My father did, and my grandfather was still living when he did that – and he still were in – You know – still a partner in the farm.

L: So that was before the First world war then? Or during the war?

Donald: That was about 1920 .. 1919 and 1920, when they put up the silo.

L: Oh - I see. That was after his father died?

- kassett 1, sida 1 tar här slut och deras samtalsämne har hunnit förändras något när sida 2 tar sin början. –

Donald: that certain moisture ( ? överhoppat ), before it got real dry.

L: It was green then?

Donald: Green, but it had started, - the stocks had started to dry, but there were still juice.

L: The corn stocks?

Donald: In the corn stocks – and, of course, the corn had ( ? överhoppat ). We had, that was called a silo filler. It had big knives that went around and there was a blower that went up to the silo; up to the top of the silo and it did hand feed and hauled the stocks into the rack and pulled them off so much at the time and pushed it in and the knives that chopped it and blowed it up into the silo. And there would be two or three men in, keeping the silage level and they would be tramping it, so it won't be air pockets in it.

L: And You didn't add any chemicals or anything?

Donald: No, no chemicals.

L: Nothing at all!

Donald: When You get through ( ? överhoppat ), or some old hay or something put on the top and usually ( ? överhoppat ) on the top. And usually You started feeding it then, when the wether got colder.

L: But wouldn't the oldtimers though, that ( ? överhoppat ), couldn't they see this as a waste? By taking the corn stocks! ( ? )?

Donald: Well; they used to chop the corn and stocks and

L: You remember that?

Donald: Oh I helped; I helped to chop the stocks?

L: With the ears on?

Donald: Yes with the ears on. The corn stocks.

L: How did You cut the stocks then?

Donald: We did take a - what You call a corn knife, with a bar, a small handle, like 6 inches long and cut it by hand and You cut about six or eight stocks and put them in a pile and You cut all; You cut enough for, maybe a load, and then You'd go back and pick up those piles and

haul them and then You'd set up them in stooks. And then You just twined and tired – put the tired (?) together.

L: And for how long did it stay in those stooks?

Donald: Oh they did until in Januari – probably.

L: Outside?

Donald: Outside. We did have a lot there, where we probably did have about 30 stooks; corn stooks.

L: Oh I see!

Donald: And usually it was threw in to the cows and cattle.

L: With the ears on?

Donald: With the ears on. And my dad even used some of it to bed to hes hogs in the hog house. He'd throw it in, but the hogs did eat it and then they chewed up the stooks.

L: ( ? ) then?

Donald: No. Not.

L: I see.

Donald: While my dad first started feeding the steers, he'd – with the silage – he'd use the ear corn. He did go along and did break the ears in about four pieces he had ( ? ), he'd break it into that pieces.

L: So You remember those times?

Donald: Oh yes!

L: In the late 20s.

Donald: Yes.

L: Was it a custom all around then?

Donald: That were used. We had, what we called, – like a (?), – we had what we called a silo runner during the fall and we'd go around to the silos and it did take about ten days to two weeks to fill the silos around.

L: That was the days the ladies were waiting for!

Donald: Yeah! Hahahaha!

L: Yes, But what happened in the household then? Did the women got help too?

Donald: No. Usually, my mother – I know – she did take care of it all by herself

L: No help!

Donald: No help to do the cooking.

L: Didn't she complain then to Your father?

Donald: Oh yes!

L: - You have got all the help and I have got nothing! -

Donald: Well. If there was a lot, mabee a neighbour woman did come in and help And then they trade it back, but; I don't remember it.

L: There was a lot of meat and potatoes on the table?

Donald: Oh yes, I know. I remember when they butchered the hogs at home and cut up the meat. My dad 'did cut up the meat and then we did grind the sausage. I ran the sausage grinder when I was about eight years old, I ran it at the night.

L: Did the most of the farmers do that?

Donald: Oh, yes, the most of them did butch their own hogs.

L: Also the cattle?

Donald: Yes, my dad did butch the steers. And I know I helped him. When I was small, I helped him to skin the steer. The same way when they used hot water, boiled hot water and dipped the hog in the hot water and then layed it on a, he did take an old door and layed it on the sawhorses. And we used a special scraper which scraped the hair off.

L: And the pork, it was salted on?

Donald: Yes; and my dad had - owned yars; stone yars, that they did have in the basement. And they cut it up and put it in the stone yars and then they did make a salt grind.

L: And it kept it all the way until the spring?

Donald: They kept it for a long time. And we had some meat smoked and he did take the smoked meat and did take it out to the oat-bin and buried it down in the oats and it did good for make it out, it went real good.

L: So the meat to the cattle then was smoked?

Donald: It was smoked, quite a bit of it was.

L: I see, and the oats then, it kept it?

Donald: mhm. And even with the ham, like the ham and the bacon, we did take it out and buried it in the oats.

L: Didn't You think of the maize ?

Donald: It would not be very done in the grain.

L: It ( ? )?

Donald: No, it wouldn't be good to it.

L: I see. And You could preserve that for?

Donald: For quite a bit.

L: For months, mabee?

Donald: Oh three or four months.

L: I see. So in the wintertime there must have been problems with the (?), because You had the cold temperature outside?

Donald: We had the cold. Usually we did the butchering in the cold wether.

L: But how about the summers, in the early times, before the refrigerator came in?

Donald: Well. We had – what You call an ice-box - and - we did go to the town and get a 100 bls block of ice.

L: You could buy it in Cambridge?

Donald: You could buy it in Cambridge, they had an ice house, where we did go and buy it.

L: You didn't cut Your own ice then in the wintertime?

Donald: No. No. And they also had a wood (?) and they did sink the (?) in the well, to keep things cool. My uncle (?) had one of those – and – that would be on a cable and it did draw up it by a crank – and did keep their milk and cream and everything, that they needed to be cool. And that worked pretty well!

L: How did You keep that block of ice, in saw dust, or? If You couldn't use the hole at the same time?

Donald: Oh with the ice block, that did hold 100 bls a piece of ice.

L: Oh 100 bls!

Donald: mhm. And we just stayed at home ( ? ) an ice-box and it probably lasted nearly in a week in the ice-box.

L: And then the water was running?

Donald: The water. We did have a place for ( ? överhoppat ), beside the building.

L: How about the ice-cream? Did You use the same kind of ice then?

Donald: Yes. Yes. Usually we made ice-cream in the wintertime and my dad did go to the water tank and chop up some ice and break it up and then use it for freezing the ice-cream.

L: You didn't use it over the summertime then?

Donald: We didn't make much ice-cream during the summertime, because it was to hard to keep

L: Keep the ice?

Donald: No, it was too hard to keep, after we froze it. It did get too soft, yeah it would be too soft. But in the wintertime we made ice-cream! We had a 2 gallon ice-cream freezer. I have turned the crank many of times.

L: So You went to school here in Andover?

Donald: I went into Andover. The school in the country, where I was supposed to go to, was closed. There weren't enough students. So I went about 2 ½ miles to go to the grade school in Andover.

L: 2 ½ miles!

Donald: mhm.

L: You had to walk then?

Donald: I walked and did go – in the wintertime – when it would be bad – my dad did take me in the horse and buggy and once awhile when he did take me on the horseback and when the roads were nice. They had an old, old Buick, well it was new then they had it, that trade car. But he did take me to the school in the car. In the wintertime, he jacked the car up and did take the tires off and put it in the basement, because the roads were muddy and You couldn't travel on the roads.

L: The car traffic was off.

Donald: It was off in the wintertime.

L: Everybody did that in Andover?

Donald: Yeah – everybody would be on horse and buggy then.

L: And ( ? ) until in April I suppose?

Donald: Yes, they would. I know; - we still have the blocks, we used to block the old car up!

L: Did You often, when You were small, go in to Moline for instance, or to Rock Island?

Donald: Well - Yes we went in quite often. I went to a dentist. I had; I wore braces on my teeth and I had to go to the dentist, once a week, in Davenport. And I was about – oh! eight years old, – when I started then - and I did that for four years.

L: Oh I see. There was a custom to do that already then, in the 1920s?

Donald: The dentist I went to was the one that started the brace - wearing braces on the teeth.

Doctor

L: It was something new then?

Donald: Yes. Doctor James, he was known in Devenport. He was one of the first one that started it.

L: And for how long did You have to go then? For about three years?

Donald: Four years I wore them, four years. But towards the last I had to go about once a month.

L: How often did You go before; I mean

Donald: When I first started up, I had to go once a week.

L: Once a week!

Donald: And

L: And Your dad had to take You up to Devenport?

Donald: Oh yeah, every Saturday we'd go to the. – And then if something turned up we had to skip it for a week mabee, but we went in pretty often. Course; it was just the first six months, until I got the things the way they wanted to work. Mabee there were at least every two weeks and when I graduated it would be three weeks.

L: Did people start to do this then?

Donald: I do not know anybody else around that did it. I was one of the first one right around here.

L: So dad, he saw something knew.

Donald: Yeah yeah. Right. My lower teeth would be in front of my upper teeth.

L: The upper teeth. I see.

Donald: And I wore rubber bands to a kind of pull the jaw in and the teeth were quite crooked and they straighted them.

L: They straighted them. It's wonderful! It was a hard job, I suppose, to go every week, but

Donald: It was, but

L: It paid off.

Donald: It paid off.

L: It's the main thing. Your father and his father; they went to school in Andover also?

Donald: My father went to the country grade school and

L: It was no school here in Andover?

Donald: There was a school in Andover, but

L: It was to far?

Donald: But they had: - each part had a district – You know – a small school for so bigger territory.

L: So he went to one of those schools. And then he went to Cambridge to a high school, but he; he just went to the high school as a ( ? ) . His mother died when he was a ( ? ), so he quitted school after that. But he went to Moline to a business college right there on.

L: Oh - he did?

Donald: mhm.

L: Oh I see. Was he thinking about to (?) in the farming, or try something in business?

Donald: No! He was just; just help out, working with the books in the farm I guess.

L: So he took care of the books then?

Donald: Oh yeah.

L: The hole thing. Did he remarry, or? No he !

Donald: My grandfather – yeah. But he never – he never remarried.

L: And You went on to Cambridge, to a high school?

Donald: I went to Andover, to a grade school and I went to Cambridges' high school, when I was a (?).

L: Were there school busses then - or?

Donald: There were a school bus, that did come from Cambridge and did pick up all the pupils from Andover and did take them to Cambridge. And then it was – what was known as a three year district and when I was at Southmoor, they started a high school in Andover; they called it a three year high school. And – I went two years into Andover and then, when I was a senior, I went back to Cambridge, as they didn't have a Senior here.

L: I see.

Donald: And we were able to chose what school we wanted to. I could have gone into Moline, or Galva, or Hoyne, or anywhere I wanted to and they had paid my tuition.

L: Oh I see!

Donald: But; Being as closed to

L: And You had to stay ?

Donald: They ( ? överhoppat ) when we went to Cambridge. My brother was going to a school in Andover. So I had a Model T Coupe and then I'd drive to Andover and did take him to school and then there were five other .. four other boys, that went to this Cambridges school, so we traded off driving to Cambridge.

L: You learned early to drive then?

Donald: Oh, yes. I had to drive a Ford car when I was at Southmoor in the high school, when I drove it to school.

L: Yes. You were allowed to do that at the time?

Donald: Yes. You didn't have: no drivers licens.

L: There was pretty liberal though, the school districts. You were allowed to go to Moline, or?

Donald: Yeah You were allowed ( ? överhoppat ). They called it the three year district and You were allowed to pick were You wanted to go.

L: And then You had to live there, I suppose?

Donald: If we'd want to ( ? överhoppat ), but it was much easier to stay at home! You could go with the boys and girls that You knew and You'd play basket ball and You knew all the ones in Cambridge.

L: Did Your friends from the high schools stay in that area, here in Andover?

Donald: Not - not not very many. About. .. Out of. There were 34 in the high school, and; of the boys, there were only about four or five that

L: That stayed on?

Donald: that stayed on around.

L: And became farmers?

Donald: No; let's see: one, two, three; three stayed on and did become farmers.

L: Why was that? Was it ?

Donald: Well; what was right when we were having

L: The Depression?

Donald: Depression. And – we didn't have money, there was hard enough to even get a job. And I think the main reason – I probably stayed on the farm was because my dad was a farmer, he owned the farm.

L: And You were the oldest son?

Donald: And I was the oldest son. My brother is nine years younger than I am.

L: And You had to take over?

Donald: And I went to, after I was at high school for two years, I went to a business college at Quinsey for one year. And – what I wanted to do was to get a job somewhere for awhile, but it was almost impossible to find anything to do. So I came back to the farm again. And then in 1939 I got married and a farm of, a 80 acre farm was available right across from my dad.

L: So You added that to Your dad's?

Donald: Yes.

L: Why did You add that 80 acres? Was it only for feeding the family?

Donald: Well my dad was still active in the farming.

L: So he helped You?

Donald: And - so - and this place had a house on, – and buildings, - so it was a place for us to live. And then I used my dad's mashinery and he worked for the ASC office for awhile, up nation (?). You know: They had a government program in

L: Oh, Your daddy?

Donald: Yes he did, Yes. So; I did quite a bit of the farming while he was doing that.

L: And in the neighbour farm, You knew every part of it to, so there was no problems to just put them together.

Donald: Oh yes. Yes, that's right.

L: But was it necessary then to add a farm?

Donald: No. You could still make a good living on the 160 acres, because we were diversified, we had chickens and hogs and cattle and cows and a big garden. That had to be on there too.

L: Did You have any helping hands? I mean in other words: hire hands?

Donald: Not after I was able to work on the farm. When I was in high school my dad didn't get a hired man any more.

L: So You could take care of it?

Donald: I helped him then. I did work as a hired man after I got into the high school. I helped with the hay and everything.

L: How about the cows?

Donald: We usually milked four to six cows.

L: I see. So You got for Your own?

Donald: Just for our own use and we'd sell the cream. There was – when we were farming there was a cream (?) that came around once a week and picked up the cream. We had a cream can, we called it; a 5 gallon cream can.

L: Oh I see.

Donald: And they did take up the cream can and they did even a check for the cream.

L: So You didn't have any problems?

Donald: No. No, Right.

L: There were bad years?

Donald: Oh, there were bad.

L: In other words; the farmers, they had a lot of problems out in Nebraska, because of the drought and it was blowing away. Was it also dry here, in this part of Illinois?

Donald: Yes, we had one real, in -34; let's see: – in -35 was it real dry and we had, we called it trench bugs. And; what we did then was to go out, ( ? ) around the corn field, and then the Creosote, we'd make a steam of Creosote (?) the bank of the field around and dig a post hole every so far a part and so the trench bugs would fall down in the post hole and when we'd pour Creosote in them it killed them.

L: I see. So they were not flying in then, they were crawling?

Donald: The most of them there were crawling.

L: And it helped?

Donald: That helped. Yeh. We still got a lot of them in the cown and I know it was poor, very poor that year. I know; when we'd cut corn for the silo, You'd have a ( ? ) and it would be just a kind of - like rubber, a kind of like (?).

L: So they affected the roots then?

Donald: It affected more of the stock itself.

L: Oh I see.

Donald: Course they impacted the roots too, but then they impacted the stocks, so there wouldn't get any juice up in the stocks. And that year, there was a very poor oat year. I know: we ( ? överhoppat ) one and a half ( ? överhoppat ).

L: Did You go together then in a group of farmers and buy a thrash machine?

Donald: Yes. My father kept a thrash mashine and a steam engine and our farm, they built a mashine shed, special for it. And they had – what they called ( ? överhoppat ).

L: How did You decide about which one should have it first?

Donald: Well. – Each year - first we'd start – one year we'd start at the east end, the next year we'd start at the west end. So it take turns. And it didn't bother the ones in the middle, because they'd get theirs done in a good time every year!

L: But it was always done like that?

Donald: Yes.

L: And there was no destruction?

Donald: No. No no. Everybody was satisfied with that way. We always had a thrashing meeting before they started thrashing and when they'd get it done they kept the hours that everybody had worked and then they paid **so much** an hour, or they took more labor ( ? Överhoppat ).

L: Oh, I see. You didn't trade the work days then?

Donald: They just paid the extra; they'd trade the labor, but if You worked extra, they paid just extra for that extra work.

L: I see. So the threshing crew, they could be about ten or twelve men?

Donald: ( ? Överhoppat stycke ).

L: That's right. And they got coffee in the morning to You?

Donald: No no.

L: They had breakfast?

Donald: They had breakfast but they never served lunch and they didn't serve coffee in the afternoon. They did go from

L: In one stretch?

Donald: In one stretch. They just served dinner.

L: I see.

Donald: And – they never started getting coffee in the afternoon until; like, when we started ( ? ) in the afternoon. It did get very hot though and the women started to bring coffee out to us during the afternoon! And they were started. I know, when I was a boy, I never *knew* of having a coffee in; – a coffee break in the morning or in the afternoon!

L: So that was something that came after the Second world war, Do You think?

Donald: Oh yes.

L: I see.

Donald: They; some of them started it sooner.

L: The most of them

Donald: The most of them, they didn't take time for it!

L: At that time, when You had the trench bug problems, do You remember any grass hoppers?

Donald: There were a couple of years when we had grass hoppers in the corn, but not really bad to ..

L: Wipe it out then?

Donald: to wipe it out.

L: No. There was no help then: from the government or from the state or from any association to help the farmers out at that time?

Donald: No no no, we were

L: It was just

Donald: It was just what we could

L: schrape up?

Donald: scrape up. I remember when we got about 10 12 cents a bushel for the corn. I know: we were burning some corn under the cold one year, because the corn was so cheap. A lot of people burned the corn.

L: For heating the house?

Donald: For heating the house. Not a lot – but

L: They hold the corn there then.

Donald: There weren't many people that did that, but it was – it was an idea!



L: How about the organisation among the farmers? They have always seemed to be independent all over the Unated states, with their spokes men in Washington.

Donald: Well. I

L: Why is it so, do You think?

Donald: Well. And I think the farmers – too many - have too different many ideas.

L: Do You think they work to be ?

Donald: Oh. I think now it works more than it would then. More farmers are better educated now than they were.

L: I guess they were to individual?

Donald: Yeah to individual. I think somebody (?) have get more than they would!

L: Do You think the Swedes had that in their minds more than the Yankee farmers?

Donald: I don't think so.

L: They were all in the same?

Donald: The farmers are all the same ( ? )! The farm bureau! There were a lot of farmers that were going to the farm bureau when that first came along.

L: But they had this (?) group in South Dakota, and. – What did they call them: (?), or?

Donald: I don't remember that.

L: The Holiday Farm Movement, they had them up in Minnesota.

Donald: Oh, No, I don't remember that.

L: But they never went on over here?

Donald: No. No.

L: Because they were more active in South Dakota and North Dakota and in Minnesota. But here it was; one worked for himself?

Donald: Yeah. They got, what You called the NFO, around here, but it seemed like the most of the farmers had joined that, for poor farmers to start with, when they didn't make a good living, when the years even were good.

L: Oh I see.

Donald: And there was even good farmers ( ? Överhoppat ).

L: So it was pretty hard. If we take, for instance, the Agriculture Department in Washington. Do You believe that the farmers have their representative talking for them there, or ( ? överhoppat )? Who does he talk for? Who is he pushing?

Donald: I wonder!

L: Because ( ? överhoppat ), they have their organization. They have got their lobbyists.

Donald: Yeah right.

L: Talking ( ? utelämnat ) to help out and to get the way through with everything. But the farmers doesn't seem to have ( ? )?

Donald: No. They are getting to be outnumbered so bad too, the farmers. The vote of the farmer don't mean much any more.

L: So they don't care about what they have to say?

Donald: No. Right. Noone paid too much about it. Their votes don't mean to much any more.

L: But they seem to be very fast to deliver; how many farmers that went out of business last year.

Donald: Yeah.

L: It's a sort of ( ? ) figures.

Donald: Yes.

L: Is it true though that a lot of farmers are going out of the business and skip it?

Donald: Oh - there is a tremendous number of the farmers going out of the business, or they are having to.

L: Because they give some influences to believe that there is no hope any more. ( ? )?

Donald: Well. There are farmers that do a good job and no hold off and not buy things they couldn't buy, and they are the ones that hold out.

L: But they are not popular ( ? )?

Donald: No, they aren't.

L: ( ? ) them out. You farmed together with Your father. ( ? Utelämnat ). Could You talk to Your father about the problems, from one time to another, about how to hold on?

Donald: Oh yeah yes. He was one of the first ones that started grazing the hogs out in the field.

L: Here in Andover?

Donald: Yes. And had individual hog houses out in the field.

L: ( ? Överhoppat ).

Donald: Yeah, it came after the 1920s, in about 1927 or -28, when they first started around here.

L: And before that time they had them in the barn?

Donald: They had a hog house made of concret for to feed them.

L: In complymnt?

Donald: Yeah in complymnt. And they even went out to the pasture too, they had a pasture closed by. They just went out to the hog house from the pasture.

L: So what did people say then, when Your father brought out those small cabins there?

Donald: That he was a kind of funny!

L: So they were talking about it?

Donald: Yeah, but

L: What idea ( ? utelämnat )?

Donald: I tell You, we

L: ( ? Utelämnat )?

Donald: No, we were having trouble with a disease of the hogs.

L: In the ( ? )?

Donald: In. – Yes. And – by moving them up in the field we got away from it quite a bit.

L: I see.

Donald: They were getting the intestine disease in the yards, what they called ( ? En del överhoppat ).

L: So there was some stomach ..?

Donald: Some stomach – yeah.

L: It affected the young ones or the older ones?

Donald: It affected them when they got to be about 60 pounds and then, when they were growing until they got up to 125 or -30 pounds.

L: And they died then?

Donald: A lot of them would die. They were getting real thin and they had diarré and

L: It affected the hole

Donald: It did affect ( ? ), but by moving them out to the field, when they came out to the field, they got away from some other diseases.

L: So he was one of the

Donald: He was one of the first ones. Yeah. One of the first ones down there.

L: And that worked out fine?

Donald: It worked out real well.

L: And now You can see house after house.

Donald: It just kept getting larger and larger. It was getting more and more!

L: And everybody else started too.

Donald: Yeah. There were a few others that started at the same time.

L: ( ? Överhoppad fråga )?

Donald: Oh yes. That helped.

L: But You still have to move around though?

Donald: To different fields there - yeah - and we still have trouble with the disease ever more. The birds carry a lot of the disease.

L: I see. With the hog rasing ( ? utelämnat ).

Donald: That's right.

L: And everybody have specialized in that.

Donald: The people that rased hogs have specialized in it.

L: They have their own veterinarians and they give them shots. Because You can call a veterinary?

Donald: No, it's too expensive and after You have been with the hogs for awhile, You know – just about what they have and You keep the medicine on him – and – have your own instruments.

L: And You have the pigs out there then in those small cottages?

Donald: In the small. Yes. One sow per house.

L: One sow per house. And how many boars do You have per 50 sows, for instance?

Donald: Oh - to 50 sows we usually have two boars.

L: Two boars. And they are with them?

Donald: We just leave them in three weeks – usually.

( ? Överhoppad dialog ).

L: So they stay together then with the sows for about three or four weeks?

Donald: About three or four weeks and then You have to take them out and keep them separate. We use to have – what You call – a boar pen.

L: And then, when they get this small piglets out there, they take care of them themselves.

Donald: Well we use to check them every day ( ? Överhoppat ).

( ? Överhoppad dialog ).

Donald: If the weather is cold You usually don't have trouble. It is when the weather gets really warm that the pigs

L: So they stroll around.

Donald: They stroll around and go outside.

L: But there was a system that has been working pretty good?

Donald: It worked real good – and – it's cheaper than the compliyment system! Here You get it out in the fields.

L: And that has been a good money raser for the farmers then?

Donald: It has, until the last two years. Usually they'd say that: You took the hogs to pay Your bills!

L: There's no bad. The bills are higher today.

Donald: Yeah. They used to take ( ? överhoppat ) a hog to pay for it!

L: How about the cattle?

Donald: The years in the 1930s and 1940s and 1950, the farmers usually ( ? överhoppat ).

L: The last few months?

Donald: With the feed in the wintertime. And – there got to be so You could afford to feed that to – because: the prize, that's not to good ( ? överhoppat ) and usually they had to make a profit.

L: So they were fed on corn then during the last years?

Donald: Yeah - there were silage and usually they had a silo, and feed silage and then You'd feed corn for three or four months, before You get rid of them. But – there got to be so - there

wasn't to much profit, and a lot of work. And usually, the most of the farmers down here, they just rased more hogs, instead of (?) with cattle.

( ? Dialog överhoppad ).

Lennart Setterdahl: So – what do You see now, after You have spent Your days here in Andover? You are not farming Yourself now.

Donald Gustafson: No. I am just watching! Watching!

L: Watching it grow.

Donald: Watching it grow! Watching the way!

L: Watching the way.

Donald: Yeah – watching them to do the work!

L: You have Your children, and Your wife?

Donald: I have three boys, two in California and then I have one that lives in Cambridge and he is a deputy sheriff, he works at the yale.

L: So none became ?

Donald: none became a farmer.

L: They were not interested in it?

Donald: The youngest one was, but that was when the times were getting a kind of bad and he decided that it wasn't a very good place to be! He worked with me for two years after. He was in the air force for three years. He came back and he told me that he would try farming. But; it worked for – it worked only for tho years, – and – that was when the prizes were bad – and he didn't think he wanted to stay with it. So: he worked at Farmhall, in Rock Island, until

L: The factory?

Donald: the factory, until they closed down.

L: Oh I see.

Donald: And then he took the examination to become a sheriff deputy at (?). And he works at a yale now.

L: But there is a safe job, because they always have criminals!

( ? Dialog kring denne son; överhoppad ).

L: So he is married then and lives in Cambridge?

Donald: Yes, he is married.

L: But You still own the farm?

Donald: I still own the farm, yes.

L: You probably have to be on a hold and have a talent to get into it.

Donald: I wouldn't advise anybody now to get in to it.

L: Is it possible for somebody to borrow, for instance 50 000 dollars, in a bank and make a go of it?

Donald: Not with the interest You have to pay now.

L: It don't work?

Donald: The interest is too high and it takes more than 50 000 dollars to get started now!

L: You gave an example of – was it Felt hes name was – in New Gotland, Kansas?

Donald: Oh yes.

L: He had to borrow 400 dollars from hes grandfather?

Donald: Yes. Hes grandfather.

L: And there was 10 % interest?

Donald: 10 % interest.

L: And 400 dollars at that time was

Donald: That was a lot of money.

L: And 10 % interest. But he apparently made a go of it.

Donald: He made a go of it, course he was paid back.

L: He paid back everything?

Donald: Yes.

L: But now, it seems to be; ( ? ): the more You borrow,

Donald: The more You borrow, the more deeper You get. But when this emphasis is so high and it takes a lot of it. You borrow so much money and it's hard to pay back any of the lone.

L: Some of the farmers, about five years back, they had to pay a lot of high short term lones, mabee 15 %.

Donald: Right. Right.

L: Where is the borderline, do You think, You should pay for a lone, for a house or for a farm?

Donald: About 9 %.

L: This is Your firm believe?

Donald: I don't

L: You wouldn't recommend anything over

Donald: Anything over 9 or 9 ½ %.

L: Because then You have to work just too hard to

Donald: To pay the interest. The difference if you were (?) the prizes. If You could get – say – 8 dollars for the beans and 3 ¼, 3 ½ for the corn. Then You could probably pay a little more interest. But it's very seldom that You get a prize like that.

L: So it; it doesn't even break even?

Donald: It don't even break even. For all the expenses You have. Now. I make some money because I don't have all the machineries there.

L: You don't have to worry about that?

Donald: I don't have to worry about that. And I'm making some money ( ? Överhoppat ).

L: So somebody is renting Your land then?

Donald: Yes. I have fifty/ fifty.

L: I see. So that part does help paying the machinery?

Donald: Pay for the machinery and the fuel! Well You have to keep with paying the machinery and buying new machinery and

L: You have seen how it worked in the 20s.

Donald: I have been quite through it.

L: That's right. And You farmed the old method?

Donald: Old method.

L: Plowing in the fall

Donald: mm.

( ? Lång dialog överhoppat ).

L: How about Alfalfa now? Isn't that bad to ( ? ) the soil. They said: up in Minnesota; they were so happy when Alfalfa came in, because that took the potato crop away. They would never have potatoes again. Does it have a root system that goes over ( ? )?

Donald: Oh it goes down, the roots go down deep and when You plow the field You get rid of the

L: Get rid of it.

Donald: Get rid of it. But ( ? överhoppat ) the potatoes. That's probably the reason. Because: it sends roots down deep and get a lot of (?) within.

L: So Your soil around here is supposed to be one of the very best in the hole country?

Donald: Oh yes. That's right. When You don't have a livestock any more, You don't have use for the hey. And if You raise hogs, You usually sow oats and sow Alfalfa or clover and Your hogs are in the field. a mixture. But if You don't have hogs, You do better by just raising corn and some beans. That's the reason

L: That's a good crop then to

Donald: But; that's what one of the troubles are, why the farmers got away from sowing roots, raising Alfalfa, or hey in the pasture. We had too much work and we didn't get much for the grain, usually the oats. Because there isn't a demand for the oats we used to have. Like; when we had a lot of horses, we used to feed the horses oats.

L: It was a must to have it. How about barley?

Donald: We used to raise barley, but the year of the trench bugs, they hit the barley worse in any crop – and – very little barley was raised after that. I used to raise about 10 15 acres of barley every year and after **that year** we never raised barley any more. ( ? Överhoppat ).

L: Potatoes is not too much raised?

Donald: No, just in the garden, just for our own use. – And – I don't even raise them in the garden any more, because we buy them cheaper.

L: And the same thing with the eggs?

Donald: ( ? Överhoppat )!

Lennart Setterdahl: Your parents were much within the Augustana/ Lutheran church, - as it is called now.

Donald Gustafson: Yes, they always belonged to it yes in Andover.

L: Your grand-dad, he took his very first steps in this church in 1867.

Donald: Yes. And – all my grandfathers; my great grandfather Peterson belonged to the church, way back. And the same way with my grandfather Anderson and my grandfather Keurlind, well, my grandfather Anderson belonged to the Methodist church in Cambridge, but they eventually went to the Lutheran church in Andover. But they were all Lutheran.  
( ? Överhoppad dialog ).

Donald: ( ? Överhoppat ). Everybody else has either died, or moved away!

L: You belong to the Historical Society in Andover.

Donald: Yes.

L: You are an active one.

Donald: mhm.

L: Because of the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Pittsburgh Farming (?) in 1875, isn't it?

Donald: Yes.

L: And how is the interest now among the young people?

Donald: I'm afraid that the young people don't show the interest.

L: Do they understand the way they should do it?

Donald: I don't think they understand what we are trying to do.

L: Because: You have a lot of documentation here and You have a tremendous interest and You got more and more. But the ones that are coming behind You, are they really

Donald: My son, that is interested in all this, he lives out in San Francisco and he's almost getting all (?) that I have. He's getting all the pictures and he wants all the information that I got.

L: So he's interested?

Donald: He is really interested in that. But; If he don't come back, that part would be lost here. But if he should come back – well ( ? överhoppat ). My youngest son is interested in it, but he is not active in it now.

L: He is too young yet.

Donald: I was talking to him this morning. I told him that you were coming out and he wanted me to come up and talk to him after You have been here, because he was interested in what we did!

L: How about the rest of the people in the village here? You still have: Mrs (?). Mrs Blad, she died.

Donald: Yea.

L: She was the former school teacher for many many years.

Donald: Yes.

L: And You have several others.

Donald: The trouble: the older ones, they are dying!

L: They are dying.

Donald: Like: Helen Blad, she was really interested in that.

L: And – she was able to live

Donald: ( ? )

L: Three weeks later?

Donald: About three weeks later. She had some really interesting paintings, that she did.

L: Yes. What is going to happen with those now? She has her relations though, or?

Donald: Oh yes, she had sons and daughters and they are very interested in it, both of her sons and

L: Mabee they will be more interested, now when they see something that ?

Donald: Well. – They belong to the Historical Society!

L: Do they live here?

Donald: One lives down in Moline and he comes up quite a bit: John Blad.

L: So it's a long span of years since they came from Sweden in 1852.

Donald: That's right. That's right.

L: 1849?,

Donald: 1849 and 1852.

L: Right. And You have contact with Sweden, especially on Your mothers side.

Donald: Yes.

L: From Kristdala and Mörlunda.

Donald: The relatives live in Karlskrona now, they moved from Kristdala.

L: Blekinge.

Donald: And one of the cousins is an electrical enjineer in a navy ship yard and one is the head doctor in a hospital in Karlskrona and; the other brother is a dentist.

L: How did You get in contact with them?

Donald: There were some people from Sweden visiting a cousin of mine and they were in Andover, walking to the cemetery. And he saw the tombstone that said: Koerlind and in the Unated States it's spelled Ceurlind and in in Sweden it's spelled Koarlind and they said. We have some neighbours that their name is Keurlind! So when they got back to Sweden, they told this neighbour about it and he wrote to my cousin and he just gave what their dads name was and that they originally were from Kristdala. But she couldn't read Swedish, and I couldn't either. But; she gave me the letter and he had sent some material about their ancesters. I've got the checking of the ancesters and I've found out that my great grandfather was a brother of. – He had five brothers and sisters that still live in Sweden and one of the brothers was a great grandfather of this settle, that lived over here. And we were planning. And this was about 6 months before we were planning to go to Sweden! And so about a month before we left, we wrote a letter to – (hes name was Håkan Keurlind) - and I wrote a letter to Håkan, saying that we were going to be in Sweden and that I would like to see him

and talk to him! And I told him how our relationship was. About a week before we got a letter from him and getting his telephone number and a map showing exactly how to get to his place in Karlskrona. He said: "When You (?) to Sweden You call me and we will make arrangements". So; the first day we went to Sweden, the first night we stayed at Lund, Sweden, so I called him and; we made arrangements to the drive. We had a car, so we drove there and made the arrangements to be there at one o'clock. So we drove there and – my wife asked me: "Do You have any idea of what they are look like"? "Well" I said; "they wouldn't be more than about 5 5ft11 and I said; "they won't be real dark, they will be a kind of brownish hair and I said; and ( ? överhoppat ). We drove up. We came walking, my wife and I. She looked at me and said: "How did You know"! Oh I said; that was on Keurlinds side!

L: Did they know anything about their relations in America, in other words: what happened to them"?"

Donald: They knew that some Keurlinds had come to America.

L: They had no connection then?

Donald: But they had no connection.

L: No letters?

Donald: No letters and I was the first connection that they had! There was. – We found out – he said that there was a Keurlind photographer that were going to the New York city, but they had lost the contact with him. And; my uncle said, he read in the paper, it must have been about 10 yers ago, that a Keurlind from New York city, a well known protographer, was visiting Chicago and he didn't think anything about it, or; he could probably be this Keurlind that came from Sweden. We were in Sweden on the Midsummers day and they took us out to – one had a home on a Island of Tjurkö – and - they took us out there on the Midsummers day and; they had several neighbours, that had got together and they were gathering flowers and binds and they had a long pole.

L: Was that in the south of Sweden?

Donald: This was in Karlskrona and the island was just outside.

L: Sturkö? Was the name of it Sturkö?

Donald: Yeah that the name was – and they rased the pole up, they decorated with a cross bar on that and they made a hole and they had blocks there. I helped them to lift it up and put it down in the hole and put the blocks on it. Then they started, the women and the men and the children, they all started to form a ring around it and they started dancing and singing Swedish songs and then they started playing Swedish games around there. Oh we had a big time there!

L: Then You were back in Your ancestors country.

Donald: That's right. We couldn't have had it any better!, course we saw things that we wouldn't have seen as we wouldn't

L: Were they able to converse with You in English?

Donald: They spoke real good English. All three cousins spoke English – and; – Håkan had a boy that was 14 years old – and he could understand English and he could talk. But they had a younger daughter, that was about three years younger, but she couldn't understand English. So; she'd sit with us for awhile and then she did go off. She wasn't interested! But – his mother came. He said that she used to be able to understand and talk some English, but she couldn't remember it any more, so when we talked to her, then we had to talk to him and then he talked to her.

L: So You were able to communicate.

Donald: Oh, yes, real well.

L: So You could get across?

Donald: Oh yes. And there was a sea captain at this gathering and he was in charge of an ice breaker, one of the two ice breakers in Sweden. And he was really – he could talk English and



we could understand him and we had a lunch with him. And he was really; he told us his experiences and then he'd ask us to tell some to him!

L: How far relation was this? Was he Your second or Your third?

Donald: Third, third

L: cousin?

Donald: Third cousin.

L: And it was on Your mothers side?

Donald: On my mothers side.

L: So You could fill in then, the gaps they had?

Donald: Yeah. Oh we got together ( ? överhoppat ) and I gave some information from him. I had some pictures along when I got home. I did send him a bunch of pictures that he wanted., copies, or what ever I had.

L: Had Your relations been here?

Donald: Håkan had been on the east coast to school, for six months - I believe - but he'd never, he didn't know that he had a relation here, when he was here. And – they were planning on coming here and they were going to visit us. We have a kind of Keurlind reunion once a year, But – I guess he can't afford, right now, to come here. He had bought a new house.

L: So how many Keurlings from this branch is in this country, when You have Your reunions?

Donald: Oh - they are all descendens of Karl Johan Keurlind.

L: Keurlind.

Donald: mhm.

L: How many?

Donald: Oh, there must be around - 40.

L: 40.

Donald: mhm!

L: And they live ?

Donald: In Osco and Moline and .. and (?) and

L: Oh the most of them are around here!

Donald: Yes, the most of them are around here.

L: They have stayed here then.

Donald: mhm. We had. There were, once when the family lived in Chicago, that a brother and a sister visited here in the summertime. That must have been in 1918/ 1919. He was a translator at the bank in Chicago, I guess between the Swedes and -. But; their mother was a sister in law of my great grandfather. But they moved to California and they never heard from them again. We don't know what part of California they went to.

L: So the Keurlind name is still used here?

Donald: In. Yes! The ones that lived in Chicago kept the (uppfattar ej stavningen), but they just spell it different.

L: Oh I see.

Donald: It's pronounced the same both.

L: Ja ja Keurling ja.

Donald: But the reason why they change here was ( ? överhoppat ) in the newspapers they always right Cheurlind so they just adapted that spelling.

L: ( ? Överhoppat )!

Donald: ( ? Överhoppat )!

L: That's right.

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