

## **Transcript of Interview with Adeline Dartt Marvin - Part Two**

MALE ANNOUNCER: Welcome to Mansfield University Voices, an Oral History. The following interview is part two of Adeline Dartt Marvin. Mrs. Marvin talks about the Ku Klux Klan in Blossburg, the influence of the different cultures in the area, and Blossburg politics. The interview also contains comments by Kimball Marvin, Adeline's husband. The interview was conducted by former Mansfield University history professor Dr. Paul O'Rourke on August 24, 1973.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: In Blossburg someone tried to start a Ku Klux Klan?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Yeah.

KIMBALL MARVIN: Oh, Judd Burr.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Judd Burr, that's right.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Judd Bird?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Burr, B-U-R-R. He was a carpenter and a contractor, and a rabid, prejudiced, narrow kind of person. He started it. But I don't think it lasted very long, did it Kim?

KIMBALL MARVIN: No.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: But they would dress up with the white sheets?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: I guess they did. They had a convention of the Ku Klux Klan, I remember because I drove down to look at it. My, a neighbor of mine, that was when I was working in New York and I was there for vacation one summer. And they'd taken over this, well what's that restaurant, the Horseshoe Inn?

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Right, on the outskirts.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Well that's where they had the Ku Klux Klan convention. Well they had it on the hill up above. And I was there, and a neighbor of mine was also there that summer. And he took his car and he and I drove all around. They had all [indecipherable]. They was getting dressed up and we could see them. We didn't stay for any--

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Was the Klan pretty much confined just to parades? You don't recall any violent activity?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: No, no, no. Except I do recall that somebody told me they burned a cross on the old, Kim may know about that, burned a cross up on the hill. But that's just exhibition. No, they didn't do anything drastic.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: This would be the early 20s.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: It was early--

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Yeah, that's about, just about coincides with the strength in the national scene, about that time. Where did the Scotch live in Blossburg? Did they had a part of town?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: No, they weren't segregated. They lived wherever they could find a house, like the rest of us.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: I see. The Poles would be the ones with the--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: They were up on, yeah.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Up on the hill.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: And as I said, I told you that they had two Catholic churches. One which was largely supported by the Irish.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: St. Andrews and Our Lady of Chestokowa, which was supported by--

KIMBALL MARVIN: The Poles, the Poles were all up on the hill.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: No, no.

KIMBALL MARVIN: It was Polish town.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: It was Polish town, by the tannery. See, there was a big tannery--

KIMBALL MARVIN: The Poles up on the hill were much higher class, you know, better families, had a higher standard of living. But Polish Town was the ones that worked the tannery there, oh probably 12-15 houses were Polish families.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Well, they came over as immigrants. A lot of them didn't speak English.

KIMBALL MARVIN: [indecipherable] at school, if I could get them beyond the eighth grade, they were up in high school, they were good. But down in the lower grades the only language they understood was strict discipline and shake them up and drag 'em by the hair. They were into all kinds of stuff. Once they got beyond the eighth grade and high school, many of them, oh they went into all kinds of professions. Many of them turned priests and lawyers--

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Those that didn't went into the tannery, the mines and so forth.

KIMBALL MARVIN: Yeah, yeah.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: But I'll tell you something else, they had a high percentage of priests, the Polish.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: I noticed that they, in this booklet they turned out on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, in 1924, actually 1926, they said as of that time they had turned out 14 priests, from that little parish.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: They had.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: And many of them had gone on to Scranton and Buffalo and out into the Midwest even.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Yes, um-hm. That's right. That's what I said, well Kim said, some of those kids were rough and tough and didn't want to learn. There was another--

KIMBALL MARVIN: The ones in high school were pretty good.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Kim, see Kim was principal there in high school.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: What years were you principal down there?

KIMBALL MARVIN: I was there one year, I was there in '23, 1923.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: You were principal for a year.

KIMBALL MARVIN: I was principal for a year, supervising principal. I had three schools.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Well I what about the Welsh? [indecipherable] stay on the Poles in Blossburg. They used to have a baseball team down there.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh, Kim can tell you about that.

KIMBALL MARVIN: They were all Polish fellows and they would talk the Polish language, playing other teams, you know, they would talk the Polish language. Fellow was on third base or something like that, they would know when to throw the ball to third base and get the fellow that was getting off the base a little bit.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Now that's interesting.

KIMBALL MARVIN: Oh yeah.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: In other words, the other team wouldn't understand Polish so they wouldn't know what they'd be saying.

KIMBALL MARVIN: No, no. They played some, well they played a pretty good team. They played Del Mar Colonels and they played all the teams around the county. They had three fellas that were just really outstanding athletes. One was the pitcher named Keats. And I think his son is a policeman up in Blossburg now.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Was that K-E-A-T-S?

KIMBALL MARVIN: K-E-A-T-S. That was his nickname, I don't know what his real name was. And Mann was a catcher. Keats was the pitcher, Mann was the catcher and a fellow name Ruth [indecipherable] was third baseman. And they were all Polish and they were outstanding athletes.

j: Mann and Keats were Polish too?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Oh yeah.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: That was just their names.

KIMBALL MARVIN: And Ruthie, the third baseman, they were all good friends. [inaudible].

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: So they had, was it a pretty successful team?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Oh yes, very successful. This Babe Losneski, he played short stop. He was one of the best players there. He was the youngest one. But you can contact him and Sutton, Francis Sutton. He didn't play, but he followed their games. But Babe played, he played short stop.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: What would you classify them? Were they semi-pro or strict amateur?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Well, I think they were semi-pro. And then we had a couple of guy down here in college that played with them, supplemented them once in a while. Mike Gazella, I don't know whether you've ever heard of him or not.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Gazella?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Mike Gazelle, he played for the Yankees. He went to the Yankees afterwards. He was a pro before he'd come up here, he was a pitcher at the Normal school when I was here. He was also on Lafayette--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: You saw him down at Lafayette.

KIMBALL MARVIN: Oh yeah, well, yeah. About five years ago I roomed with him down there, back for the reunion there. But he would play with them. He was good.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: This Dr. Davies, he coached the team?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Oh yeah.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh yes, he was a professional coach.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Course baseball in those days, wasn't the long ball it is, it was bunting and stealing bases and that kind of thing.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Kim, you should tell him about your little basketball team you started in Blossburg too.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: You started a basketball team down there?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: No, he didn't start it, but he was on it. He was their star player for a year.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: This was another amateur team, was it?

KIMBALL MARVIN: It was a little high school team.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Oh, high school.

KIMBALL MARVIN: We played down here, Normal School. We played the first Normal School championship game that was played in the state of Pennsylvania, it was the Normal School. And we played West Chester. We went and doubled the score. We played in the Harrisburg Armory.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Kim played here too. He was their, quite their star basketball player then.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Well if I could just briefly follow-up here on basketball. What was this the first champion state Normal School championship?

KIMBALL MARVIN: That's right. I graduated in '16 and we won all the games in the northern, around this area here. And West Chester won all the games in the southern part of the state. So we asked the President if we couldn't play West Chester to see which team would be the championship team. So the Presidents arranged the play-offs. We played them in the Harrisburg Armory.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: And you beat them by, you scored twice as many points as they did.

KIMBALL MARVIN: Yeah, it felt more like a football game than a basketball game.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Yeah, they were low-scoring games in those days, weren't they? But really, Blossburg was a real melting pot where the different religions got along pretty well.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Yeah. Now I looked for that thing that John L. Sexton wrote, and I should get back to John L. Sexton too, and I cannot find it. I think it's in one of those I gave you.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: And what is this that he wrote, about?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: He wrote about the fact that it was a melting pot and the many nationalities that were there.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: And really, they all melted in pretty well. If there was anyone that didn't it was the Polish settlement and probably the language barrier--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Yep. And as Kim points out, the Polish contributed more than anybody else, as far as sports are concerned.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Right, right.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: And the mayor of Blossburg right now is Polish.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: They contributed teachers and physicians and things.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh yes, oh yes, sure, sure. Sure they did.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: The other settlements you had there, you had the Welsh. What do you remember about the Welsh in Blossburg?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Well the Welsh had their own church too.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Right.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Welsh congregational and an English congregational in Blossburg. There are lots of churches there. And as Kim mentioned, they were fairly Klan-ish [?]. But they also brought the Welsh singers in. There was a merchant in Blossburg, David R. Evans. He was a strong Welshman. His children were contemporaries of ours, we grew up with his sons and his daughters too. And they were a big family. And he was very, very strong, with the Welsh. And a very highly respected person. And yes, there were a lot of Welsh. There still are. And there's a Welsh Settlement you know, between here and Wellsboro.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: I've heard that name. Welsh Settlement they call it. Where is that? Out in--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: It's beyond Dartt Settlement. It's right in that area. Carlson area, up in there.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Is that north of Rt. 6 or south?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: I don't know. Kim?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Yeah?

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Where is Welsh Settlement?

KIMBALL MARVIN: You turn the left where the four corners are, below the, what's the name of that new hotel there? The Seneca Diner? Well you go down the hill, you're going down that hill and you come to a four corners--

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Right.

KIMBALL MARVIN: and the gas company has a building on the left.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: That's right.

KIMBALL MARVIN: And the road right there, you turn to the left and just go up there about four, three or four miles maybe.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: That's the Welsh Settlement. So this is, you go left about nine miles, nine or ten miles from Mansfield.

KIMBALL MARVIN: They have a, well they have a cemetery up there, all the gravestones.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Oh, I see. Now you also had the Irish in Blossburg.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh yes. They were very strong. And very active. I can't think of the name of that Temperance Society though, and I should.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Oh, it's in the 1897 history.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Yeah, I know.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Was there much rivalry between the Irish and the Poles? Each with their own church.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: No, I don't think so. The Poles did keep to themselves. And they had their own school up there too.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Your impression was the Irish mixed a little more with the rest of the area.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh yes.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: I noticed they even had an Ancient Order of Hibernians chapter in Blossburg.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh yes.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Keep alive the old heritage. How about St. Patrick's Day?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh yes, St. Patrick's Day. I do remember this little bit of rivalry, because they all came out in green and of course somebody would always wear orange and there'd be a little argument.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: There'd be, oh, the Scotch in the area, there might be a little rivalry between the Scotch and the Irish, I suppose.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh, yes, but it was never serious, as far as I can remember.

KIMBALL MARVIN: They had a baseball team there, that Arthur McCarty was captain of, called the Corkers. And it was mostly Irish there. But I played on them and two or three Polish boys played on them too. We got along--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Yeah, I was going to say, I don't think there were ever any feeling hard about it.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Yeah. You mentioned there's a Jewish Settlement in Blossburg also.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Blossburg, yeah.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: What were the Jews generally doing? What occupations?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: I [indecipherable] for the mines. Well, they had a few Jewish stores too, one that Kim spoke of, that his father was selling out. But they mostly peddled through the mines. They came up because of the mines and they would. But they made their headquarters in Blossburg. And why, I don't know. And they built their own synagogues and they built their own bathhouse and they were very

Kosher.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Do you recall the rabbi's name?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: I don't remember that there was a resident rabbi. I think they just had what you call a minion, of the ten. Where'd he live?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Well, right there almost next to father's store there. That's where he did, that's where he built the fire. He had an oil stove and I'd light the oil stove for him. And then I'd watch him butcher the chickens.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Well I thought maybe they didn't have a resident rabbi.

KIMBALL MARVIN: Oh no, rabbi had a beard and everything.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: They had a rabbi then.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: I doubt, I could hear them, I'd been going by there on Saturday and you could hear them chanting and everything. But of course, they don't have to have a rabbi.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Yeah. But they were Kosher and they observed the dine--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh yes. Because I remember, I think it was the Feast of the Tabernacles, where they eat outside and put boughs over the sheds. And I can remember seeing those going to school. And Kim says he used to build the fires for them.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Was there much anti-Semitism? Do you recall any?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: No, I don't.

KIMBALL MARVIN: [inaudible, in the distance]

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: All right, well, maybe Mr. O'Rourke would like to remember it.

KIMBALL MARVIN: I can't find that. I'll have to--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: What you looking for?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Well I was looking for that picture there, when we played the championship game.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh. Well Kim, he was asking about the Jews in Blossburg and was there any anti-Semitism. I don't remember too much, do you?

KIMBALL MARVIN: We got along good with the Jews.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: How many Jewish people do you think there were? Thirty or forty?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh there weren't too many.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Is that a good number?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: But that little section of Blossburg, where you cross the bridge, and turn and go on up to the main town, we used to call the New Jerusalem.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: What would you say were the years of the Jewish Settlement in Blossburg? They would have been about the last to come, would you think? About 1880, or 1890?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Oh, I would say in the 90s, or no later than 1900, because as soon as the mines boomed. Just like my grandfather went in there to try to start a distillery. And the Jews came. And they came up, [indecipherable] we made fun of them, some of them, you know, the kids did, there was one, the one that was feeble-minded, what was his name? Oh no, I'm thinking of something, he wasn't Jewish.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: So when do you recollect that the Jews began to break-up and drift away from Blossburg?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Well I don't know . Do you Kim? When they began to drift away? There aren't any Jewish families up--

KIMBALL MARVIN: Well it had to do with a family at a time there. One would go away and--

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: When do you think they ordered the rabbi? Around 1910 or something like that?

KIMBALL MARVIN: No, before that probably.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Before that. He asked when they came and I said I thought around 1900.

KIMBALL MARVIN: He did the butchering 'round right next to Dr. Davies house. They butchered right around--

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Are you talking about when they left? When the rabbi left or when he came?

KIMBALL MARVIN: No, when they were there.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: When they were there. I don't think he remembers when they came.

KIMBALL MARVIN: I remember the synagogue. They had--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: I remember the synagogue too.

KIMBALL MARVIN: It was there next to Bonnie's. But then they moved up, to where that service station is, where Charlie Schultz--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Because I didn't. I remember the one next to Bonnie's. That's where the Norman's used to live.

KIMBALL MARVIN: They'd always wear--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: The skull cap.

KIMBALL MARVIN: Yeah, the skull cap--

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: So the rabbi probably would have left around 1910, or something like that, 1915.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: No, I think they were there a lot longer--

KIMBALL MARVIN: See, I was down here, I was here '15 and '16. There was the high school up there.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Well you went to high school with some of those kids. The Stoases [?] is the other family I was thinking of. Betty Stoas, they live in Elmira now.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: So it sounds like they, it wasn't for an awfully long time that they had the rabbi there then.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: No.

KIMBALL MARVIN: No.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: I don't think so.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: How about Blossburg politics? What was the town politically? How did it go with--

KIMBALL MARVIN: Well they had what they called a ring. And the ring was primarily of an Irish-Welsh [indecipherable]. And that was a political set-up there. Anybody, I mean, the county, as far as the county is concerned, they would go to this, whoever had charge of the ring and whichever side offered them the most money, why the ring would vote solid, for that particular person.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Was that republican?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Well, democrat or anybody. Ben [indecipherable] was there, he wasn't democrat.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: He was Welsh.

KIMBALL MARVIN: They were organized, they organized it. This Bill Richards, he was quite a character. Way back in the early days, back in the early days, they wanted to put a particular candidate in. And this Polish fellow, he couldn't hardly talk or write or anything, but Bill would say, "You want to vote for this fellow or that fellow." "Oh, I don't want to vote for that son-of-a-B," or something like that. Bill says, "All right, we'll put an X after his name there." Thought he wasn't voting for him. That's the way they worked it back in those days.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: How could he put a, how could he vote for this Polish fellow?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Well in those days--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: I've heard my mother tell that same, not quite that--

KIMBALL MARVIN: They couldn't write. They couldn't vote.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: They couldn't write so somebody had to do it for them.

KIMBALL MARVIN: Somebody had to do it for them.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Somebody had to read it, and mark it, mark it for them.

KIMBALL MARVIN: Back in the early days that's the way they did it.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Oh, I see.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Because I've heard my mother tell that story, about going in the store with her father. And helping the Polish people and marking the ballots. And I'm sure my grandmother marked them all democratic.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: And there, was this ring something--

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: I don't know about the ring. That's a story I never heard before. There was a ring in the whole county.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: At Wellsboro?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Operated down in Wellsboro. So I would think that this ring was controlled by the Wellsboro ring. And I'm talking about my uncle Frank Dartt who was Superintendent of the Arnett mines. And I'm sure that was a political appointment. Because he married Elaine Landers. And her father, Henry Landers, was one of the powers that be, in the area, in that little town named after him. And I'm sure that that's how he got... Arnett was really owned by the Erie railroad. But there were a lot of local political, shake hands [indecipherable].

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Sure.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: I don't know, that's just my own theory, I never, my cousins who would've known are dead and gone.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: How did Blossburg go in elections? Was it basically a republican or democratic county?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Well actually it went both ways, didn't it Kim?

KIMBALL MARVIN: What?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: How did Blossburg ever go politically? Republican or democrat? I would think both. Pretty well spread out. And of course we had one famous democrat, and that was William B. Wilson.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: He was born in, was he born in Blossburg?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Born in Scotland.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Born in Scotland?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: He came to Blossburg as a boy, in the mines. I'm pretty sure.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: Yeah, I see. And how did he, then he became active in the labor movement?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: He became very active in the labor movement. That's right. And in the United Mine Workers. And became very active, and then was elected to Congress. He was Congressman, from that area, as a democrat.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: That's very interesting. He was from Tioga County here? This area?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Yeah, Blossburg. In fact his home is there, the American Legion owns it now.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: This area sent a democrat to congress then.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: We sent a democrat to congress. My grandmother had quite a bit to do with that. That was what I said, in fact when he was a young man he was very brilliant, he was. And he went to congress. And then when Woodrow Wilson was elected President, he was the first secretary of Labor in the President's cabinet.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: And then what did he do in his later years?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: I don't know what he did in his later years. Kim knows, because he visited him up in Washington.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: He didn't come back to Blossburg after his cabinet service?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Yes, he did. Kim?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Yeah?

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: You've got to answer this one because I don't remember. This is the period when we moved to Wellsboro.

DR. PAUL O'ROURKE: We were talking about William B. Wilson.

ADENLINE DARTT MARVIN: Did he come back to Blossburg to live?

KIMBALL MARVIN: Oh no, no.

MALE ANNOUNCER: That concludes the interview with Adeline Dartt Marvin. These interviews are not copyrighted and you are encouraged to let others know about them and to use them for your own research.