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## Oral Interview of Beverly Hasty by Jenny Meagher for a Project on Activist Women in South Berwick, Maine

Beverly Hasty

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Oral interviews for a project on the history of activist women in South Berwick, Maine

Interviewer: Jenny Meagher (JM)

Photographer: Susanna Ross (SR)

Interviewee: Beverly Hasty (BH)

Date: July 6, 1992

Recording number: 1992.2.8.c7.a

Length of recording: 45:11

[transcript begins]

JM: Jenny Meagher at the Town Council, the town manager's office in South Berwick, Maine.

It's 2:30 pm on the 6th of July 1992. Um, so well, first I had kind of a logistical question. I'm just wondering. I heard there's a town council meeting tonight.

BH: There is a town council meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

JM: On the 13<sup>th</sup>. Okay.

BH: 13<sup>th</sup>. Yeah. They meet twice a month. So, it's the 2nd and 4th Monday.

JM: Okay. Great. Um, and is that the one that's going to be about discontinued roads?

BH: Ooh, I have not seen the agenda for it.

JM: Okay.

BH: At this time.

JM: Okay, okay, so are there any other town meetings going on?

BH: Um. The Planning Board usually meets here.

JM: Okay, and um, what, that's, what is that going to be? You don't know the agenda—

BH: No, I don't have the agenda on that either. But we can get that before you leave.

JM: Okay, great.

BH: If there is one we'll get it for you.

JM: Great.

BH: Hello, Meredith. This is Jennifer with Star magazine.

JM: And, I had mentioned to Carolyn that I was, she, she had actually suggested speaking to you because I'm interested in the Joy family.

BH: Oh yes, she had talked to me and I do not know. She had mentioned about a lady that lived in her house. And I have not heard anything about that. And we was talking about someone that could remember that. Um, unfortunately, Grammy Ethel is 103 and she just died. That's Wayne's, my husband's grandmother, and she probably would have remembered. Her mind was wonderful. If I could have preserved that. It was a great, had a brain transplant. I'd have taken hers. Um, so I don't know that information. We had talked about it since she had seen you. But, um, now that was the little lady that was blind.

JM: Yeah, I was, I was speaking to Natalie Goodwin and she said it was, let's see, I've written this down, part of her family. Her husband's maternal great-aunt and her— She was a Joy and she lived up there and her relatives used to go to town for her and buy her things. Supposedly she was a blind woman, living alone and taking care of the farm.

BH: Yeah, see, that's the first time I've heard of that. That is the Joy Farm so I, I would believe that and, um, I just don't know. I couldn't think of anybody that would remember that that far back. That, that would be quite a ways. That would be at my grandmother's time.

JM: Right. Right. Well, then I guess my next question is about your grandmother 'cause I just spoke to Ruth Hower.

BH: Uh-huh.

JM: And I'm really interested, I mean, it's just amazing that there were that many generations [unclear]—

BH: Well, let me see if I can remember. Um, Grammy Ethel grew up in this area. She was born in South Berwick and she grew up in this area. She was a Young, so, and that, that Young family is still here and she married into a Hasty that also was generations back, back to the 16[00]–1700. Um, Grammy, let me see, was the, up until her death, was the oldest alumna at Berwick Academy. She had gone to that. That used to be also a high school at one time. So, you go to the elementary school and go to the high school and it would be Berwick Academy. And then she went to Farmington Common—it used to be called Farmington Common School which is now Farmington University of Maine. And she stayed right up there and went to school. That time it was only two years and then she went teaching. Um, and she taught for, I would say it was well over 40 years in there except till the very end that was in the small one schoolroom buildings. And the interesting part about that is Grammy was not very big in size, but very, very strict. Her policy was that, um, lot of students would only be there for a short time. Either they needed to work, or their transits, or they'd only be there part-time because they had to help with the farm or whatever. So she felt real urgency, specially the older boys. She had to be very strict with them and she really pressured them into learning, I would say. Um, mainly because they may not get any further education. They may not be allowed to come back. Who knows? And at the time, um, 'cause the Civil War was just over at that time, um, so a lot of the, the young men, also maybe the, the head of the house at that time. And so, she was real pressed that way. So she was a very strict teacher. But I've had people even up to now that remembers her and says she was one of the best teachers, but she was strict. Her rules were very firm. She,

and then she eventually went to the school across the street when they let go of the small country schools around. But I truly believe that more learning was done in the smaller schools than probably in the biggest schools now because there's repetition all the time that the younger ones would hear what the older ones said. Um, it was an unusual situation in a way with Grammy because she was the sole breadwinner most of this time. Her husband worked on the farm and on the woods and so forth, but he'd do the cooking and cleaning so forth. Sometimes she'd be schooling away from home and he'd take care of the children. 'Cause when she married her, him, he'd already had a family of three children. Which Aunt Louise, the one you talked with. and then two others. And then they had another set of family also. So, I don't know how she did it. 'Cause it, women primarily were not the breadwinners at that time. Lot of women, when they did get married, they stopped teaching or whatever, but she stuck right with it. Um, that truly really amazes me. When you think back at the time and so forth. And, um, I don't know. Let's see what else.

JM: Um, I'm just wondering if you were, if you would know the date of when the smaller schools became, you know, went into the central school.

BH: No, I don't know that now. They may have that information at the Counting House [Museum]. Paul Colburn and I had talked somewhat. Grammy was very interested in knowing, um, the date that her school, her school building had been built. We never did find that out. But Paul had told me that he did have some records of that. We don't really have any of the school records here.

JM: Uh-huh.

BH: Um, I don't know what happened to them. I've seen the town reports where the school would give their financial reports and so forth, but most of the time the districts took care of

their own school buildings and maintained them and whatever. Um, so I don't know. We had talked a little bit about that with Paul and we just couldn't come to any, any dates. That, that particular one I think they would have on record.

JM: Okay, okay. Yeah, and I, I think that's so incredible. And what's really interesting, after talking to Mrs. Howarth, is that she was saying her mother was that way too.

BH: Yeah.

JM: But in a different way and I want to hear what you remember about that. But from stories or whatever, but she was saying that her mother did everything that the men did on the farm. Can you tell me more about that?

BH: Um, well, I, I only know Grammy in the later years, but, um, the, the workload was so much more. I mean you didn't, you had to carry in the water. One thing about Grammy also is that they also took care of an older aunt. Um, she also took care of her, would be her sister that would be now in an institution. This was all taking place at home too while they were caring for things she did. They'd work the garden and she'd take care of that. Everything had to be done with the plow and a horse, so you had to keep after that and so forth. Um, really, really, I, I can picture Grammy doing all of that. I can picture Aunt Louise doing it even more.

JM: Mm-hmm.

BH: She just seems to be the type that would have done even more of that where Grammy was teaching, and Aunt Louise, I could see just doing whatever needed to be done on the farm. I'm trying to think back of some stories, but they sort of just all blend together. My husband and I've talked more and more. We just took care of a grand—his grandmother that lived in the other side. And Grammy Ethel having to take care of a lady that sometimes would be

really out of it. Plus, having to give her insulin. Um, and so forth, and taking care of the children and teaching and doing all the other stuff. It was hard for us to complain about things that we had to do, you know, at the time. That was normal routine. You know, everybody took care of their older relatives and had to move right into the house. And they were incorporated into the family this way.

JM: Wow.

BH: Um, my, my grandmother is of the same era as, as those that were talking about. And, it was the same way for her. They, her grandmother had, had run the Berwick branch post office that was up past Carolyn's house. Go at the end and then you turn to go to North Berwick way. And her grandmother had that. And they talked about that was the general store in the post office. Plus, she had her house and children and so forth. And Grammy can remember going there and cleaning out the candy dishes and stuff. Her mother is very strict. She couldn't have any candy. [laughter] But I'm sure her grandmother made up for it in other ways. And so, and at that time my grandmother was, when she was growing up she'd also take care of an older family member at her house plus she had nine children. Plus, everything, they didn't go to the store. They didn't go shopping. They would make out a list and someone else would go. Or the bread man would be at their place, and so forth. They didn't have time to shop for clothes or anything. And it's, it was the same way with Grammy. Seeing them, you just didn't go shopping for anything. You know if Grandpa Clarence went into town then he would get her what she needed as far as wicks or whatever. She hardly ever went in. So, you see the woman got left behind a lot. And social gatherings were very few. You know, it all depends if they had time to get away to visit each other. They didn't have the telephone or anything, so they would talk about going down to the beach a couple of times a year. Which was quite a trip for them 'cause they'd

go down to Ogunquit Beach and spend the whole day there and bring their picnic lunch.

And once in a while they did that and that was a treat.

JM: Mm-hmm.

BH: But. That's probably their vacation right there.

JM: Right, yeah.

BH: I don't think they had any other.

BH: So, it seems like it was very hard on these women.

BH: I think it was. I really do. Um, that's why when they said good old times, I wouldn't want to go back to that.

JM: Mm-hmm.

BH: Um, if you're gonna, as you talk in that generation, a lot of them lost babies. Not, not because, my grandmother had a child born that now would have had a, uh, a colo—what do you call it? A bag on the side? Can't think what it's called.

JM: Not sure. Yeah. I know what you mean but I'm not sure what it's called.

BH: But, that would have taken care of that problem. Another one, the navel, it just bled so that it had not been tied up properly. Chances are now that an operation would have taken care of that. Um, her oldest son had died of chemical poisoning for working down the Navy Yard. Um, just things now in this era would not have happened. But my grandmother told me that when her children died, she had prepared the baby's body and, and wash it, put clean clothes on and so forth and. I just said, I don't think I could have done that. I could not have



done that. In most families in that generation, they lost a baby or a small child before it turned five. And that's probably why they had big families too.

JM: Yeah. Yeah. So, would you say that the same is the case with the Hasty family? The Hasty women? That they saw those kinds of things?

BH: Yeah. Well, when, I know Aunt Louise's, they had one child born that died at a small age. The first family of Grandpa Clarence's. That would've been Loui— Grammy, Aunt Louise's sister died at a young age and I can't remember just what of. Cause Grammy had three children. Those were fine. My grandmother had nine and three died for things that could have been taken care of now.

JM: Mm-hmm.

BH: So. When I hear people say that the doctor should have known this. Everybody wants a perfect baby, but just recently we thought that there was no reason not to have a perfect baby. When my grandmother was born it was just a, a tremendous blessing if the baby was born perfect without problems. They didn't have prenatal care. And they didn't even probably have a doctor a lot of 'em.

JM: And farming life as well. What, do you know it was like at that time? You heard stories about what it was like to farm in South Berwick?

BH: Um.

JM: What did they farm?

BH: Well, I know that both, both Wayne's grandparents and my grandparents they mainly farmed to survive. They, they farmed, uh, they had to do the hay in to take care of the cattle, and the cattle was for the milk and for the beef. Uh, they had pigs. They had huge

gardens. They had, um, I know my grandmother had hens. I'm sure that Grammy Ethel did too. Everything that they did was to supply their own, um, pantries. Not for profit, more or less. Um, and back then they would sell whatever produce that they had over the amount that they needed, but it was mainly just to supply their own pantry. Um, canning, done on a wood stove in the summertime. You know, that would, but that's when it had to be done. That's why a lot of the houses had these summer kitchens. They were in the shed versus being in the main house. They had to do that. Um, I remember my grandmother saying that um, you know, it just, was the summertime was either that she was making lemonade to keep them in when they came in. It was keeping the wood stove going to do the canning and then you did the laundry and everything else in between. She thought the best thing that ever was given to her was her grandma, her, her mother had bought or given her money. Estate with settled and she bought a washing machine. We're talking about the wringer washer. She thought that was the most wonderful thing that happened to her. And looking back, I'm sure that's, you know, I, I don't blame her at all.

JM: Right.

BH: But, um, you know when I see, go down in cellars and Grammy Ethel's cellar was the same way. They have great big arches. They have great big bins where all the potatoes went, where all the summer squash went. Rows and rows where they kept their canning stuff and their cans from fruits. I mean their season would start early from peas to the end of the apple season when they canned their apples for, for their pies and whatever. It was a long season.

JM: Wow. Yeah.

BH: Very long.

JM: And it seems like. Do you think these? I mean, I've been meeting so many older women in South Berwick who just had incredible lives, done incredible things and have really taken a stand in, in very different ways, is interesting. I don't think there's any one path to take, but a lot of women, um, such as Mrs. Ethel Hasty, was involved in education.

BH: Yeah, yeah.

JM: Now that's, you know, for women of that time was that not very unusual? Specially—

BH: Well, I think it was unusual that she could continue it after she had her family. I felt that, uh, a lot of 'em, especially still being married. I know Alice and she was, she, I don't know too much about Alice Allen but she was another one of those women in town that was a very dedicated teacher. Same age as Grammy Ethel would've been. Um, but she was divorced and had a family. She had to make a living that way. Um, so I could, that was even more important for her. Um, Grammy Ethel had a business mind. Her grand—, her father had a, had a woodmill, had more than one woodmill. Um, and I always felt that if, if she had been given responsibility after her father died, businesses would have done very well. But the oldest son got hold of that and he didn't have such a business mind as Grammy Ethel had. Um, it would have been different, but it was the era of the time. You just don't hand that down to the oldest daughter. You'd handed down to the oldest son. Doesn't mean that he had the qualifications for it.

JM: Right.

BH: But, and eventually what happened one by one they had to fold and the businesses no longer existed. Um, but Grammy Ethel had, knew how to make good judgment calls. It was very practical but. Even right up to the end, I know Wayne's father relied a lot on her. Would talk to her about decisions, financial decisions, and so forth. She just kept up with

everything. She kept up in the newspaper, what's going on in South Berwick, what was going on in schools, what all the kids were doing for school. Kim was in high school and having trouble with algebra and we just mentioned that to Grammy and she's probably in her late 90s, said to him. She said, I have been thinking what I could do to help, but I know I just can't tutor her but say her mind was what she could do to help her in that way. And, always learning, she never stopped learning. That's what a good teacher is.

JM: Right, right. And it seems like, it's just interesting that it, she would not have been allowed to run these woodmills but yet she's running the house. She's—

BH: Yeah.

JM: What did, do people ever say anything about that? Was that common for a woman? I mean, you said it was uncommon for a woman.

BH: I, I, um. I think that it was always brought down the family name was to be carried on and so forth. More importance was put on the sons than the daughters. It's, it was unusual I think, if money was tight that you would send your daughter to school. You would have sent your son to school. If you had to make a choice. Because your daughter would probably get married and that would have been it. It wouldn't have gone any further. I don't know if Grammy had her schooling paid or she paid it herself. Um, and the others in the family, I'm not sure if they went through school. I know she was a very determined woman. She knew what she wanted and she'd work very hard for it. Um, and I, it's not that I don't think that she thought she was going to have a family or get married or anything, but that's what she, her desire was to teach school. That, and you really had to have a strong desire if anybody's gonna put money down for you.

JM: Right. Right.

BH: I, and I don't, you know in that era, lot of 'em didn't even finish the 8th grade. Very few of 'em did.

JM: And how far did you have to go to get your teacher's certificate?

BH: Um, she went through, well, it would have been through high school through Berwick Academy and then two years at the Commons. What they call the Common School, which was teaching school. Mainly those were all women at the time. Um, and they weren't going to be the principals or the administrators.

JM: Yeah. Right.

BH: They were taught what they needed, but they still had, the district still had, um, what'd they call it? If Grammy was, let's say she was teaching in District 8 or whatever, she would have somebody over her making decisions. There would be a board saying I don't like what you're doing, I do like what you're doing, they'd come in and sit down and if they don't like the discipline, there'd be a write up in the town report saying that district eight, Ethel Hasty managed her class very well, and her students had done very well. And another one may say that being a new teacher, she needs improvement on her teaching skills, however, the attendance at school was very well attended. That was most important thing. How often did they come versus how well did they do?

JM: Why?

BH: Um, like I said, because your attendance all depends what happened at home.

JM: Um-hmm. And do you know for her how that went?

BH: Um, I don't know 'cause I haven't read, um, it's been awhile since I read some of those reports. The ones I had read I, I don't think she had been teaching for a while, and said,

you know, progress all the way around was very well, but there was always a district person over here that was a man. They, they'd also take care, make sure the windows were replaced, there enough wood to keep them warm. Grammy would say on cold days, um, they'd have the wood stove and she'd bring a big kettle and everybody would bring in such and such, maybe to make a soup or a chowder or whatever. So, she'd end up also being the cafeteria lady, being the cook for the day and a person would be assigned to make sure they had water. There'd be an older boy. His job was to make sure of water and make sure the wood stove was kept going. But she'd probably go there and start the wood stove in the morning also. So, it, it being a teacher covered a lot of things.

JM: Um-hmm

BH: Um, she's, one of her students had told me this winter they can remember going and Grammy would have all smaller children stood up near the wood stove 'cause they, they'd be cold. And they'd have to put stones in there and they'd want stones put in their mittens so they'd have it on the way home, they'd keep their fingers from freezing. 'Cause they all walked to whatever. Things that you don't even think about having to do now.

JM: Wow. That's incredible. And what about the later generations of Hasty women?

BH: Well, um Grammy's, in Grammy's own family, you're talking about? Well, um, as far as like Aunt Zana, she, she worked, she loved to cook and so forth. She worked down in a restaurant for quite a while until she was taking care of Grammy. She took care of 12 years at her home before she died. Um, I think Aunt Zana is the one family that would take care of all of Grammy's needs when she got older and really sacrificed that way for her. One thing about them, though they were more friends than mother and daughter.

JM: Wow.

BH: Um Aunt Zana enjoyed Grammy's company and they enjoyed talking about things that had taken place while back or what to do and so forth. It was a lot of work, um, but she enjoyed her company. I don't think she ever resented having to take care of her. Um, and her daughter and one of, the younger daughter also teaches at the school in Wells. She's in the kindergarten [side?], but more of like a teacher's aid and she's always worked like that and so forth. Um, and then the generations after that. Now there still is a, one of her granddaughters has gone into teaching. Another one has a lot of businesses that she sort of is like a travel agency. They also have a lot of hotels and motels they're building, and she's a caretaker over. And she travels more in a week than I do probably my whole lifetime, and she loves it. She's a very, um, secure person. At one time they had six teenage kids in their home between her second marriage and her own first marriage. Um, she's very active, very busy. I would say a career of her own that way. Let me think of some of the others and so forth. I think as the generation goes down Grammy always set a good example for us. Um, I don't know, but I mean we all are, all of the women working, got jobs of their own. And the generation that I, that I'm in, Wayne's brother's wife, Betsy, is the one that takes care of Meals on Wheels and the meals that are taking place with a federated church. Plus, she's going to school. Plus, they have a farm of their own that Tom works at night, but tends to the farm, and they raised cattle and sell it for veal and so forth, and has two children. The other sister-in-law that I have is going through school also for nursing but she works at the emergency over in the Dover Hospital and she has two children. Um, and 'cause I have been working here for seven and a half years, almost eight years. Um, but I don't find the time to go back to school right now [laugh]. Um, and let's see some of the others. Because Wayne's cousin, she. she's working as a schoolteacher. Another of the cousins works full time in the banking business. All of them work.

JM: Yeah.

BH: And all of them work at a job that all of us like to go to school and, and, and be approved more.

JM: Well educated woman.

BH: Well, like to be more, but between fam— That's why with Grammy when you think about it, all things she juggled around. I, I don't know how, how she did it. Really.

JM: Wow. You know Mrs. Ruth Howard.

BH: Yes. Yes., I know her not as well as some of Wayne's other relatives. I admire her very much. She's a woman that's very dedicated, dedicated to her family, dedicated to the church. She's one that tends to her, her mother right, all the time, whatever her needs are. Never, ever complains. And she's one that always is doing something for someone else.

JM: And she seems, one thing that, that I was speaking to her the other day and, and one thing that she was saying, it just really impressed me, was her, her love of the outdoors and her respect.

BH: Yes.

JM: Has she talked to you about that?

BH: Um, I know, I know that she's that way. Um, and I, you know, I think this was probably passed down to her. 'Cause I think that her mother is that way. Um, I find that Wayne and I both come from a generation where, um, you respected the woods around you, 'cause that was their livelihood. Um, and the land had always been passed down to you, so it's all, you always felt a part of it because of generations before. And I, we like to preserve that. You can't keep things the same way 'cause, 'cause workloads change, family structures



changes and so forth. Like the women are working all full time now instead of being able to stay home with children full time. And I find when in our generation that that's what my sister-in-laws also do with their children and we do with ours. So, I think that love has been passed down, but mainly because you were so much involved in it and your family before you was so much involved with it.

JM: Um-hmm.

BH: Um, that you, you know that's going to last beyond you.

JM: Right.

BH: So you want to preserve that.

JM: And one thing I was very very impressed with was, another thing she was telling me was that, I think it was quite a few years ago, maybe close to 20 years ago, she was involved in a protest down at the monuments.

BH: Oh, really, what was that on?

JM: It was for anti-nuclear.

BH: Um-hmm.

JM: There was, there were two things going on. One was the Seabrook Plant.

BH: Right.

JM: And the other was, um, the Navy shipyards were thinking of expanding to work with, with nuclear, I believe—

BH: See that could be, um, and that sounds like what Mrs. [unclear] would be into protesting.

JM: Um-hmm. I think she was there.

BH: Yeah, I'm sure she was. Um, it was, and I can remember not too long ago that they were down at the monument, a few of them also saying, no nukes, at the time. And that was only a few years ago and 'cause Mrs. Blouin was down there also. Uh, yeah, I can see her doing that, yeah.

JM: Yes. And I was just very struck by that because she was saying that at the time her husband was working at the shipyards. Now that takes a lot of courage and a lot of understanding between the two of them.

BH: Oh, yeah.

JM: She was saying that she didn't feel like that was a, that was very tense between. Do you know about what happened at that time or what the protest in town—

BH: No, 20 years ago, no I don't. I was— [audio cuts out for several seconds]

JM: —and it was a few other people in the family. A few other men in the family that worked there.

BH: Mm, I would, naval shipyard. Um, a lot of people were employed. That, that really was a good job, a prime job around here. South Berwick, except for the shoe shop, at the time did not have a lot of industry. Um, so a lot of people would travel down to the shipyard. Catch rides and they'd all carpool or whatever the situation was, so I'm not surprised at that. But 20 years ago, it seems like a long time ago. You'd think that this is just come about in the last, I don't know, five or six years that people are more aware of that.

JM: Um-hmm. Yeah—

BH: That is interesting.

JM: —an increasing thing for her because of her love for the outdoors.

BH: Yeah. Yeah.

JM: Just sort of a gut instinct against that. I just thought that was very interesting.

BH: That is very interesting.

JM: Um, let's see. And if you had to characterize the Hasty family, the Hasty women, how would you, how would you describe them?

BH: Well, um, I find that, and I think this is true. I can only talk for the generation that I'm involved in, and 'cause of Grammy Ethel and stuff. I don't think any of us have built up to the character that, like Grammy Ethel was. We admire her and her stand in her devotion and so forth. I think over [unclear] years that your character builds as, as you mature. But all of us admire that and strive for that as far as her devotions, to all of those. I find that my sister-in-laws and, and my own family and so forth. Women are very devoted to their families and to their jobs and lots of times torn by them.

JM: Mm.

BH: And you have the feeling that you want to excel in what you're doing. You want to be every part of your family's life. But it's hard to accomplish that all at once. Sometimes you just can't accomplish that all at once. And maybe that's no different than the time Grammy Ethel was also working. In lots of ways I find Grammy Ethel's life was simpler than ours because a family structure was the core of their living.

JM: Um-mm.

BH: Um, and I find that way in our, in our families too. That that, really, if it comes to work versus family, that most of them would choose the family. You know your work or your,

your improvement would have to wait. Um, they all enjoy learning and want to learn more. Same as her. In ways though, life is harder for Grammy but I feel our lives are more complicated.

JM: Um-hmm.

BH: And sometimes you have to sit back and get back in perspective of things. What's most important. And it's hard to do that 'cause you're in such a turmoil. Like I said, my sister-in-law, her husband and her work different hours. You have the children you want to have taken care of. They don't have anybody coming and taking care of them. They work just so they wouldn't be. And they want them to enjoy the farm around them and be every part of that. Um, but you get so busy that you don't have time to be quiet and enjoy what you do have.

JM: Um-hmm.

BH: Um, where Grammy, they didn't have the television, they didn't have the divorces, they didn't have problems that way. You knew all your neighbors. And you enjoyed your neighbors. And you used your neighbors, you know what I'm saying. Which is real hard. You have to make a special effort now to do that. Um, but I still think their devotions are still the same. They're, they're very interesting. Like I said, family is very important to them. Versus their own careers. That that would be a notch underneath to them. Which I'm glad it's that way.

JM: Yeah. Yeah. I very much respect that and, and that's one thing Mrs. Howard was saying also, that family which is number one. And yet she was. I have, I was under the impression that she is very much like Carolyn Blouin, very much still active and she was saying no, my

grandchildren come first and right now they need me, so I'm not gonna be as involved but I'll keep myself educated and informed.

BH: But she'd also, the nice thing about Ruth and different ones is that they pass on their love and their feelings to their, to their generation, to, to their grandchildren. And there's so much influence that is, um. I find with my children there's so much influence that is around them that is different than my beliefs, that I feel so important for me to continually show that and talk to them about it. And taking care of your grandchildren now. A lot of grandparents are doing that because the parents are working. And, but one nice asset is like with Ruth is that she instills them in her beliefs and she has the time to show them different things that are important to her. And, and she's making difference in their lives. And that's, that's the most important thing than making difference on the outside. 'Cause they can do that later on for her. And I find that children younger, 6th and 7th and 8th graders, or even younger than that are, my nieces that come out and telling me that I shouldn't eat a certain place because a different environmental reason or whatever. And I should be careful what kind of tuna fish that I eat, very much aware of stuff. And they're, they're influencing their own families that way, believe me. Don't buy paper good if you can use plates and so forth. So the younger generation is already instilled in that and they're being reinforced at home by those actions being able to carry it out to, to conserve and recycle and protect.

JM: Yeah, it seems like South Berwick is a very aware town, environmentally.

BH: Yeah. Yeah. I find, um, well, Agamenticus Estates moved in and it was such an overload for the town at the time. For the school system, for everything else. We still haven't caught up from it. But I find the people that have moved in with young families they're very much wanting to be involved in recycling, to be involved in the schools, and their children's recreation and so forth. It, it was nice to see that.

JM: Um-hmm.

BH: Um, I first looked at it like, oh my word, you know, what are we going to do with all these people. But those are the people that want to be part of the community and help out physically and do things. Its transfer station and recycling and so forth and helping that way. It's too bad even more of that wasn't done.

JM: Right.

BH: But as education, educating the people and getting away from their old cycle, that will come about. [laugh]

JM: It takes time.

BH: It does.

JM: It really does.

BH: It does.

JM: Can't happen overnight.

JM: Um, I guess, my last question, um, is just about ways that I would go about doing research and if that's possible. Um, about, I was just wondering if there are, I'm interested in the founding of the library and historical society. I've talked to a number of people and I have a fairly good idea of what happened, but I guess I just was interested in specifics, like dates, places and—

BH: Um-hmm. Let's see how that would be best done.

JM: I didn't know if it was—

BH: Now you're talking about— It could be here. I would not know where to put my hands on it.

We've had a change of town clerk and so forth. Um, 'cause you talked to Carolyn. Carolyn was there at the beginning of the founding of the library and also purchasing the building which they're in and having the town help and support the library. Um, and that wasn't that long ago, I think, what, 20 years ago?

JM: Twenty, twenty-five, I think. I think they, yeah—

BH: They just had their birthday—

JM: Right.

BH: Yeah. Um, and what was the other, the historical society?

JM: The historical society and also when the town manager form of government first came into being.

BH: Okay.

JM: [19]49, [19]50, something like that.

BH: I think I can tell you that right here 'cause I researched that. I can, and I can give you one of these. I think this is mine but I'll get you another one. Um, the first town manager was 1950.

JM: Um-hmm.

BH: I can get you one of these. The first town council was 1970. Before that it was a selectman, um, kind of form of government. Now we've gone to a town manager, um, form of government with a council of five members.

JM: Okay.

BH: That means that they are the policy-making body. The town manager is like the, um, administrator of those policies. And he's also administrator of the personnel, um, structure of it. Um, let's see what else we have there. First permanent settlement and so forth, water development, First Baptist Church. There is a monument where the First Baptist Church of Maine was on the intersection of Hooper Sands Road and Knights Pond Road. There's the history of that which I don't know as much about that I'd like to, when Berwick Academy when that was founded. I would talk, one of the people I would talk with is Aimee Schramm. She was, have you talked with her yet?

JM: I've been trying to and, and she hasn't been willing to talk to me.

BH: Oh, she hasn't.

JM: But I think she's speaking to a friend of mine this afternoon. So—

BH: Seeing if you're okay?

JM: Um, well, they're gonna talk about something different, and I think, I think maybe when I first approached her I, I called her on the phone. I might have caught out a bad time. I wasn't real specific about what I wanted to talk about. And now I have some real specific questions.

BH: Yeah? Yeah, 'cause Aimee was quite involved in both those that we're talking about here. Um, I find the real interesting person to talk to would be Paul Coburn. He was one of the first people that was on the planning board in getting the zoning in South Berwick incorporated. And I don't know how many defeats they had in the zoning before it passed. But he said that was good because they had to go back to the drawing board and do it better. If they had settled with the first one that was not as good as what they ended up with. And you know how zoning codes go, they always need to be re-improved. Depends



on who's gonna try to come in. You know, businesses that you never thought of, um, sort of force you to say, alright, this is not working. Let's go back and amend something. But he probably has a lot of scars from being, uh, he was on the council. One of the first ones on, on the council if I can remember right. Maybe not, but he's been on the council and he's been on the zoning. Um, and he is a very, um, positive, comical—I mean he can remember stories that are really interesting. I always enjoyed sitting beside him at town meetings or whatever. Um, he'd be a good one. But he's also involved in historical society. He's the one that offered to give me the private tour of the Counting House, which I haven't taken him up yet. And I can get his phone number for you.

JM: That would be great.

[end of transcript]