

University of Illinois at Springfield

Norris L Brookens Library

Archives/Special Collections

Catherine Logsdon Memoir

L829C. Logsdon, Catherine b. 1912

Interview and memoir

1 tape, 45 mins., 29 pp.

SHAWNEETOWN BANK PROJECT

Catherine Logsdon, a Shawneetown native, describes the Shawneetown Bank: its lobby, offices, vault, furnishings, upstairs rooms, apartment tenants, and the bank in the late 19th century. She also mentions family and businesses.

Interview by Horace Q. Waggoner, 1978

OPEN

See collateral file

Archives/Special Collections LIB 144
University of Illinois at Springfield
One University Plaza, MS BRK 140
Springfield IL 62703-5407

PREFACE

This manuscript is a complete transcription of a tape recorded interview conducted September 26, 1978 by Horace Q. Waggoner for the Oral History Office. This is one of a series of interviews conducted in connection with the Old Shawneetown Bank Project. Memories of a Bank, an oral history and documentary inventory at Old Shawneetown was published in 1979 by the Oral History Office, Sangamon State University. Linda Jett transcribed the tape and Horace Waggoner edited the transcript.

Mrs. Catherine Logsdon was born in Old Shawneetown on August 29, 1912. Her primary memories of the bank are as a businesswoman in Shawneetown and as a bank customer.

Readers of the oral history memoir should bear in mind that it is a transcript of the spoken word, and that the interviewer, narrator and editor sought to preserve the informal, conversational style that is inherent in such historical sources. Sangamon State University is not responsible for the factual accuracy of the memoir, nor for views expressed therein; these are for the reader to judge.

The manuscript may be read, quote and cited freely. It may not be reproduced in whole or in part by any means, electronic or mechanical, without permission in writing from the Oral History Office, Sangamon State University, Springfield, Illinois, 62708.

Table of Contents

Birthdate in Old Shawneetown	1
Peeples Family Background	1
Catherine's Beauty Shop and Other Businesses	3
Earliest Recollections of the Bank	4
Lobby Described	5
The Grillwork	7
Charles Roedel's Office	8
The Vault	9
Lobby Furnishings	11
Mr. Galt's Office and "The Sweat Box"	12
Upstairs Rooms	13
The Kitchen and Carriage House	15
Apartment Tenants: Galts, Piersons, Wrights	17
John T. Jones Lineage	18
Streets and Walkways	22
The Fence	23
City National Bank or First National Bank	24

Catherine Logsdon, September 26, 1978, Shawneetown, Illinois.

Horace Q. Waggoner, Interviewer.

Q. Okay. I'll just ask some questions here. When were you born?

A. 1912. August 29th.

Q. (moves mike) Okay. And where were you born?

A. Shawneetown. Old Shawneetown.

Q. So, you've lived in either Old or New Shawneetown all your life, then?

A. Except for twelve years. I moved in 1913, came back in 1925.

Q. And where were you then?

A. Flora, Illinois.

Q. What was your father's name?

A. Lawrence Peeples.

Q. Lawrence Peeples. And what was your mother's name?

A. Clyde Todd Peeples.

Q. Clyde?

A. Yes. C-L-Y-D-E.

Q. Todd.

A. Yes. Peeples.

Q. Where did you live down there in relation to the bank?

A. You mean where was I born or where--I've lived different places.

Q. Oh, I see. Where was your birth place in relation to the bank?

A. About two blocks north on that same street. Where the--right now there's a trailer there. Right on the levee street. There was a

house there before the 1913 water. It went down in the water. And that's when we left. My father had a grocery store there and it also went in the water.

Q. In 1913.

A. Yes. So, that's when we left, after the water.

Q. And then, you went where then?

A. To Flora. And he went on the railroad for that long and then we came back down to Shawneetown.

Q. And where did you live in Shawneetown when you arrived back?

A. Well, not on the corner, but the next lot was the Presbyterian parsonage and we rented that when we came back. It's almost on the corner. And I lived there for, oh, I don't know, maybe we lived there four or five years, and then we moved on up in the next block in the Peeples' home up there. And we lived in that. And then I moved across the alley, into the house across the alley, and I lived there till I married. Where that rock place is now. You know that?

Q. No. A rock pile, you mean?

A. Well, he sells rocks there in that house. Across the alley--That old Peeples' house that Mrs. Lawler's son bought. That's the house I'm talking about, that I lived in. Then we moved across the alley. After that one vacated.

That big house had twelve rooms divided with hallways and we lived on one side and my aunts and uncles lived on the other. And then we moved in--We rented the house that was called McKelligott's house. And we lived there, then, till I married and moved to the country.

(Customer enters--Delay in interview while Mrs. Logsdon attends to business. Conversation not transcribed.)

Q. Okay. Let me see. Let me catch up here, now. So, you were really one year old when you left for Flora?

A. Well, not quite. Cause I was born in August and we left after the April water.

Q. The water was in April?

A. Yes. I wasn't quite a year old.

Q. Okay. Then you went to school in Flora instead of here, then, in Shawneetown?

A. Yes. Oh, yes. I was there till--I came back in seventh grade.

Q. I see. And you finished up there in Shawneetown?

A. Sure did.

Q. You say you moved to the country then, after you were married?

A. Yes.

Q. Where? Right around Shawneetown here?

A. Right up there on--Out of town on the top of that first hill there. Where Logsdons live now.

Q. Oh, I see. By the highway there where it curves.

A. Yes. I lived out there till 19 and--let me think, 1941, when we moved out here.

Q. I see. And I understand you were in business in Shawneetown?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you do?

A. I had a beauty shop and then I had a dress shop plus a beauty shop. And then I sold both those and bought a restaurant. And I had it until . . . after--I bought it after the 1937 water. I think it was about 1938 we bought the restaurant. And I had it maybe for three or four years. Can't exactly remember.

Q. What was the name of the first shop?

A. My beauty shop?

Q. Yes.

A. Catherine's.

Q. Catherine's Beauty Shop. Okay. Where did you get your training for . . .

A. Harrisburg. They had a beauty school there. Still do, but it's different people.

Q. Okay. And when you operated this beauty shop, did you do business with the bank?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. You had an account there at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. What's the first time you ever entered that bank?

A. Oh, mercy. Well, I--I just don't know, really. Shortly after I came back here in 1925.

Q. So, you were in school, at that time?

A. Yes.

Q. Was this to visit, then, at that time?

A. No. That was after I moved back here. I don't expect I was down there when I visited. I used to do it with my grandfather, and come down here, but I don't think I had any business, you know, in the bank. I always liked it and admired it, you know, because of our ancestor being in it and everything. But I don't remember that.

Q. So you came back in 1925, you say?

A. Yes.

Q. Was there anyone living in the bank at that time?

A. Let me think. (pause) Well, I don't know. First ones I can remember living up there was Max Galt and Marie.

Q. So that would have been considerably later?

A. Yes.

Q. And so, you don't remember anybody in the early thirties, for example . . .

A. No, I sure don't remember.

Q. But the bank was in operation all that time?

A. Oh, yes. The bank was in operation. It was the main one. The City Bank was in operation then, too, up the street. But this was the main bank.

Q. Okay. When did you first open an account, then, at the bank?

A. I wouldn't know. I probably, as a kid, I had a little account in there, I imagine. Like all kids do. I just can't say.

Q. Let's see, you were in the seventh grade, now, when you came back in 1925 . . .

A. In 1930 was when I opened my beauty shop and I would definitely have had an account there from 1930 on.

Q. Around 1930, do you remember what the bank looked like in the lobby? The lobby area?

A. As well as I can remember, you went--there was three teller's tables kinda in a semi-circle. And as you go in the front door and you go around to the right, there was a room around there. That door opened into a room. Some of them worked in there, transacted business, and that was the director's room, as I remember it. The bank directors held their meetings in there.

And then, you came out and went to the left and that door back in there opened into a law office. It was Mr. Charlie Roedel's law office in my day. And of course, his father had been a lawyer, too; it might have been in his day. And then, Mrs. Shelton, Ethel Shelton, was an employee of the bank and she worked in that room, too.

Q. In Charlie Roedel's office?

A. Yes. Right in there, in that door. Taking care of the checks and things. They didn't do the . . .

Q. Bookkeeping?

A. Yes. That's what I would say she did there.

Q. And that was in the office there with Mr. Roedel.

A. And then, in the front to the right, as I remember, was the private office that was Mr. Galt's or his private office right in there.

And I can remember that it had marble all along the walls. Up so high in there. It was really a pretty bank. Them walls.

(Salesman enters. Mrs. Logsdon attends to business. Conversation not transcribed.)

Q. Okay. You say there was marble--Now, was it continuous marble, like wainscoting around . . .

A. It runs in my mind that it was. Just the wall, you know, went around, up so high.

Q. Did it go under the windows also?

A. I thought it did. Now, I don't--I can't be positive of that, but I think it went under the windows. It runs in my head that it did. Then, they had a tile floor, mosaic tile, type tile on it. Had beautiful tile on the floor.

Q. Now, the counter itself. Could you describe that? What was it made of?

A. I would say, maybe, oak. In my mind, it was a light wood.

Q. Was it entirely constructed of wood or do you remember any marble in it?

A. Seems to me like it had marble where you paid, you know, or worked, that part right in there.

Q. The three teller positions.

A. Yes.

Q. At that time, do you remember the surface--as I understand it, there was marble at each teller's position and Mr. Galt says he remembers a, he called it carpeting, between the positions then. You have your two cages and in between them was carpeting. Do you remember anything like that?

A. I don't remember that.

Q. Just bare wood, as you remember.

A. I don't remember that, but it could have been. But now, that don't stick in my mind.

Q. Now, you say the counter was curved. Could you describe how it was curved?

A. In my mind, it was almost, as I remember it, just a semi-circle kind of came around. Three cages here and you went in the door back here (indicates to left) and you went in the door at this end of it (indicates to right). Around its ends.

Q. So, as you came in, you'd come to the center of this . . .

A. You come into the center.

Q. . . . semi circle.

(Customer enters. Mrs. Logsdon attends to business. Conversation not transcribed.)

Q. On the front of the counter was there any design in that wood? Was it carved, or inlaid, in any way?

A. (pause) Yes. It wasn't just a solid wood but I can't remember exactly what, what it was. It wasn't smooth wood. I can't describe it.

Q. It was squares, maybe, or sections of

A. I just can't remember that part. I really can't.

Q. Now, I understand there was an iron grillwork above the counter. Could you describe that, as you remember it?

A. Well, no. It was all iron grillwork. In my recollection, it was black or it had turned dark. It might have been brass like that cash register. (points to cash register) Solid brass there and corroded, you know. It could have been darkened from just age. It could have been a brass one, far as I know.

Q. And it evidently had openings in--three openings

A. Oh, yes.

Q. . . . then, for--in front of each teller. Do you remember whether there were doors or gates at those openings? Did they have to open them up in order to transact business or

A. I don't know that. They must have, at that time, I guess, of a morning, if they closed them. I don't know.

Q. How high was the grillwork? Did it go clear to the ceiling or how high above the people's heads?

A. It went quite a bit, I don't believe it went to the ceiling, but it went quite a bit above your head. Pretty tall. I don't remember it-- No, I know it didn't go to the ceiling. You'd remember something like that.

Q. Okay. On the right side of the counter, now. Did it go right to the wall there? There was no opening in the counter on the right-hand side, so that you go behind it. You had to go through this office at the end?

A. As far as I know, there wasn't any opening, that I remember.

Q. How about on the left end? Do you remember any opening there?

A. No, I don't remember. There was a door that went into Mr. Roedel's office and then I think that back door, as I remember, would have gone out into the hallway.

Q. From Mr. Roedel's office.

A. Yes. On out his office.

Q. Okay. Were you ever in Mr. Roedel's office?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. How did he have it arranged? Where was his desk?

A. I couldn't tell you that.

Q. Was the desk over by the windows?

A. I can't remember that, sir. I wish I could, but I don't.

Q. See, his sister . . .

A. Been in it several times. Miss Emma worked there, yes.

Q. So, there were two desks at least in there, plus the bookkeeper's desk, I guess.

A. That's right.

Q. So, it must have been three. Do you recall a table in there? A large table?

A. I can't remember that, sir. I just . . .

Q. Quit calling me "sir."

A. What little bit I was in there, had been in his office, has been for--I can tell you more about his office when it was upstairs over here, you know than I can down there.

Q. Now, he had a set of law books, I'm sure.

A. Oh, yes.

Q. Do you recall where those were? Would it be in the same room or were they in another room?

A. I don't know. It kind of seems like that those were against the front wall on shelves in there, but . . .

Q. Against, toward the lobby.

A. Street. Towards the street.

Q. Well now, wasn't there a fireplace at that place?

A. Yes, there was a fireplace.

Q. So would they be above the fireplace, then, or . . .

A. To the side of it.

Q. To the side of the fireplace.

A. The fireplace was in there at that time.

Q. Do you remember the vault doors? Remember anything distinctive about the vault?

A. No, they were huge. Big, heavy, massive, dark ones.

Q. Were they metal?

A. As I remember they were metal, it was metal.

Q. Were they painted black?

A. Looked black. Yes. At one time. Of course, they were worn off and everything, but . . .

Q. We thought for a little bit they might be the same doors that are across the street here in Harmon's store but they're not. Those came from Chicago. Do you have any idea what became of those doors?

A. No, sir. Don't.

Q. Okay. Then, there was, as you looked at the vault doors, there was a fireplace on the left . . .

A. You mean they're not down there, either? The old vault doors are not in there?

Q. No.

A. Nothing's left in that building whatsoever?

Q. The vault. The vault is there but see . . .

(Phone rings. Interview delayed while Mrs. Logsdon answers. Conversation not transcribed.)

A. Well, I'm surprised that was bothered and taken out of there.

Q. Well, you know the safe is across the street?

A. Yes.

Q. And the reason it's across the street is because they can't get it out without tearing that vault up. Well, that's what they had to do down there in order to get that safe out. They took a torch and just cut the section of steel out the front there which let them remove . . .

A. They have to put new doors in it?

Q. Well, there's nothing in it right now, at all. It's just a big opening there. That's one of the reasons we're asking the questions about what it looked like. Do you recall it as being two doors? One inside of another. Two sets of doors.

A. (pause) I think it was, as I remember. Didn't one open and then they had to undo another one to . . .

Q. With combination lock? That sort of thing?

A. Yes. I'm almost positive about that.

Q. Do you recall whether that second door was round or was it square?

A. (indicates negative)

Q. Don't remember.

A. I don't remember.

Q. Okay. Do you recall any pictures in the . . .

A. Nothing of the interior of the bank have I ever had or seen.

Q. Okay. In front of the counter as you came in the front door, were there any tables or chairs setting out there, so that if you had to wait,

you could sit down or if you wanted to write out a check, you could write out a check on a table?

A. Well, I'm sure there was a kind of a tall table and some chairs sitting out there. Right-hand side.

Q. To the left or right?

A. Let's see now. Mr. Galt's office. I guess the chairs was, maybe, there to the left side. And there was a table that you could write on. Now, where that was . . . I can't remember.

Q. Do you remember ink wells on the table?

A. Yes. They had ink wells and they had pens.

Q. Do you remember what the ink wells looked like? I think we've found one of them and I was just wondering.

A. Well, they were just a glass kind.

Q. Big glass?

A. Yes. And they had some of those pens that you could dip in, you know.

Q. Do you remember any cuspidors out there?

A. Yes. There was brass cuspidors in every bank, now. I can remember seeing it.

Q. Remember any number of them? Two or three?

A. I'd say there was at least two and they set there close to the teller's cages, as I remember, where people would use them. In fact, I've got one. It didn't come out of the bank, it came out of the old barber shop. Big brass one. My, they were big, you know.

Q. Were the ones in the bank about the same?

A. They were close.

Q. About the same.

A. Yes, they were.

Q. On Mr. Galt's office to the right there. In that office, do you remember anything at all about it? Where was his desk positioned in there, do you recall?

A. I don't know. And I've been in there close--We borrowed the money to buy this store in there but I don't know where it was. Isn't that awful? (chuckles)

Q. Well, you were worried about the money not about the room.

A. I don't remember how that desk looked. I just really can't say where it was.

Q. How about the office . . .

A. That was the one they called the "sweat box."

Q. The "sweat box."

A. That room. Yes. (laughter)

Q. There was a room directly behind that. You went through a door and behind that--Do you recall that room, anything about it at all?

A. Well, only that it had a long table and some, I'd say they were oak, chairs with, kind of with arms on them and all, where they had the director's meetings and all . . .

Q. Oh, that's where they held the director's meetings?

A. Yes.

Q. That was behind Mr. Galt's office, then?

A. Yes. Not behind his office. Going around the teller's cages.

Q. Okay. On the end, then, . . .

A. In that door. Yes.

Q. . . . to the right there.

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. So, was his office in that room or behind it? His office . . .

A. His office was to the front as you went in there.

Q. Okay. You go in the front and you turn right and you went into his office?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Where was the director's table, then? Was it in that office?

A. No. It was in the room behind it.

Q. Behind it. Okay.

A. No, you turned right and went back into his office.

Q. Yes. And then, you went through his office into this other room?

A. Yes. Into, back into there.

Q. Okay. So definitely there was no stairwell in Mr. Galt's office at the time?

A. No.

Q. That's the circular stairwell we haven't been able to find that anybody remembers being in there. There was, at one time, a stairwell there. Went on up to the upstairs.

A. Quick. That was a quick way up. Yes.

Q. It's gone now. We would sure like to know--have you ever heard anyone say, before they were used as living quarters, what those front rooms upstairs were used for. Did you ever hear anybody mention any use of those other than living quarters?

A. I never have ever heard of it. No offices . . . that I ever knew of or anything . . . was up there.

Q. Okay. Had you been upstairs?

A. Oh, yes. I had friends that lived up there for awhile. Bert Pierson and his wife. Have you talked to her? Ethel Denton now. Have you interviewed her?

Q. No. No.

A. She lived up there. When they were married.

Q. Ethel Denton.

A. They were married in about 1935 and they moved up there. Rented that apartment.

Q. Okay. Good.

A. She's up here at the public--city building. She's collector for the city.

Q. Oh, I see. Okay. Good. Okay.

A. But she and Bert lived up there. Yes, I've been up there.

Q. And you visited them at that time, then?

A. Yes.

Q. How did you get to their quarters then?

A. Went around that side steps and went up that way.

Q. On the side--on the street side?

A. Yes.

Q. And then up a stairway in that back hallway?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you describe that stairway?

A. Oh, Lordy, no. Just a stairway. (laughs) It wasn't a circular. I'd know that.

Q. Yes. Was it enclosed underneath? In other words, did you have to go through a door to go down to the basement?

A. I cannot tell you but she can. Now, she lived there enough that she would know that.

Q. Now, when you got to the third level, the level on which they lived, you were in the hallway there, do you recall a bath at the end of that hallway? That is, toward the street side?

A. (pause) No, I can't remember that.

Q. Which room--now, there are four rooms upstairs, actually five, two small ones and one big one on the front and then the two large ones in the back. Which one did they use for the living room?

A. I kind of believe it was that first one on the front was their living room there.

Q. Okay.

A. They lived on the street mostly, their apartment. See, that was after Galts moved out of there, that they rented that place and moved up there.

Q. Oh, I see. So, the Galts would have moved out about 1935, then, or 1936? Someplace along in there?

A. She could tell you probably exactly, but I'm just saying what year they got married was about 1935. And they moved up in that upstairs. You'll have to ask her.

Q. Do you remember where they slept up there? Which was their bedroom?

A. I don't know but I think those two front rooms was the living room and the bedroom, if I'm not mistaken.

Q. And the kitchen was . . .

A. And then, the kitchen was around to the back. Around to the side somewhere there.

Q. Would it have been in the corner over Mr. Galt's office? In that small room?

A. Yes.

Q. There was another room the same size . . .

A. Yes, I've been in it and I can't remember that. We used to all play bridge and we'd go back and forth and I helped her in that kitchen and served. But now, I don't remember just which one it was.

Q. Okay.

A. But I'm sure she can describe that upstairs for you.

Q. Okay.

A. Because having lived there, she'll remember it all.

Q. Okay.

A. Probably the closets or anything else that was in up there.

Q. In the thirties, the kitchen, a kitchen room, had been built on the north corner; that is, away from both streets. Do you recall that structure? It was on the second level and it was wooden.

A. On the second--on the bank?

Q. On the bank level, yes. On the north corner of the building, away from the street.

A. (indicates negative)

Q. You don't recall that at all?

A. I don't remember that. That must have just been private, maybe, like the bank has one over here. Maybe it was put in for the bank.

Q. Well, the Allens used it for a kitchen, now, and no one else seems to have since then. It apparently was washed away in the 1937 flood.

A. No, I never remembered that.

Q. Okay. Do you recall the carriage house, or the outbuilding, on that north corner back there?

A. No. That was all gone when I came down here, I suppose. I don't remember any part of that.

Q. Yes. It was still there in 1937.

A. It was! In 1937?

Q. Apparently it was the 1937 flood that kind of cleaned off that whole north corner there. The outbuilding and the kitchen went at that time.

A. I don't remember a thing about anything out there. Now, I had a restaurant right across the street from it. Are you sure that it wasn't the 1913 that tore it up?

Q. Well, Robert Logsdon, now, we were talking about . . .

A. Yes, I know about him.

Q. . . . it and he said he remembered it up until the 1937 flood, so . . .

A. Now, I don't. I can't remember that at all. But there was a grocery store, Harmon grocery, come right in there. Not right next to it. There was this . . . in between there . . . But if there was an old building out there, I can't remember it.

Q. Okay. Wasn't very large. It was just a small room that had been built on that second level. It was on stilts so that you could drive the carriages underneath it to get to the--see, that outbuilding was a carriage house at one time. Okay. Let's see, now. In the lobby again, do you recall anything at all about the lighting system they had?

A. (indicates negative)

Q. You don't. Were they ceiling lights . . .

A. I wouldn't know about it. I never did pay any attention to that. I don't know.

Q. Okay. What about the color scheme? Do you remember any color that struck you? It was marble up so far around the edge and then . . .

A. And very pretty colorful tile but, that sticks in my mind, but I don't know what the walls were. I couldn't tell you. No, sir. I could not.

Q. Okay. Now let's see, the Galts, then, must have moved in in the early thirties or the late twenties and were there until the, about 1935, at which time the Piersons moved in, and the Piersons evidently . . .

A. They could have lived there till after the 1937 water, now, I don't know.

Q. The Piersons, you mean?

A. No, I mean the Galts. They could have lived there that long. See, after the 1937 water, they built this house out here, and came here, and they could have still lived there that long. I don't know, but Bert and Ethel did live up there after they left there. Now, what year it was, I just really can't say.

Q. Well, now, see the Wrights also lived there for a short period of time. Do you recall . . .

A. Which Wrights? Joe?

Q. Joe, yes. Joe and Pauline.

A. No, I can't remember that.

(Customer enters. Mrs. Logsdon tends to business. Conversation not transcribed. Tape stopped momentarily.)

A. Did they say what year?

Q. Let's see. No, I haven't gotten anybody nailed down to a specific year. It was just kind of a . . .

A. I'm just trying to think because Joe and Pauline, they were married-- I was married in 1934 and I know they weren't married for two or three years after that.

Q. Yes. They lived--It was after the 1937 flood. It wasn't very long. They were up there a very short period of time.

A. I don't remember them living there but then, I forget a lot of things.

Q. Okay. Let's see now. Let's explore a little bit in ancestry here. Now, how are you descendent from John T. Jones? Can you describe the lineage in any way?*

A. John T. Jones would have been my great, great grandfather. My great grandmother was Harriet Jones. And she married a Franklin Rhoads and then a Dick Ferriman. The second time. And that was my great grandmother and she was John T. Jones' eldest child.

Q. Okay. Now, that was your grandmother, you say?

A. That was my great grandmother.

Q. Great grandmother. And then, who was your grandmother on that . . .

A. Catherine Rhoads Peeples. Then she married Henry Peeples. They had this one, she had this one daughter. Only child she had.

Q. Okay. So, now let's see. John McKee Peeples. Catherine married which Peeples? Was that . . .

A. No, she married John McKee's son.

Q. Okay. And what was his name?

A. That was Henry.

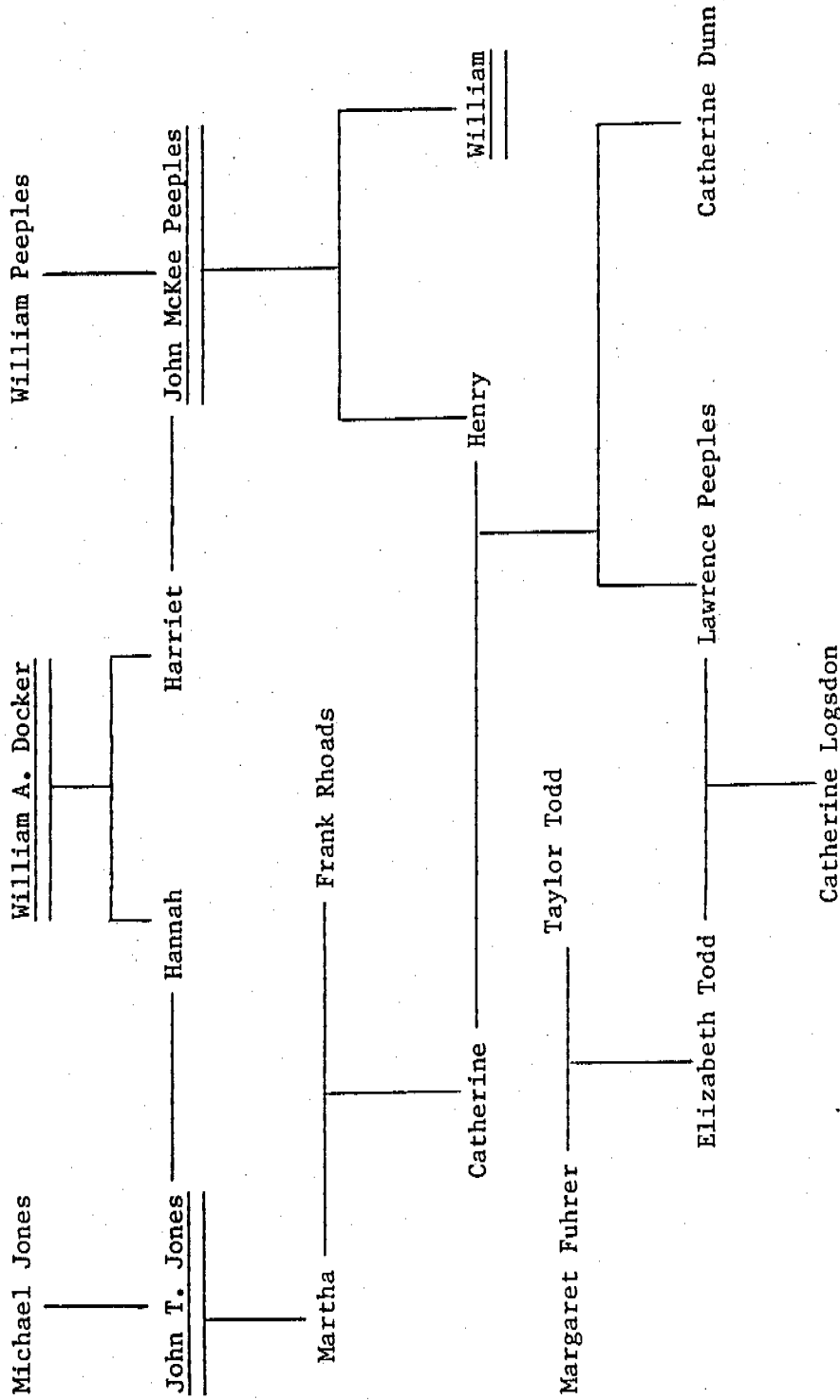
Q. Henry.

A. Henry Maxwell.

Q. Okay. Were there Peeples in that area before John McKee or did he come in, was he the first Peeples to arrive in this area?

A. As far as I know, back as far as I know, he was. I don't know of anybody farther back than that. Now, wait a minute. There's a William Peeples, who might have been his father, that's buried up here on Buck Hill.

* Mrs. Logsdon's response to this is somewhat confusing. See the next page for a diagram of the lineage to which she refers. [ED]



NOTE: Underlining () indicates involvement in bank operations.

Lineage to which Mrs. Logsdon is referring. Reconfirmed with her and compared to Docker lineage diagram compiled by Wayne V. Jones, February 1947.

Q. William Peeples.

A. That might have been his father.

Q. Buried on what hill?

A. Buck Hill Cemetery, we call it. And his, his marker is way back. I can't--I can find out for you but I can't tell you just what it is.

Q. Okay.

A. And he came over here from Manchester, England, so I would say, maybe, he was . . .

Q. Was the first, then.

A. First. Yes. It tells that on his stone up there.

Q. Okay. Let's see now. Who, in your family now, other than Mr. Peeples in Milwaukee, I've forgotten the name . . .

A. William? Neil? No.

Q. No. (pause) For heaven's sakes. Well, at any rate, there is one in Milwaukee that I will be interviewing, I think. Who else in your family . . .

A. Now, he comes on the other side. See, my grandfather had a brother, William. That's right, William probably was the father of John McKee. Cause he had a son named William and one named Henry. And this one you're gonna interview is a descendent of William. That wouldn't be any of my family. It's on the other side.

Q. Yes. His name is W. M. Peeples, I believe.

A. Might be Will or William. You don't know.

Q. Right.

A. He would come down from the side there of Uncle Will Peeples. My grandfather's brother. There was those two children.

Q. Now, he's done considerable research on the history of the bank. And I'll be getting information from him. Is there anyone else in the family, that's distant from Shawneetown, that might have information on the bank?

A. I don't know. I'm wondering. Is that the one that came through here several years ago, fifteen, ten or fifteen. You have no idea how old this man is?

Q. No, I gather--He's retired from the bank up there. He's a, he stills hold the vice-presidency . . .

A. I see.

Q. . . . but I think he's retired from . . .

A. Well, I don't believe this fellow would have been that old. But he was doing research on his side of the Peeples family. And he came back here and came in to see me and brought me what he had run down on his side. And then left it for me to go on our side, which is still put away some place.

Q. Oh, I see. Well.

A. I haven't done a thing with it. But no, I can't. We have no family. The family's just petered out. That's all.

Q. Do you have any idea of anyone in the family that has any letter files or documents that . . .

A. Had you gotten here a few years earlier, I might have found you some. My father's sister was the last one in the family that lived here. And she owned the house and she had to go into a nursing home the last few years. After she passed away, why the house was left to my cousin. And she threw things to the four winds.

Q. My goodness.

A. But--Things that made me sick. For one thing, I have the family cradle that all fourteen of the Peeples' children were rocked in and my mother had my sister and myself. And I had it then. We redone it for my four girls and my aunt had the clipping out of the paper with that in it. She showed it to me one time where my grandmother had ordered that. Out of Chicago, I think it was. And things like that was there but it didn't mean anything to my cousin.

Q. What was your aunt's name?

A. Harriet Peeples.

Q. Harriet. Oh, I see.

A. She was older than the one you interviewed. Than my Aunt Catherine.

I would have loved to had all those things but I don't think it meant anything to Helen K. She lived over at Harrisburg and they came down, her husband and his brothers, and they emptied the house up for sale and it was all--stuff was hauled hither and yon.

Q. You have no idea where any of it might have gone, then?

A. Probably a bonfire. It burned for I don't know how long.

Q. Oh, boy.

A. Yes, sir. Only thing I have is an old Bible that this aunt did give me one time. Out of the things like that. Probably, very probably there was things saved there that might have been used. Cause my grandfather was a businessman and things and my aunt just kind of hoarded stuff like that, too.

Q. That's what we're hunting for. Someone who hoards stuff.

A. And she'd always tell me, "Now, this is to be yours, when I break up housekeeping." But you know what I got!

Q. Well. (laughter)

A. Oh, dear.

Q. Can you think of anything about the bank, now, that we haven't mentioned that strikes your mind?

A. Those big, the big iron doors are still on it on the front, aren't they?

Q. Yes. Yes, they are.

A. Still on and then the side doors.

Q. In the thirties, do you recall whether the walkways at the front and at the side of the bank were concrete or were they still brick, at that time?

A. Well, I think they have been concrete ever since I can remember.

Q. Okay. Do you recall when they surfaced the street out in front? The main street?

A. No. But it was 1925, I think, when they paved that street.

Q. The side street?

A. Yes.

Q. Yes. The highway came in.

A. Highway came in.

Q. Yes. Okay.

A. I have no recollection of that fence, that I have in that picture, on it at all, but I definitely know it was there because that wouldn't have been on there in 1898 if it hadn't been there.*

Q. Yes. Yes. We've located that section of the fence that's supposed to have come from the front of it. But the design is different . . .

A. Well, what did . . .

Q. . . . than anything that's down there, now. So I don't know.

A. What did Peter Rathbun tell me one time. That they had all that fence. I thought he said they had it stored in that . . .

Q. They have some, yes. But apparently, you see, it was removed and that that went across the bottom of the front steps evidently was removed early. Because in later pictures, you know, around the 1913 flood and along in there, it's not there.

A. That's right. I know.

Q. So I, maybe that's what . . .

A. You know, from the picture, that must have been a pretty high fence really. (picks up the picture) According to a man there. It looked like it might have been.

Q. Yes. Maybe five feet. Four or five feet.

A. Well, I think it would have been. Don't you think so, when you look at it.

Q. Bunch of iron.

* Mrs. Logsdon is referring to a fence shown on a picture of the bank building which she possesses. ED

A. It's getting a little bit cooler, now. I'm gonna get up in my attic again and get that old Bible out and I'll just see if there could possibly be anything in it that might pertain to . . .

Q. Outstanding. See, it's about five feet. (studying the photograph)

A. Look how many steps. Look here--there's one, two, three, four. It goes up as high as about seven steps just off of there.

Q. Well, if he stood down there, his head would be, yes, almost six feet, maybe. Five to six . . .

A. In looking at it myself, I thought it must be a pretty good high fence. Of course, had just concrete around it or rock, whatever, stone, whatever that is. That raised it, too, you know.

Q. Now, here's something that has been confusing me. The "City National Bank" that says. Not the First National Bank.

A. Sure enough.

Q. Now, I can't find where the First National Bank was ever called the City National Bank. The only City National Bank that I can find is the one that the McKelligotts had. And yet, right there on that sign it says, "City National Bank."

A. City National Bank. In 1898.

Q. So, I've got some confusion there. I've been trying to find, with Mr. Galt and Mr. Harmon, some minutes of the directors of either the City Bank or the National Bank, to see if, you know--It just appears that the City National Bank, at one time, operated from the First National Bank building for some reason or another.

A. I'll bet, I'll bet it did. I'll bet it did. Cause there it says it just plain.

Q. The 1937 flood, the sign certainly says the First National Bank, so--The pictures that were taken then, so . . .

A. It's too bad. We know what this was like. It's too bad, it wasn't a shot from the other side so you can see these buildings or whatever you were wanting to see.

Q. Well, now Mrs. Deitz indicates that up at the Illinois State Historical Library there may well be a . . .

A. Picture of this one.

Q. . . . picture of this far side. So, I . . .

A. Now, see this was Mr. Harmon's store building. But still there was all this lot or--in between there . . .

Q. Yard.

A. And see, there's trees and all.

Q. Yes. Mrs. Harmon remembers, from this room up here on the corner, looking out the window and watching the water rise or lower on the steps that went up to the second floor on that building next door. Now, you say Pete got a picture, made a photograph of . . .

A. Do you want it? I'll loan it to you.

Q. I'll tell you what. If you wouldn't mind, I would like to take it up to our media department and have them make another one just so we'd be sure and have one.

A. You're more than welcome any time. Do you want it now, today, or whenever you're ready.

Q. Okay. I'll tell you. Hang on to it until--I don't have any extra folders and I would want to put it in a folder when I do take it.

A. You're more than welcome to have it.

Q. Okay. I appreciate that. That would help. I note that this same picture is over, if you go over to the photographic store across the way . . .

A. He had it. He got it, from me. He took it off of here.

Q. Yes. I noticed they have the same mark on it right there.

A. Yes. That's mine. Yes. He asked me if he could have it because he wanted--He's got this one, too, I think. The old courthouse.

Q. Oh, yes.

A. See, these were all in 1898. And this is the Posey building that went across here. See, this is that tree. Just across the road there.