

Hack – Oral History Transcription

Interviewee(s): **Bob and Dorothy Hack**

Interviewers: **Jenifer Baker** (Deputy Archivist), **Brendan Cott** (Archives Intern), **Bobbi Apking** (Engineer's Office Administrator), **Jeff Pendleton** (Engineer's Office, Asst. Bridge Design)

Date of Interview: 21 August 2019

List of Initials: JB = Jenifer Baker, BK = Brandan Kot, BA = Bobbi Apking, JP = Jeff Pendleton, DH = Dorothy Hack, RH = Robert Hack

Location of Interview: Warren County Engineer's Office in Lebanon, Ohio

Transcriber: Ted Hitchens (Records Specialist)

[Begin transcript 00:00:01]

JB: Good morning. My name is Jenifer Baker. I am the Deputy Archivist with Warren County Records Center and Archives. Today is August 21, 2019. Uhm, we are here interviewing about the Fred family history. We are currently at the Engineer's Department located at 210 West Main Street. Uhm I'm going to give everyone uhm that is present a chance to introduce themselves, so we are going to go around the table...

BK: I'm Brandan Kot. I am an intern at Warren County Archives.

BA: I am Bobbie Apking. I am the administrative assistant at the Warren County Engineer's Office.

JP: Jeff Pendleton, uh Assistant Bridge Design, Warren County Engineer's Office.

DH: I'm Dorothy Hack, wife of Robert Hack.

RH: I'm Robert Hack. My grandparents were um Amelia and Saul Fred who have had- who had this house way before um, after Corwin- Governor Corwin had it.

JB: Okay.

DH: Been over a hundred years.

JB: So very quickly, a little bit of background about the building we are in. Uhm, it was owned by Thomas Corwin in the eighteen-hundreds, and then his family continued to own it until Solomon and Amelia Fred purchased it—

RH: Correct.

JB: And then the house was in the Fred family up through the late nineteen-hundreds (*RH: Yes*), uhm and at some point it had been turned into apartments where the Fred family resided.

RH: No – there was one apartment above, the rest were- were- were uhm, when the family lived here. Mark, Bud, uhm...

DH: ... Ed ...

RH: Ed, and uhm- uhm—

DH: Nonie?

RH: Nonie and uhm, and uh, Rachel and- and Aaron Rothmand(?). Rachel married in Aaron Rothmand (*possibly 'Erin'?*)

JB: Okay.

DH: It was in the family for a hund- for about a hundred years.

JB: Okay. So I'm going to ask some background questions specific to, uhm, to you and then, uhm, we are going to go into some specific questions about your family and about the house, so... Uhm, so when and where were you born?

RH: Detroit, Michigan.

JB: And what year was that?

RH: Nineteen-forty.

JB: Okay. And then where did you grow up?

RH: In Detroit.

JB: Okay. And then who were your parents and siblings?

RH: Leonard was my father. Dorothy Fred-Hack was my mother. She was born in 1913. Uhm, and my siblings – Lawrence Stuart Hack, born two years before me. My older brother.

DH: Nineteen thirty-eight.

RH: He was born in 1938, August 17th.

DH: He was Leonard Hack.

JB: Okay. And then where are some other- have you always lived in Detroit or where are some other places you have lived?

RH: Yes. I've lived in (*indecipherable*) Detroit. We lived out on West Bloomfield, Michigan.

DH: A suburb of Detroit.

RH: A suburb, a northwest suburb.

JB: Okay. And then what are some professions you've had?

RH: My family used to have an orthopedic shoe business. My father's father, called Nathan Hack, started the shoe business in downtown Detroit in 1916. Nineteen-sixteen. And uh, called Hacey's(?) and Frederick's in downtown Detroit. He invented the very first walker in World War II. He invented the very first convalescent boot in World War II. And he also invented a shoe called the ripple sole, R-I-P-P-L-E, ripple sole. Uhm, he came over here in the United States in 1900.

JB: Okay. What are some professions you've had? Is- did you spend—?

RH: I was in the shoe business for awhile, did a lot of orthopedic work. I later uh, went into the uh—

DH: Phone.

RH: Dorothy, she asked me ... I was in the commercial phone business, the multi-phone systems. After having shoes, I just- you know, retail- I said forget it. I had my own mail-in marketing firm during the, uhm, Sharper Image time. And later on I decided to go back to school and became a clinical psychologist. And since a little kid, I've been taking photographs. I'm now a professional photographer. When I was five years old, I pictured myself in Yellowstone National Park with my Browning camera taking pictures of deer. Uh, and I went on and on – I did our high school pictures and I do a lot of work with community theater. I've been in community theater locally and a couple movies.

JB: Okay, sounds great. (*To DH*) Did you want to give us a little bit of background information on yourself?

DH: Okay. I was born in 1937. And—

JB: Where were you born?

DH: In Detroit, Michigan (*JB: Okay*). And my name was Dorothy Charlotte Robinson, and now Hack. Uhm, my father was also in a service business as well as a retail business with leather goods and luggage and my mom worked with him.

TIME 00:05:00 MARK

DH: And I went to school. Well actually, I- I graduated high school and then I lived, and went out for about four years and then I went back to college and became a teacher for thirty-six years.

RH: You were with the uhm, in Chicago with the, uhm,

DH: Electronics Services Representatives—

RH: Electronic Service—

DH: Electronic Services Representatives Association. It was wonderful, you know, to be in Chicago. You'd think it's so much different than where you live but I have to tell you something. At home, you say 'what are we gonna do tonight.' In Chicago you say 'what are you gonna do tonight.' So every place, you know, the grass is never greener on the other side but it was a lot of fun and it was very good.

JB: What did you teach?

DH: I taught uh—

RH: She graded me (*group laughter*).

DH: I actually taught elementary, but I ended up in middle school. I actually was sixth grade first; tall girl, heels, and scared of sixth grade kids when I first started! But I loved them and they were just the most wonderful people. They- I am very fortunate to have taught there for most of my years and I see them all the time and they love to see me, so... They are, let me tell you, I loved it very much. I was- I didn't get married right away. I was thirty-six when I met my husband.

JB: So what year were you married?

DH: Nineteen seventy-four. This year is forty-five years of marriage.

JB: Well congratulations!

DH: And I met him bike riding at an apartment complex. It was meant to be - it actually was meant to be because I bought a bike because I thought I wasn't- I needed exercise, I wasn't feeling well, and turned out that – right away I met him.

RH: I cut her circulation off (*group laughter*).

DH: And it's been a wonderful, wonderful time.

RH: She had seen one of my parents that same day. And we didn't know each other at the time.

DH: We did not know each other. We lived across the street from each other. So- and I had the most wonderful experience of coming down with him to live in Ohio. And it was nothing like it is now. Basically, I mean, it was a different kind of a city just like all cities can be through the years. Detroit has changed. And I'm overwhelmed with how beautiful it is. The home we're sitting in now was not anything I'd ever seen before. It was absolutely gorgeous. And so I am very grateful to be here with you.

RH: We came down here at that time with my two kids, Tony and- and Beverly.

JB: Okay, so you have two children?

RH: Have two children (*JB: Okay*), have two children. This is my second marriage.

JB: Okay.

DH: His daughter passed away from a drunk driver.

RH: Nineteen eighty-five.

DH: Long ago in eighty-five. And we came here often with- many times with Dorothy and Leonard (*JB: Okay*). And experienced meeting- I didn't meet everybody, but I—

RH: Leia (*possibly 'Leah'?*), Rachel, Aaron...

DH: No, no. I met Aaron and Rachel.

RH: You met Aaron.

DH: Didn't... Yeah, you met... You saw- she saw (*indecipherable*) in later years she was in San Francisco retiring from a wonderful career....

RH: Assisted ... assisted living... as an opera star (*JB: Okay*). She sang in London – London, England.

JB: And that's Leia?

RH: Leia, yeah.

JB: Was her last name...?

RH: Fred.

JB: Fred.

DH: Never married.

JB: Never married. So, can you share some memories of your family and their businesses in Warren County? I know you didn't grow up here with them, but do you have any memories?

RH: The Fred department store, Golden Lamb. The Fred department store- I remember I loved playing there. They had the clothing, dry goods, furniture. They had a food court – I remember a big freight elevator. We had a food court above there. It was a nice little town and we came here in... When we

lived in Michigan, we'd come back here and shop in the store for clothing. I remember the Golden Lamb hotel and the- I was here quite often and I loved Michael Skeet (*indecipherable*). He had a farm out uh- what is that - Oregonia was it?

BA: Oregonia.

RH: Oregonia Road. He built a sixteen acre- thirteen acre lake. Had his own Beechcraft Bonanza plane that I flew with him a lot in those grassy strips. His daughter Sheila was married on the lake.

DH: An island...

RH: An island. He built an island on the lake.

JB: Did he have, uhm, sand as well? Is that correct?

RH: He had a sand beach there.

JB: Yeah. Okay.

RH: He had Fred's- Fred's mushrooms and a big mushroom farm. I remember him showing us a big pile of house manure and picking up that smell and—

DH: That's how they grow the—

JB: Grow the mushrooms?

DH: Yes.

RH: They started down the basement here, a little area in the cellar I showed uh- uh, Bobbi where it was originally grown. And I understand my grandmother said 'get outta here.' That's how they 'skeet ... skedaddle.'

TIME 00:10:00 MARK

JB: Okay.

RH: And uh, let's see, Fred's department store and of course the Golden Lamb and uh—

JB: Did they own the Golden Lamb?

RH: Pardon?

JB: Did the Fred family own or do you just have memories of going to the Golden Lamb as a child?

RH: I remember going there.

DH: And there was also a turn-of-the-century soda shop when we were here. And they filmed two movies here.

JB: Is that the Village Ice Cream shop?

RH: Yes.

JB: Okay.

RH: They filmed that with Barbara Eden and who's that- we weren't here then.

DH: Oh they- they— the *Harper Valley PTA* was filmed here, did you know that? They had pictures of it. They said she was terrific. They did *Milk Money* with Melanie Griffith, they did not like her. I guess she wasn't as- as kind a person.

RH: So I- I just remember going to these places except for- Skeet to me is my childhood hero. If everybody knows Will Rogers, I have an old picture of him in these (*indecipherable*) ...looks exactly like

him. He was very adventurous like him. He was my hero, I looked up to him. Plane, he taught me how to scuba dive, fishing—

JB: I heard he was quite the character.

RH: Oh yes, quite.

JB: Sounds like a dreamer.

RH: Yeah.

DH: He was married twice. And I- I think the second time was not great, but the first was to a Nancy.

JB: Okay. And then uhm, can you share some memories from visiting the Fred- I'm calling it the Fred family home. It's the building that we are in uhm which is now the Engineer's uhm Office for Warren County. Can you share some memories about visiting this particular building?

RH: I remember going up the back- I don't know, is it called the back stairway here? - going up to uh to Rachel and Aaron's apartment above. I slept in their son's Freddie room for awhile. And uh, we enjoyed that and my brother and I, my brother Larry. And over here where Abraham Evans – Fred Bud, they called him Bud – he had an apartment here and we'd- the ceiling is fourteen feet tall and I remember the staircase over here, it goes up on the side, and my brother wanted to scare the heck out of me. Every time I heard a creak – ghost, ghost!

DH: That's older brothers for you.

JB: So you guys stayed in this building – you had children in your family...

RH: We stayed with his children in the summertime.

JB: Okay.

DH: Every summer?

RH: A lot of summers.

DH: I don't remember this because this was (*indecipherable*)...

RH: You don't remember? I remember going down by Turtle creek and my cousin Jimmy said 'chiggers, don't worry about that.'

JB: Okay so as a child you visited (*RH: Many times*). Do you have any memories as an adult coming here?

RH: Later in life with my- my wife and my kids. What, did my parents...?

DH: We came- we came several times with Leonard and Dorothy Hack.

RH: My parents.

DH: Fred – Dorothy Fred-Hack. And we would come- it was always the same routine. You'd go (*Interstate*) seventy-five, you'd stop at Findlay (*Hancock County*). They had a rest stop – it's gone too – they had like a diner, a really nice- now they have all the ready-to-made food type places. But, and then we'd come right on to here, come up the same road we came up. It was very exciting every time we came up. When you don't- for me, who didn't even live here, and the way the people were, and the community, and going to the soda shop – the turn of the century soda shop, I mean it's the regular...

RH: We're stopping there today, hopefully.

JB: What is it? Oh, you're stopping there today?

RH: Yeah. Going south past Bowling Green, my dad got- got a speeding ticket and never spoke of it. I forgot about that.

JB: Okay. And then, so- (to DH) go ahead.

DH: She- I was going to say that Dorothy absolutely loved this place and so I- I know that every year, she would have to be here with her family and likely for a nice amount of time. And I also know that- that from the Fred store, she- she would have everything sent to her- I mean big items like refrigerators and her Steinway pianos and she was a marvelous, marvelous—

JB: Sent to...? Michigan?

DH: To her in Detroit.

RH: I have my grandmother's Steinway piano in my house. I have a mantle clock from my grandmother. I had a- my Uncle Ed had a Buick dealership, so for years we had Buicks. I don't know where it was, where it was located.

JB: Yeah I did hear that ... Uhm there was also a piano upstairs, correct?

RH: There might have been, I don't know.

DH: In Rachel's...

JB: In Rachel's apartment?

RH: In Rachel's apartment, yeah (DH: Yeah). She had a lot of oriental carpets, she had a lot of collections. They travelled all over the world. They were in Egypt – somewhere I have an old picture of her on a- on a camel.

DH: (*Indecipherable*) ... the anniversary pattern, the fiftieth anniversary pattern which is- unfortunately people nowadays, younger people, don't really want china but in those days, and our day too when we were getting married- and also—

RH: We have a whole set of that.

TIME 00:15:00 MARK

DH: Oh yeah. We have every piece that you could imagine you could have – a butter plate. I mean she- she also- she had given my mother-in-law many many things. They were extremely close. My mother-in-law Dorothy called her ‘Mama Ray.’ She was twenty years older.

RH: Twenty years difference, yes.

DH: Her parents by then were certainly older after having that many children. But this was- and I also know that she would always point out to me through the windows that we looked, she would say to me we had all this property out here. But you know, things change. People—

RH: She had chickens. They might have had cows – I don’t recall.

JB: Yeah I want to say the original property, when it was purchased by the Corwin family, was at least five acres in this, you know, surrounding the house.

DH: And I know that my father-in-law purchased it all in – (to RH) what did they do with the house? You said they increased it?

RH: Solomon(*Saul?*). Solomon Fred, when he purchased the house, it was about nine-thousand square feet and he had made it twelve-thousand square feet. I was told he put the first plumbing and first electrical in the town. He was quite handy. He was quite a handy man I understand. I never met him.

JB: That sounds like a- that sounds like a large project for this large of a house, so...

DH: For a man that started out going from farm to farm and building up, you know, more equity and eventually building up and having a tremendously large, beautiful department store at the time, I would say that he was very prominent and I also – shall I say one more thing?

JB: Go ahead.

DH: I know that (*indecipherable*) being a teacher for sure that uhm, and with the knowledge that this community was intact its own self, not- not as it is now a suburb of Dayton and Cincinnati that people

did not travel more than twenty ... twenty miles, you know, through circumference to go anyplace, people just- communities didn't do that. And when I heard and I sat in the Golden Lamb and was told that- that he would sit and visit with the people that he was, you know, with all the different people here and they would have their own mugs like they talk about in the history books and their own pipes and this is the real living, to really see history alive. Now we look back and it does- and everything has gotten more modernized—

RH: He purchased Lebanon University which is Lebanon apartments. And a whole series of books – I have a few of them. In fact, I have one book- slave train, slave trade ancient-modern, printed 1860. I have a leather-bound book. He had—

JB: So Solomon Fred purchased—

RH: The library--

JB: The Lebanon University?

RH: Yeah.

JB: So we call that the National Normal University.

RH: Yeah, yeah I have a book of it. My grandfather said it originated in Cincinnati when it first came to Ohio.

DH: My mother-in-law said that- that he provided books to the high school – to their library and also to the university. I think he was quite a philanthropic person.

JB: Yeah it sounds like it. And everything that we've heard sounds like it, so...

DH: And I think he loved this town and I know she did. And I really think that having a home that likely was held by the governor for not- when it was the seat of the government, and of course it isn't now – that I think for having the home for a certain amount of time and then a family having it for a hundred years should be acknowledged and is really something. And taking care of it.

JB: Well I think part of the problem is that we're still collecting the history of that portion of the household, so that's something that's still being put together, so...

DH: I noticed that at- at Glendower, it tells about the history of people who lived in this house and this house so I don't think that ... I think it's wonderful that this is known as the Corwin house. I think it's so exciting and wonderful that- that Solomon Fred purchased the home and- and revered it.

JB: Well do you know how long— because he lived here with his wife. Is that correct?

RH: Yes.

JB: How long did they keep it just the private residence between the two of them? Do you know...?

RH: It was a private residence— upstairs, they rented out one- one apartment that I think- I think it helped pay for some of the—

DH: No, what she's asking is (*RH: What?*) before they divided it into four— when- when he was- when did he die approximately, any idea of—?

RH: I have it back in the car.

JB: I think it was in the nineteen-teens if I'm not mistaken.

DH: When did he die?

JB: It was at the nineteen-teens.

RH: I can tell you I have the information in the car.

JB: When Solomon passed away.

DH: And did Amelia—

JB: I'd have to verify that information.

RH: I have that in the car.

JB: Yeah.

DH: And I think that the family were ... and as the family got older and they had their spouses is when they realized that they- they ... again, revered the house and they kept it fairly intact other than, you know, taking out what they had to to make four apartments. And they all lived here and- I do know from being here (*indecipherable*) 1974 and we didn't probably come for a couple of years but when we did come several times they always felt, you know, that this home was their home and they- and- but I also think that when they had the department store and then I understood that there were no malls...

TIME 00:20:00 MARK

DH: ... And any place you go malls, you know, bite into to businesses and then unfortunately I don't think they had very many families that were left.

JB: Right.

DH: It was very sparse families that were left and they didn't have a whole lot, and this is why eventually only Susanne was left – her father was gone – and so they sold the home. And I think- I know Bob was not, you know, he felt bad about it, but...

RH: I said they way the house used to look like, we have an area in- in Michigan called Henry Ford Museum. They have old homes, colonial homes. This home looked as good as that, but better if it was ever kept in good condition. If they moved it down there, it would've been better-looking way up there.

JB: Oh, as opposed to what?

RH: As opposed to down there.

DH: And my mother-in-law was very proud of that- that- that pond, I have to tell you. Every time we came, we would go over and we would see how the pond was and she- she just ... And the other thing is she would leave this city and she would take the train – and it's a cute very nice train station – and she would go to Cincinnati. She would study her piano and her singing there.

RH: Her mother...

DH: She was very, very talented. Her name was Dorothy Hack.

JB: That sounds like women in the family definitely—

RH: Very artist- artistic family – Leah, my mom Dorothy. Rachel was quite an artist. I have some- I have some paintings back at home which she- outside the uh, what is that, the- on Main Street ... from which way it was...

DH: Looking across Main Street?

JB: So Main Street?

RH: ... I have some old- old paintings of that area ...

DH: Of their ... It was their property.

RH: ... She was- She had a lot of exhibits, she had a lot of exhibits. She had a lot of ribbons from her- from her paintings. Very critical of her own work, she threw half of it away. She has a- I think I showed you earlier- we have a leather screen of a hunting scene um painted um— She was ready to throw that away. I said ... I'll take it with me! She gave away the family bible, I understand. There's a doorknocker out here—

DH: But to whom? Did she give that ... ?

RH: Hers is ... Cincinnati museum.

JB: Okay. I know the historical society ends up inheriting a lot of things, so I don't know if they have...

RH: (*Indecipherable*) ... I think is there.

JB: Okay. You mentioned some secret staircases within the house when, um, Thomas Corwin owned the property. Do you know...?

RH: To- To his house, to his bedroom, supposedly there's a secret staircase going up there (*JB: Okay*). I never saw it, it was already blocked over when I was here.

JB: Do you know...

RH: It was by- It was be the uh fireplace there.

JB: Was it in this front corner? Do you know?

RH: I forgot the directions here.

JB: Right, so the front door is in the middle here. Do you know on which side?

RH: So ... it was wherever his bedroom was, it's this side of the fireplace (*JB: Okay*). I was told.

DH: But it wouldn't be- The front was the parlor (*RH: Yeah*), I understood.

RH: This front over here's a parlor.

DH: That was a parlor.

BA: There's a parlor in...?

DH: On this side...

BA: On that side? (*RH: Yeah*) The library is on this side.

JB: The library...

DH: No, this side.

BA: The library that was Corwin's.

DH: Okay there was a library ... Those were not bedrooms, I mean.

JB: Right. Well his bedroom was—

DH: Upstairs.

JB: Yeah, so upstairs and kind of in the back.

DH: Who drew that?

RH: I did (*JB: Yeah*). Rachel gave me- I went over this house with her when I was fifteen. I said where was everything in uh- in the fifties. She redid her apartment and found old newspapers up in the attic, "Lincoln Assassinated," gave them away.

JB: Oh gosh!

RH: She went and gave away everything.

JB: And then um...

DH: So in the fifties, she- she redid her apartment.

RH: Modernized. It was all metal cabinets. That was modern then.

JB: And then um, you mentioned hearing stories about this house being part of the Underground Railroad...

RH: Yes, I understand- my understanding was a lot of the closets, and these ceilings are awfully about like fourteen feet tall, and they held onto the closets so they could hide the slaves in the- in the—

DH: Like a false?

RH: Like a false ceiling in- in the closet and (*DH: Lowered*) I guess at nighttime- I guess at nighttime they would then go out and go north.

JB: Okay.

RH: That's my understanding from the story and the stories I heard.

JB: Who told you those stories? Do you remember?

RH: No.

JB: And then, so those are all the specific questions. Does anybody else have any questions that you would like to ask?

DH: How about the- I love that about that that walnut.

JB: Oh, the tree? Oh and this is where I was going to say if there's any other information that you would like us to record for this interview—

RH: They used to have a beautiful walnut tree that was torn down when the mental health people took it over, and there was a beautiful stone bench over here too. I have a picture of that.

DH: And that- that walnut tree I was told (*RH: Huge!*) by the family that they- they were gonna give them thousands of dollars. People wanted to come and dig it up. It was so very old and very beautiful and very healthy.

TIME 00:25:00 MARK

DH: So I- and we told- I just can't believe anybody would- would not have, you know, an understanding- I mean...

RH: And right by was the carbarn all- all gravel road barn for the cars. They- they- they used to cook out there. And on the lower level, there was another area.

JB: So there was a level underneath the—?

RH: ... You go around the corner there.

JB: So that- so the- the car port, or—

RH: Carbarn. Car- It was wood floor.

JB: Okay.

RH: Really tall.

JB: And that's where their outdoor kitchen was?

RH: I just think they had an outdoor kitchen at one time.

DH: It was like a five- it became a five-car garage. It was very long (*RH: Wide*). It was not a small building. It was long— (*indecipherable*)

(JP hands DH a document, possibly floor plan of Corwin House)

RH: Left side.

JP: Bottom-left.

RH: Bottom-left.

DH: There (*pointing to document*). It was really— (*indecipherable*)

RH: Plank wood floors like this.

DH: And the property ... I'll tell the antidote about- about Bob's son was young, he was probably about eight years old. And we were sitting at- on one of the porches in the back (*RH: This porch*). And this- it was a very beautiful- this hall was- it was probably stucco on those days too ... But, what happened is we were talking and Tony was playing and he was kind of running- going away, and all of a sudden we realized he wasn't around. Beverly was there, his daughter, but not Tony. And so we went out looking for him and we found him sobbing, he couldn't find his way back.

RH: So large.

DH: Because it it was, the way the property was for a young kid, I mean...

RH: I've brought a picture from my mom's autograph book from high school through letters in the car, and she was a (*indecipherable*).

DH: You never found the autograph book?

RH: No. My mom's, not Amelia's.

DH: Oh, Amelia's Unfortunately, don't ask how, but it started being mice. And- and the thing is, we didn't have mice but I don't know where it was, but it shows, you know, what ... You know how you go into the dances and they have these little books and people would sign- the boys would sign them and you'd have a dance with those boys. It has a lot— That might be something for them to see.

RH: I think I have some love- love letters to my mom from my dad, my mom. My dad was an extremely romantic man. I said Rudolph Valentino wasn't as romantic as he was. Every year he was married he had another rose in his bunch. When he had two kids, another two roses, different color. When a dog, a third-colored rose. My dad was the most romantic man in the world in my opinion.

DH: They were like sweet- They were like sweethearts to they day that they—

JB: How did they end up in Detroit?

RH: My dad lived in Detroit (*JB: Okay*). That's where his father's shoe business was.

JB: Okay so and then when your dad and your mom met, she moved there with him?

RH: She met him at a University of Michigan football game. Sorry Buckeyes. I'm a Buckeye.

DH: Nathan and Leonard.

RH: From the University of Michigan.

DH: Nathan, Fred and Leonard were roommates. And then his- Dorothy came up to a game but she was very close to Nate too, so, and even after. That was- that was it.

RH: (*Indecipherable name*) she loved a lot.

DH: Who she was the closest to she was the youngest with them because they were all the youngest ones sitting together here, you know.

JB: And where did Dorothy fall in line of the Fred children?

RH: She's the last of the nine kids. That's why her older sister Rachel is twenty years older. She called her 'Mama Ray.'

JB: Right. Which – so just for anyone watching – we plan on digitizing uhm any of the information you're sharing with us so you can reach out to us and request that uhm in the future, so we will have those records at the records center.

RH: I actually have a family tree- a complete family tree written going way back. The name was Fred, later 'Freid' or 'Freidman' (*spelling?*), and Sigmund Freud's a distant relative of mine.

JB: Oh, that's good.

DH: On the Fred side.

RH: Fred side, yeah.

DH: You know how they took names and they would change them and all. We- we don't have any- but somebody had reached out to Bob ... it's related some way, somehow.

RH: Somebody that lives in New York gave me the Fred tree.

JB: Oh that's cool. That's always helpful when people have done a little bit of their own history. Okay so for us, those are all the questions we have. Like I said, if there's any other additional information you would like to add?

RH: I can show you the autograph book from my mom if you want to see that later on or now.

JB: Yeah. We will take images and stuff of all of this uhm information that you're sharing with us. Uhm, and then uhm, like I said, uhm, the Warren County Records Center and Archives will have those records so if anybody wants to submit a public records request, we can provide copies of them.

TIME 00:30:00 MARK

RH: We have some information of high school prom – a lot of old newspapers.

JB: Okay.

DH: I- I just- myself coming into this family was overwhelmed when I could see the community. Wherever we went, we walked with- with Mark. In fact, they have a brick right at the Golden Lamb for him. He didn't put it in but the people had ... and every place we went, everybody knew Mark and they would wave to Mark. It was to me at that time, it was more like- like old-time community when I first came here back, you know, through the years. And when my mother and I were coming up from Florida another time without the family, we came in and Mark wanted to see her and we were on our way- I was bringing her back into the Detroit area where we lived. Oh my God, I mean it was like, my mother was so overwhelmed. So this community really obviously had a—

RH: It meant a lot to her.

DH: Not only- not to that but to I think that the Fred family meant a lot—

JB: Oh yeah. I mean everyone we've spoken to has some kind of story about the Fred family – or if they didn't know the Fred family directly – has some kind of memory of their store.

RH: They place we're staying at, Hardy's(?), he said he worked for Fred's furniture. I think his name is L. Hardy. And my- my uncle Mark's violin, he used to play violin years ago, I never knew he did it.

DH: You know I will say something that I would—

RH: They're all talented.

DH: When I came here, it was made- I was made aware that there were three Jewish families here, and this was one But what I- what I was aware of was how it didn't matter how wonderful this community, you know- In a small community, you don't always know how people would respond. And my mother-in-law's friends, you know, were certainly were not Jewish. They were just- you know, she would see some of them and they would come and talk to her and she was like a young girl again, you know, it was the most wonderful thing. And to me, I know the family didn't all remain – well they may have, the main people, but – there was intermarriage and like, you know, like- I mean we were talking last night. I just think this is the most wonderful community. I had thought this was going to be the final time we would come and it would be like a closure for my husband. But now, I feel I would love to come back. We're staying at the most wonderful place that is a bed and- it's called bed and breakfast but they don't do breakfast anymore, but it's- I've been in some of them and this is just the most wonderful place and I would love to come back. I wish we knew- still could have the connections with people here. That's the only thing that—

RH: My town preacher, her name is Linda Cochran. I think her parents were the original founders of Lebanon. I met her at a church near me. Her name is Linda Cochran. I know her mother, Lorraine. I don't know what the family's name is. Bede(?) Cochran I think it was, the original founders I heard.

DH: We- we were with some family on the Hack side. I would say it is by my father-in-law's brother's daughter Danielle, who married ... later in life ... she's very young ... But the point is, is that her husband had been married before and she heard "you're going to Lebanon? Oh my God," she said. Her present husband, only husband, his ex-wife lives in Lebanon, Ohio. And I don't know- we don't know (*indcipherable*) ... so I have no idea who she is or what but- And then something else, someone else said something about it—

RH: Six degrees of separation.

DH: ... all of a sudden, Lebanon has obviously blossomed as being a suburb of Dayton and Cincinnati.

RH: (*indcipherable*) ... Pete Fred who was Corwin's oldest son, oldest child. I was in the Coconut Grove Hotel with my parents. I fifteen; there are twenty-one-year-old guys walking towards me. "I know you from somewhere." He says "because I was born in Ohio. I'm in California.

JB: Wow. Such a small world.

RH: Yeah. Six degrees of separation.

JB: So, I'm going to go ahead and conclude the interview. So thank you so much for sharing your history with us.

DH: We really appreciate you people. All of you.

[End transcript 00:34:42]