

Stephen A. Lockwood Oral Interview  
January 5, 1979

Speaker 1: The following is an interview with Stephen Lockwood of Annandale, Minnesota, in which he reminisces about his grandfather, who was a Civil War veteran, his life in the Indiana coal mines, life in Minnesota during the '20s, and the Depression.

Speaker 2: Okay, Grandpa. Can you tell me your birthdate?

Stephen Lockwood...: I was born July the 16th, 1896.

Speaker 2: Where you born at?

Stephen Lockwood...: At Fort Branch, Indiana.

Speaker 2: What did your father do for a living?

Stephen Lockwood...: My father was a carpenter. He built railroad depots.

Speaker 2: Oh, he did?

Stephen Lockwood...: Yeah, he worked the railroad.

Speaker 2: Did he work for railroad, or was he-

Stephen Lockwood...: Yeah, he worked for the railroad. He was a railroad carpenter.

Speaker 2: What railroad did he work for?

Stephen Lockwood...: That'd be the Chicago and Eastern Illinois.

Speaker 2: And what did your mother do?

Stephen Lockwood...: She just a housewife.

Speaker 2: Tell me a little bit about your grandfather. What was his name?

Stephen Lockwood...: Well-

Speaker 2: Well, first of all, what was your father's name?

Stephen Lockwood...: My father's name was Walter. My mother's name was Emma. And if you wanted to talk about the war, well, I was born within 20 miles of the war zone.

Speaker 2: Of the what?

Stephen Of the war zone.  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Oh, I see.

Stephen That's, you see, the...  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen They...  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Go ahead and talk, Grandpa. That's fine.

Stephen And both my grandfathers was in the war, but one of them, one of my... He was  
Lockwoo...: hurt, had to be right at the start of the war. So, he didn't get a chance to see much  
action. But my mother's dad, he went all through the war.

Speaker 2: What was his name?

Stephen Crilley.  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Quilly?

Stephen James Crilley.  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Is that spelled with a Q?

Stephen C-R-I-L-L-E-Y.  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Tell me about some of the things that he told you as a child.

Stephen Well, what started the war was the fact that the South... And there where I was  
Lockwoo...: born, that's what they called the Gateway to the South, that territory right there.  
The South, they had slaves, and that was free help, see?

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen And they had bought these slaves there from, they had come from Africa. And all of  
Lockwoo...: the plantation owners, they had... All the help that they needed was slave labor,  
and they... One party, the South, [inaudible 00:03:36] wanted to keep the slaves.

But Lincoln and his party wanted to do away with slavery, so it boiled down to the  
fact that they kept arguing back and forth about it till finally, the South was the one  
that started the war. They were the one, at South Carolina, they're the one that  
fired the shots. And that's what started the war. Well then, the first two battles, the  
war, the South, they had a big advantage, because they were fighting at home, see?  
And the North, the northern soldiers, it was on strange territory to them. And  
General Lee of the South, he was a graduate of West Point just the same as  
Sherman and Sheridan was, and Grant. All four of them was... But Lee, he went

with the South, because he was in Virginia. See? From Virginia.

And the first two battles of the war, the South was victorious. You look it up in history, you'll see that they ... In fact, they had the cavalry. Their cavalry was so much better than the North that the North was losing over every battle we got into without ... Really was getting beat from that Southern cavalry, till they got Custer in there

Speaker 2: Custer?

Stephen Custer.

Lockwoo...:

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen General Custer's the one that stopped the South from winning the cavalry battles.  
Lockwoo...: The North started to win them then, see, and it was a long, drawn out affair.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen That war, it was ... But the South, they was at a disadvantage, because they didn't  
Lockwoo...: have no Navy, see? The North had the Navy. The South at the tail end did get a few, from other countries that had ... But they was not up to snuff, and the South was defeated by the fact that we had a navy, and not only that, we had the most industries was in the North. See, all they had down there was cotton, and the cotton was always shipped up north. But ...

Speaker 2: Was your grandfather, was he a Union soldier?

Stephen Yeah, boy, yeah. My grandad fought with the Union Army, and he was with  
Lockwoo...: Sherman when they marched to the sea on his... And when they got down to Savannah, Georgia, then they come up to back up north and helped Grant. Then he knocked off Richmond, see?

Speaker 2: Oh, I see.

Stephen Yep. So that was the end of the war right there.

Lockwoo...:

Speaker 2: Right. What did your grandfather tell you about... Do you remember-

Stephen Well, he told me that they... On that march, you'll see that they burned everything  
Lockwoo...: in front of them. The left nothing standing.

Speaker 2: Not one thing.

Stephen No. And they lived on the country. They lived 100% on the country, see. The South  
Lockwoo...: had a lot of... They was agriculture. They had a bunch of hogs, cattle, and milk cows.

Speaker 2: Uh-huh (affirmative)

Stephen Lockwoo...: And a lot of food. A lot of corn, oats, everything that the North needed, see. But it was brother against brother. That's what it was. Brother against brother because you have a family of several boys, some of the boys went with the South, some of them went with the North. So they was right on the dividing line, see.

Speaker 2: Did a lot of that-

Stephen Lockwoo...: Kentucky was with the North. But there was a lot of people in Kentucky that fought for the South too.

Speaker 2: Oh right, yeah.

Stephen Lockwoo...: The state of Kentucky went with the North. And if you would go down into that country down there, you'll see a lot of plaques where Lincoln had tacked up along the Ohio River that he was born and raised right there in that neighborhood. He hoped and lived for the day when he could do away with slavery because along the river there yet, they've got them posts where the slavers tied, see.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: Big rigs on them. We saw them. I could've showed them to her. Big rigs. And you see, what they'd do, they'd have auctions. At an auction sale, to auction off these barrows would pick them up over in Africa. They brought them back and maybe at one time they had a wife and five, six kids. When they sold them in the auction, his wife went to one place and the kids went to some other one. And maybe the dad went to some other locality. They didn't know where. They never saw each other again.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen Lockwoo...: So the North was the ones that put the colored people on an equal basis with any other human.

Speaker 2: Did your grandfather talk about General Sherman very much?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Oh yeah.

Speaker 2: What was his opinion of him?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well, they all loved Sherman. They loved Sherman. Yeah. It's too bad I didn't have that book over here that... [inaudible 00:10:44] your mother's got the book. In fact, I had it over here. And the one of Sheridan too.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Sheridan, he was... Sheridan and Sherman were two of the... And of course Grant

Lockwoo...: was commander in chief. He was what they call a major general of all the armed services. Of course, he was under the president. He was under Lincoln.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen Lockwoo...: And Grant, they had said that Grant was... They wanted Lincoln to fire Grant because they said he drank too much whiskey. And Grant was the only one that was winning the war. He was winning the war. Lincoln come back in the paper, he says, "I wish I have a few more booze drinkers." A few more Grants.

Speaker 2: That's right. I've heard that story before.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Yeah, yeah.

Speaker 2: Did your grandfather, did he get wounded in the war at all?

Stephen Lockwoo...: My grandfather had one leg shot off and one eye shot out. One leg blowed off above the knee.

Speaker 2: Really?

Stephen Lockwoo...: When he come home, he had a peg leg, you see. I tell you, it was cut off right below the knee. So he had a peg leg about that long, see.

Speaker 2: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: And that leg went from here down to there. He could walk right along. He liked to where he walked in mud, you know, you could see all his tracks [inaudible 00:12:32] wore that peg leg.

Speaker 2: Whereabouts did he get shot [inaudible 00:12:36]

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well, I couldn't tell you right now because I don't... If I had the book here, but I ain't got the book here. [inaudible 00:12:46] one of the battles that he was in with Sherman.

Speaker 2: He was in the war for all four years, huh?

Stephen Lockwoo...: He was in the war until it was over. He was in the war... My other granddad, he was just in there a short time and he got hurt bad and so that... He didn't get to see much of the war.

Speaker 2: Okay, let's get back to you now. Did you go to school as a child? Did you go to elementary school when you were in Indiana?

Stephen Lockwoo...: What?

Speaker 2: Where did you go to school at, Grandpa? You, yourself.

Stephen I went to school in Fort Branch.  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Fort Branch. How long did you go?

Stephen I think second year.  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Oh, you only went to the second grade, through the second grade?

Stephen Second year of high school.  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Oh, second year of high school. I see. Then what did you do after that?

Stephen I came to Minnesota.  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Why did you leave Indiana?

Stephen Nothing to do. If I wanted to work in a coal mine. [inaudible 00:13:46] coal industry.  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Stephen And they've got all them coal mines around there. And I did work in the coal mines  
Lockwoo...: a while, but I didn't like that down there. It was [inaudible 00:13:56] you went  
down in the page in the morning and I [inaudible 00:14:02]

Speaker 2: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Stephen And when you went on there, why, they had, on both sides, they had them a  
Lockwoo...: couple mules there. A couple mules over there, a couple mules here and a couple  
mules here. They had mules down in there that had never saw daylight from the  
time they took them down there.

Speaker 2: They stayed down there all the time, huh?

Stephen Yeah. Stayed down there, everything. Ten of them down there. [inaudible 00:14:30]  
Lockwoo...: the temperature's about 55, 60, something like that. No warmer than 60. But I'll tell  
you, I didn't like it because see, what they done, they have... The drill holes in the  
side of the wall and then that's packed with powder with a fuse in there, see. And  
then you've got 300 or 400 miners working down in there. And then they start  
about 3:00, they start shooting at those, see. And when they're doing that, well  
you're supposed to lay down on one of them coal piles. And you know, sometimes  
the rocks and... I didn't like it. You could get a job on a farm, but they didn't pay  
nothing. They paid about \$8, \$10 a month. So then I came up to Minnesota and I  
worked at State Hospital at Hastings for two years.

Speaker 2: What did you do there?

Stephen Nurse. Two years. Then I went from there to the flour mills.

Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: In Minneapolis?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: No, Hastings.  
In Hastings. What company did you work for?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Shane Brothers and Wilson.  
Shane Brothers.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Shane Brothers and Wilson.  
And Wilson.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: That's the ones that made the [inaudible 00:16:12] Well, they made a lot of peanut flour. In that mill there, they bought a lot of rye there. They made a lot of rye flour too. And they made a lot of breakfast food like Cream of Wheat, you know.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: And you see, that's just part of the wheat. See, they got machines. When they grind that machine, when the wheat goes through them grinders, the grinder's about as wide as this table. And when the wheat goes through that grinder and when it comes out, it's got several different things in it. It's got bran and middlings and we just... Cream of Wheat, see. So that part, that goes into breakfast food. And the flour part of it, that goes for flour.

Speaker 2: I see.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: So then after I started... I worked in there a couple years. And then I went farming.  
Where did you start farming at?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: I went back down to Indiana and started farming. I farmed down there a couple years and then I came back up to Wisconsin, farmed up there a couple years.

Speaker 2: Is that when you lived in Spooner?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Yeah.  
I see. Now that would've been about the time of World War I, right? About 1917, 1918.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Yeah.  
Tell me about what you told me before about when you got drafted in World War I.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Oh, in World War I, when I got drafted, I was in class A1 and then due to the fact that I was farming and had one new wife and one child, why I was reclassified into 4A so that I... You couldn't go then if you wanted to.

Speaker 2: You couldn't?

Stephen Lockwoo...: No. You couldn't go then if you wanted to because you see, they figured they got to have food. See? We was feeding part of our Allies, we was feeding them.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen Lockwoo...: So that's the reason why the farmers all got exempt.

Speaker 2: What was it like farming back then?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well, it was all, everything done with horses.

Speaker 2: Lot of long days. How long would you work in a typical day in the summertime?

Stephen Lockwoo...: In farming?

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well, as long as you could get in the field in the spring. But first of April, you [inaudible 00:18:57] harvest the crop in the fall, it would be about November, first of November by the time you got done. See up in there, there was mostly potatoes. Potatoes and small grain like barley and clover seed. Barley, a lot of barley.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: Wheat. But very little corn [inaudible 00:19:24] too far north for corn.

Speaker 2: How many hours would you work a day?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Farming?

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well, you put in...

Speaker 2: What time in the morning, like say you'd get up-

Stephen Lockwoo...: 16. 16 hours. 16 hours farming.

Speaker 2: And a lot of it behind the horse, plowing.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well, part of that, you see, was plowing and dragging and dishing and seeding and harvesting. And then you had chores to do every day and every night too. You had



cows to milk and hogs to feed, chickens to feed. See back in them days, it was... All farmers was... It was more diverse than it is now. Now it's only one or two crops. [inaudible 00:20:25] but then it was... Everybody had 300 or 400 chickens. They had their own chickens. And still a lot of people raised turkeys. And the wife done that, and she's the one that bought the groceries. Egg money and... That was always an altogether different story than it is today. And then you raised all your own fuel right on the farm.

Speaker 2: Oh yeah?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well, there was no such thing as tractors.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: You raised all your own feed, horses.

Speaker 2: Right. What would you use for fuel?

Stephen Lockwoo...: For what?

Speaker 2: Did you say you raised your own fuel, too? Or feed, did you say?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well you raised your own energy.

Speaker 2: Okay. That's what I meant. What did you use to heat your house with?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Heat the house?

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Wood.

Speaker 2: Wood?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Wood. That's what everybody used, was wood. They still do that up there.

Speaker 2: Oh, sure.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Yeah. They're still using wood up there. They're not using much oil. They use wood.

Speaker 2: What was your... You were a pretty young man when we went into World War I. What was your general feeling when Wilson got us into World War I? Were you against it or were you for it?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well, it was... That was a divided question. There was some people pretty in favor of us getting into the war and some people was opposed to us getting into the war. Same as it is today. There's people that don't believe in war.

Speaker 2: How did you feel about it yourself?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well, nobody wanted to go into the Army. That's the reason why they have the draft.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Yeah. Like today, they ain't got much of an Army. I think... [inaudible 00:23:02] They claim that they got, the ones that they got, they claim they're the cream of the crop as far as that's concerned. But they're talking about right now bringing the draft back. [inaudible 00:23:17]

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: They're talking about bringing the draft back [inaudible 00:23:21] the Army officers, the ones that are in the... They said we couldn't never go into war with just a volunteer army. It's got to be a draft.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen Lockwoo...: I'll tell you, I'm in favor of the draft. [inaudible 00:23:38] but it's got to be handled on a fair basis. You see, in the Civil War, you could buy yourself out. You see, if you had money, why if your dad had money, all he had to do was fork up \$30, \$40 and you got out of it. See?

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: But there wasn't very many that had the \$30, \$40.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen Lockwoo...: There was no money and so it was... The rich got out of it. [inaudible 00:24:08] it was some of them that maybe wanted to go, so they did. But in the South, they was down there, they all went down there. They was out manned too. The South was out manned too. They was at a big disadvantage in a way. They had an advantage that they was at home. But after the war was going along for a couple years, from then on, it was just a matter of time then.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen Lockwoo...: [inaudible 00:24:38] they was... The North starting winning the war. Instead of losing, why they was winning. The South was losing, losing, losing. And then when Farragut took New Orleans and he started coming up that Mississippi River, see. And Grant was coming down the Mississippi, see. He got hung up in Vicksburg on account of the territory around it. He couldn't get around it, it was all swamp. But when Farragut come up there and he was on one side shooting at the South and Grant was on the other side. There was no way out.

Speaker 2: Right. They were caught in between.

Stephen Lockwoo...: They were caught right in between. And they... But the further South, they had just as good of Army officers as we did. But after the war had been going along for a couple of years, why, they couldn't...

Speaker 2: What did you think of General Pershing?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Pershing?

Speaker 2: Yeah. World War I.

Stephen Lockwoo...: No, Pershing wasn't in World War I.

Speaker 2: Yeah he was.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Huh?

Speaker 2: Yeah. General Pershing. Black Jack Pershing.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Yeah, yeah, I guess he was. Wait a minute now. Let's see. He was in the... Yeah. He was in the first World War. But I'll tell you, a friend of mine came up to Minnesota with me. When he went back down home in Indiana, he joined up. He joined the Army.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: And he was with Pershing when they was after Villa down in Mexico.

Speaker 2: Oh they did?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Yeah. He was after the... But he wrote me some letters when he was... And then when we got into the war, then I come up with two other guys. And one of them went in the Navy and he sent me a picture. He was shoveling coal out on one of them big vessels in the ocean going across for the war.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: And the other fellow, he was in with Pershing when they went across. He was with Pershing when they went there at Anzio Beach.

Speaker 2: What were you doing during the '20s, grandpa?

Stephen Lockwoo...: During what?

Speaker 2: During the 1920s.

Stephen: Farming.

Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: You were still farming, huh?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Yeah. Well then I started... I traveled on the road for let's see... I traveled on the road... Traveled for 10 years.

Speaker 2: What were you doing on the road?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: I traveled for a grocery outfit out of Minneapolis.

Speaker 2: Were you selling wholesale groceries?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Yeah.

Speaker 2: Whereabouts did you travel around to?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: South Dakota. I had six counties. Traveled over six counties.

Speaker 2: Is that when you lived in Aberdeen then?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Yeah.

Speaker 2: I see.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Yeah.

Speaker 2: Was there very much bootlegging and things like that?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: What?

Speaker 2: Bootlegging. Whiskey during Prohibition. Tell me a little bit about that.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Well I'll tell you, Prohibition was a joke because there was nobody who believed in it.

Speaker 2: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Because right away, they started making bootleg whiskey.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: And that as the days of Al Capone.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: He got to be a millionaire. And the same way with the Kennedys. Kennedy, that's...  
In fact, I won't say he was a bootlegger, but you see, he was buying whiskey from England, see, and it all come through England because of Scotland, see.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: It was made in Scotland but it come from there. And in Minnesota here, they called it Minnesota whiskey was the... They called it St. Cloud 13.

Speaker 2: St. Cloud 13?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Yeah, St. Cloud 13.

Speaker 2: Were they making it up here in St. Cloud?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Making it around St. Cloud, see. And that's... And they were supplying, the bootleggers picked it up there. A bootlegger go in there with a couple of mean cars. And he'd put it in gallon cans. A gallon can. He'd load that in his car and maybe he'd have 600, 700 gallon in his car. In gallon cans. And he took off for South Dakota or North Dakota or down in Iowa, or Wisconsin. Any place he could sell it.

Speaker 2: Was that corn whiskey mostly?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Mostly corn whiskey. Corn and rye.

Speaker 2: And rye.

Stephen Lockwoo...: A lot of rye. They made a lot of...

Speaker 2: Okay. How did this guy in St. Cloud, how did he get by manufacturing that whiskey up there? Was he paying off the cops?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well, there was stills. They had stills hidden around in the hills and brush.

Speaker 2: Was he mixed up...

Stephen Lockwoo...: He didn't make in out on Main Street.

Speaker 2: Oh, okay.

Stephen Lockwoo...: It was all made out in the jungle. And the delivered to Duluth and Superior. I was up deer hunting and they was bringing it up from Duluth in gallon cans. And deer hunters, they bought it and then they took it and put it around them brush piles. And one fellow, he was going to give me a drink. And so he says, "Come on over," and he says, "Have a drink." And we walked over the the brush pile and there was somebody else who beat him to it. So yeah, he had put a gallon of whiskey in there that morning and-

Speaker 2: Someone stole it.

Stephen: Somebody stole it.

Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Just curious, how much did a gallon of bootlegged whiskey cost? Can you remember?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Well, it was about... Let's see. The going price was about... Oh, I'd say it went around a dollar and a half a quart. A dollar and a half a quart.

Speaker 2: Was it good whiskey or was it pretty rotgut?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Oh yeah, I don't know. They claimed, the ones that drank it claimed it was pretty good but then... You see, all whiskey got to be aged, see. And that was being made and they drank it up as fast as they made it. Sure, they'd go to bootleggers and they say, "Well it ain't ready yet." "We're taking it anyway." They bought it anyway. And it was a lot of people that even got sick. It made them sick, you know, from drinking that rotgut. It was really rotgut. And the law was so weak on that that they... The little bootleggers, they was pinching some of them, but the big ones, they got away and... Nobody believed in it. It was a joke.

Speaker 2: Was Capone or any of his boys involved with the St. Cloud dealings up here?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: What?

Speaker 2: Was Capone behind any of these guys around St. Cloud.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: No, no. That was all... No. All of his booze was coming from Kentucky.

Speaker 2: Uh-huh (affirmative). Down in the hills down there.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: You could see them at night. They was... I was born and raised down that way. You can see the lights of them.

Speaker 2: Still fires?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: And they brought it across the river.

Speaker 2: Uh-huh (affirmative). What did they bring it across the river with?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: When they brought it across the river, they brought it over in boats.

Speaker 2: In boats.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Sure. Run it over in boats. And of course, in some places they get ferries. Ferry boats there too, you know. But it had to be in some kind of boats because the Ohio River's pretty big water. In fact, it's bigger than the Mississippi until the Mississippi gets way down in the highway down in there.

Speaker 2: So people were making a lot of money on bootlegged booze.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Oh yeah. There was a lot of millionaires that made on the whiskey business. Just going into the city, the cities and the [inaudible 00:34:29] A fellow out in the woods was making that booze and he'd haul it into town in cream cans. And he'd go to the police station, or he'd go to... He took a can of booze in one can and a can of cream in the other.

Speaker 2: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: Yeah.

Speaker 2: He made twice as much money off the booze.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Nobody paid no attention to him because they said, "Well, he's just got a couple cans of cream." And then in the wintertime, before Christmas, they'd come in with a truckload of booze and a pile of Christmas trees on the top of it. Oh, it's nothing but a load of Christmas trees coming in. Santa Claus.

Speaker 2: Yeah. They were smart.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Yeah. So it was... The people voted it out. They voted it in, they voted it out. Because it was...

Speaker 2: It just didn't work.

Stephen Lockwoo...: It didn't work. It was... And it wouldn't work today either if they would try to do... The only way that they could stop people from drinking, if they make them... if there's some way they could stop them from making it. But they got enough made now that they'd last for... I think they got enough made to last for 25 years. If you notice in history, in every country and on any islands, island in the Pacific, island in the Atlantic, them people are making some kind of booze of their own out of coconut milk or some kind of squeezes. They're making something to get high on.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: Either that or it's some kind of a juice that they're making out of something that they have squeezed it out of and they get... It knocks them out. But they want the effects.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen Lockwoo...: The effects, see. You take a good quart of milk, quart of milk is only... Two quarts of milk is only 81 cents for two quarts of milk. If that two quarts of milk, if that was some kind of a liquid that you can get high on, oh that would be like \$30. Instead of 81 cents, it'd be like 30 some dollars.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen: For two quarts.

Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Were there a lot of speakeasies around Aberdeen at the time?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Speakeasies, why the city was full of them. Minneapolis was full of them. You could go there and even the police was in on that too. And you go up the stairs, they'd be up on the third or second, third floor.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: And they had a peephole, see. And you'd go up the stairs and the ones that belong, if they see you had... They was in clubs. You belong to the club, you had to have the right... Yeah.

Speaker 2: Knock?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Yeah. You had to have a certain knock on the door, see. Then they come to the door and they had a peephole on the door and they looked you over. If they didn't know you and you was a stranger, then they wouldn't open the door. But if you went in and you got in there, there was even some cops in there. There were some cops in there. Yeah.

Speaker 2: Were they off duty and drinking?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: They was just in there. I don't know whether they was off duty, but they had a uniform on. And they was getting a few drinks free and I suppose they gave them a bottle when they left. So they wasn't going to squeal on them. That was a good deal.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Yeah. But sometimes... Another thing that they'd do, they'd get ahold of a bunch of... These speakeasies, they got ahold of bottles, whiskey bottles. Labels.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: And they put the label on there like four roses. They [inaudible 00:39:14] with four roses. And you bought a [inaudible 00:39:28] pint of whiskey or a fifth of... It was mostly quarts. Four roses and it wasn't whiskey. It was moonshine. It was moonshine. Well then, you see then the government wasn't getting nothing out of them stamps, see.

Speaker 2: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: If he had the government stamps on that, a federal stamp, not a state stamp. But if he had a federal stamp on there, he could get by with it. He could get by with it. See. They maybe might lock him up or something, but he wouldn't get pinched. He had moonshine in them bottles. So then they took and sampled it and it was moonshine, then they give him a big fine. He got fined several thousand dollars.



Closed the place up and that was it. No more of that. But some of them that went in there and kept their nose clean, bought stuff that had a stamp on it, a government stamp, they would bootleggers [inaudible 00:40:33] but it had a government stamp on it. A federal stamp.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: A United States stamp. Then they got away with it.

Speaker 2: They did.

Stephen Lockwoo...: They got away with it. And the sheriff would come in there. And the sheriff, he drank too.

Speaker 2: But they just didn't want them selling moonshine, right?

Stephen Lockwoo...: That is right. It was because they was getting no... It'd be like going in a hotel and not paying no rent. It was the same thing. The government said, "Let them drink all they want to because we're getting a stamp on there." Just like it is smoking cigarettes.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen Lockwoo...: If it wasn't for that stamp on there, why them cigarettes would be about 10 cents a package.

Speaker 2: Right.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Same thing. Same thing. It's the same thing. That's where the speakeasies made all their money was they bought that cheap moonshine and sold it up with a drink and then they got big money for it too.

Speaker 2: Was there much gambling going on in the speakeasies?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Well no, they didn't... The ones that I knew, they didn't... There was gambling going on in the town but not in there.

Speaker 2: I see.

Stephen Lockwoo...: And another thing they had, they had soft drink stamps, see. He had all kind of pop.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: It wasn't... He had Coca Cola see, that was mostly the main drink back in them years. Coca Cola and local pop, you know. He got away with it. And you see, what he done, he had bootleggers walking around with a couple pints of booze, a couple of bottles on him. And they'd be a dozen or 15 fellows walking in there to buy a pop. This fellow, the bartender set out some glasses then, see. And he walked

along with a bottle, took the bottle out of his pocket [inaudible 00:42:48] and there was two cups on the end. I saw that too. I knew the cups. They got down to them two cups standing there, poured it out to them and they took it. Threw it down, he'd fill it up again and they'd throw it down. They got two shots. Out they went the back door. And that guy, he emptied them bottles in there, see? He left.

About that time one of the federal men would come in. "There's nothing in here. Go ahead and look. There ain't no booze." [inaudible 00:43:21] town was full of guys that were half cuckoo. That wasn't... [inaudible 00:43:24] when that place started out, he didn't have a dime. He bought himself an old car and come down the St. Cloud and you see, once they had... Somebody had... they had told him that, "If you go to St. Cloud tomorrow, when you come back you're going to get picked up." So what he done, he went a different route. And then he took... He had went to a farmer and made arrangements with that farmer that he could park his... See, back in them years, a barn had big doors right in the middle. So you could go in there with a big load of hay, see.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwood...: So a couple or three loads of hay. So he'd make arrangements with that farmer and he'd go in there with his car, see. And he had the car loaded with booze. Then they put a load of hay in the front of it and hay behind and they never [inaudible 00:44:59] And when he went to Aberdeen with that load, he went a different route. Another time when they told him, "You're going to get picked up," he took the cans and filled them full of water. And then he raced with them for miles and miles. He had a big car, a good car.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwood...: And he just kept ahead of them. He finally let them catch him and he says, they take him to the police station and they got him in there and he said, "What's the charge?" Out in the car, all that booze in the car. He said, "There ain't no booze in the car." He said, "Where's the booze?" They started bringing in cans. Ain't nothing but water. He laughed at them, give them that. There wasn't nothing they could do about it.

Speaker 2: That's right.

Stephen Lockwood...: You see, that just goes to show you that the public was against it. The public was against it.

Speaker 2: Against Prohibition.

Stephen Lockwood...: Yeah. They was against Prohibition. In the big cities, why it was just about impossible to catch them.

Speaker 2: Well let me ask you this, Grandpa.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: And they never could catch Al Capone. The reason why that they got him locked up, they got him on income tax.

Speaker 2: That's right.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: They never caught him with no booze.

Speaker 2: If everybody was so against Prohibition, Grandpa, why the hell did they ever pass it to begin with?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Well, a man by the name of Volstead. Down in the Congress in Washington, he's the one that... Carrie Nation. That was the start of Carrie Nation, see. At that time they had the women all worked up, you know, and they got a bill through Congress. I remember I was out there farming. At that time when Prohibition went into affect. I forget just what year it was. But it would've had to been about... Oh, I don't know... '19, something like that.

Speaker 2: 1918. Yeah. Right there, yeah.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: There was a guy down the road, a farmer. And in town, why they had saloons in town and he come home, he had... Well, he didn't have a car but him and his team, he had all kinds of booze, come home [inaudible 00:47:44] and all the booze he could afford to buy. And then after that, after that was gone, well then they started making home brew. They started making home brew. Everybody was making home brew. And you could make it pretty good. I'll tell you, I had some home brew and boy, I bet that stuff was 15, 20%.

Speaker 2: How did you make it?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Well, they made it.

Speaker 2: Well how did you make it?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: I didn't make it.

Speaker 2: Oh, you didn't make it.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Oh no. [inaudible 00:48:13]

Speaker 2: You just bought some home brew.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: [inaudible 00:48:22] and that was one thing about that home brew, you know, you can make that in a couple days. Why you can turn around and you can start to drink it. See, it come in cans about that big around and well, it would hold about... well, I'll tell you it held about... Did you want to turn that thing off on there or what?

Speaker 4: What?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 4: Huh?  
What' thing? The coffee? Well it's just taking time.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Oh. Fine. No, that's... It was a joke when it started, Prohibition.  
Do you remember Dillinger and Bonnie and Clyde running around the countryside around here?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Who?  
John Dillinger.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Oh yeah. Yeah. He was from Wisconsin, you know. He was down in Minneapolis. They would've never caught him but how they caught him was he had finally went in Chicago... Well he was [inaudible 00:49:35] and he had a lot of friends who were tipping him, you know, he knows where to go. And what they done there, the cops, the hired a woman. You see, they knew that he was coming to the city looking for women, see.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Women, that's what he was after. So they hired a real good looking woman to waylay him. Where they was staying, wherever he was hanging out at. So then the deal was she was to talk him into going to a show that night, see. And they had it all set that when they come out of the show that she would step to the side so they could get a good sense that... He had absolutely no chance. It was... The minute he stepped out, they started shooting, the cops. And they knew it was him because she... The deal was she was to wear a real red dress. And one that nobody else would be wearing one in that color. The minute that them two walked out, why she stepped back to one side and [inaudible 00:51:04] with a machine gun. They machine gun him.

Speaker 2: Yeah.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Anyway, he didn't [inaudible 00:51:13] All the places up in Wisconsin where he had been, and he's shot up. And they had waited for him some other place. He outshot them. He got away. Every place, they could not catch him.

Speaker 2: Yeah, he was quite the character.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: Yeah. But they finally got him. That's what got him. Pussy.  
That's okay. Were you farming during the Depression?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:  
Speaker 2: The Depression? Let's see. Yeah, I was. The Depression was on when I started.  
What were things like? What was farming like during the Depression?

Stephen Lockwoo...: Farming was, you know... There was no money. Everything was so cheap. Eggs was six cents a dozen. Six cents a dozen. Hog was four cents a pound. 200 pound hog would only like \$7 and a half, \$8 for a 200 pound hog. And cows were \$20. \$20, \$25 for a cow. Buy a cow and a calf for \$30. A big cow, one calf per side. A cow and a calf for \$30. Everything was cheap. Coffee was cheap. Everything else was cheap. Hamburger was three pound for a quarter. Loaf of bread, three loaves of bread were a quarter. Coffee was real cheap. Everything was cheap. I'll tell you one thing that wasn't what you might say real cheap was gasoline. Gasoline was... It was then like it is now. It was the taxes on it, see, but gas was... Oh, I don't know. I guess within the 20s. 27 or 28 cents, something like that.

Speaker 2: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Stephen Lockwoo...: But in them days, farmers did have a car. And when he went to town he put 50 cents worth of gas in the car and he went home. Obviously he didn't live too far and that car went in the garage. It wasn't touched until they went to town, to church the next week. And butter fat was eight cents a pound. Skim milk was \$2 a ton.

Speaker 2: A ton.

Stephen Lockwoo...: \$2 a ton for skim milk.

Speaker 2: Oh man. You never went hungry or anything during the Depression, did you?

Stephen Lockwoo...: No. There was nobody... Everybody had plenty of food.

Speaker 2: As far as you knew. I mean, around the town.

Stephen Lockwoo...: Everybody got by. You had to have a little luck along with that. You had to stay out of the doctor office and you couldn't wear no \$50 boots. Everybody had to live accordingly because there was no money in the banks. The only reason why the banks stayed open, so they could maybe cash a government check or to sell you some insurance or something like that.

Speaker 2: Did you have any money in the banks when the banking holiday was called?

Stephen Lockwoo...: No. No, I didn't. I didn't have money in the bank.

Speaker 2: You were probably lucky.

Stephen Lockwoo...: I was just living from my day to day. You see, I went through that... When I was traveling out there, I was traveling there at the time we had that big dust storms in the Dakotas.

Speaker 2: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: You couldn't... You'd start from here to go home and it'd take you three hours to go from here to Buffalo. You had to drive that slow.

Speaker 2: About ten miles.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Yeah, about five, ten miles. Yeah.

Speaker 2: It was... What caused all that dust to whip up like that.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: No rain.

Speaker 2: No rain.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: No rain and high winds.

Speaker 2: And it was just like a blizzard, right? Only it was dirt.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Yeah. [inaudible 00:55:31] I was traveling and then when you come in the store, why you had to... Your pants were just as black as... And the cars, your cars would fill up full of all that dust. [inaudible 00:55:51] see, they didn't have any air cleaners on there that you've got now. That's where they come out with the air cleaners after that dust storm. You know? That was a bad year. Everybody had plenty to eat and...

Speaker 2: Did you ever get involved with any of Roosevelt's programs like AAA, Agricultural Adjustment Act?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: No, I was in the AAA.

Speaker 2: Were you?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Yeah. No, that...

Speaker 2: What did you think of that?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Well, it was all right. It was all right.

Speaker 2: What exactly did you do when you were in that?

Stephen  
Lockwoo...: Well, on that AAA, if you went along with them on their program, why you got... You got a small check from that AAA administration. And then of course they had the WPA. I never worked on that either. I stayed off of that. I didn't... A lot of my neighbors, they was getting free... The government started handing out free feed and free groceries like lard, butter, and raisins and prunes and rice and stuff. Macaroni and stuff like that. But I never went in on those programs.

Speaker 2: Well, Grandpa, I think that'll about do it. We're almost out of time. Thanks a lot.

Stephen  
Lockwoo...:

Yeah. That's okay.