GROWING UP IN EARLY POMPANO:  
An Oral History Interview with  
Elizabeth H. Warren 

conducted and transcribed by Cooper Kirk, Ph.D., edited by Carolyn G. Kayne 

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INTRODUCTION  
This interview with 85 year old Elizabeth H. Warren, the widow of Lucius S. Warren, was conducted by Cooper Kirk. The 50 minute interview began at 10:00 a.m., on Saturday, February 2, 1980, at Mrs. Warren's home at 19 NE 15 Avenue, Pompano Beach, Florida.  

Q. Mrs. Warren, the thing that interests the people of Broward County is its earliest time. Will you tell us when you were born and when you came to Pompano Beach?  
A. I was born at Hypoluxo, Florida, March 2, 1895.  
Q. And when did your father bring you to this area?  
A. When I was four years old my family moved to Pompano.  
Q. Was it called Pompano then?  
A. Yes, it was called Pompano.  
Q. And that would be in what part of 1899?  
A. I think it was summer. It could have been in the summer, but I'm not positive.  
Q. What brought your father down to Pompano?  
A. The Model Land Company was begging people to come in and settle; and my father came to farm.  
Q. The Model Land Company was owned by the Flagler Railroad interests?  
A. I believe so.  
Q. And your father came by boat?  
A. Yes, we moved by boat.  
Q. Did he own the boat or did he rent?  
A. No, we just came down on one of those boats that plied up and down on the lakes, that moved people and materials.  
Q. Did you bring furniture with you?  
A. We brought everything with us.  
Q. How did the boat dock? Did it just put you off at the beach, or ...  
A. We came out the canal up at Cypress Creek, where our land was, which today is called Santa Barbara, and landed right on the shore.  
Q. That's Santa Barbara, Lake Santa Barbara?  
A. That's what it's called today.  
Q. So, that wasn't too far from the coast?  
A. No.  
Q. They just set your furniture right off?  
A. When we landed, there was a little house here. There were surveyors here ahead of us. There was a little house that we moved into to sleep and we cooked under a palmetto shed with no sides or anything; just a palmetto shed, we cooked under.  
Q. Did the house have windows or just shutters?  
A. Well, now, that I can't remember.  
Q. That was a long time ago?  
A. Yes. I remember the door. I remember the door well. There must have been at least one window, or one that opened.  
Q. When you came here, who was with you? Was it your father, and what was his name?  
A. His name was I. I. Hardy and my father moved his whole family here. Which was my four brothers, and my older sister, and me and my younger sister. We all stepped off the boat together, we kids did, anxious to get off.  
Q. Do you remember how long it took you to come from Hypoluxo?  
A. It took all day long, I'm sure, but it was almost dark when we got here.  
Q. And, would you give us your brothers' names, starting with the oldest?
A. Roland, Mack, Gene, Jesse, and next to my brother Roland was my sister Anna.

Q. Then came you?
A. And then came me and my name was Elizabeth, but I was always called Betty.

The baby sister was named Clara; she died at two years of age, after we moved here.

Q. Just after you moved here she died?
A. Yes.

Q. Was your father from North Carolina?
A. My father and mother were both from North Carolina.

Q. After your father got here, he went into farming. What kind of crops did he grow?
A. The first crops were tomatoes, peppers, bell peppers at that, and eggplants, for the market. But, for our garden there were all kinds of vegetables.

Q. You had to clear the land?
A. Oh, yes.

Q. Did you have horses and mules?
A. When we first got here, we couldn't bring a horse on the boat, naturally. We had to accumulate those things as time went on.

Q. So, I guess there was a lot of back-breaking work on the part of your father and brothers to get this land cleared. Do you have any idea how much land they began with? Say, 5 acres, 10 acres?
A. No, sir, I can't. Almost from Federal Highway to the beach, we practically owned a strip all the way when he died.

Q. He died in 1916, right? About the end of 1915 or the beginning of 1916?
A. He died Christmas Day.

Q. That would be 1915?
A. 1915.

Q. Right, because he was one of the first county commissioners?
A. Yes.

Q. Appointed by the Governor of the State of Florida. After you came here, how long was it before a school was put into operation?
A. Just as soon as, I believe, there were eight children, which the Hardy family furnished a good many of, Dade County sent a school teacher here.

Q. Do you remember her name? Was it a man or woman?
A. Actually, the first teacher that taught just a short time was named Mrs. George O. Butler.

Q. Did they live in Deerfield, then?
A. No. They lived on the beach. But, I don't know how long that was after we moved here. I don't know whether it was a year or two.

Q. You think she was the first teacher?
A. I think she was our first teacher.

Q. And you started the first grade, did you? You hadn't had any schooling before you came here?
A. To begin with, we didn't even have one of those big, old-fashioned charts that you turn over and say, like long years ago, that "A" stands for "apple" and "C" stands for "cat."

Q. You didn't have one?
A. The Dade County School Board finally sent us one, and we began on one of those big charts. We turned the pages over and there was the word.

Q. And that was a very interesting way to teach you because you had a picture to go with it?
A. Oh, yes.

Q. Did the teacher administer punishment to the students?
A. If they needed it, they got it with...

We didn't have what you call sticks. In fact, if you want to know what my mother used on us, it was a guava switch. There was always a guava switch around.

Q. How long did your mother live after your father died?
A. She lived quite a while after my father. Her name was Katherine, but everybody called her Kitty, too.

Q. Was anyone living here in the summer of 1899 when you came?
A. As far as my knowledge is, two surveyors met our boat as we stepped off, and one of them was Mr. Jim Pierce, and he was a surveyor with a surveying outfit. Where their camp was, how close to where we stepped off the boat, I don't know. But, they had surveyed it and I guess they had named it, by then, Pompano.

Q. They were surveying for the Model Land Company?
A. Yes, that's right.

Q. Now, this Mr. Pierce, was he the same one who later became known as Uncle Pinky Pierce?
A. No, no. Uncle Pinky came years later.

Q. Was that his brother?
A. Mr. Jim Pierce was just a surveyor. As I say, he was here when we stepped off
TOP: Pompano Beach public park, SE 17 Street & 23 Avenue; site of the I.I. Hardy dwelling built in 1899. (Photo: Cooper Kirk)

MIDDLE LEFT: Jesse and Mack Hardy, 1907, on the Hardy farm, north side of Lettuce Lake. (HARDY COLLECTION)

MIDDLE RIGHT: Horse-drawn carriage used to convey the second Chapman infant daughter to the Pompano cemetery, circa 1904. (CHAPMAN COLLECTION)

BOTTOM: Chapman packinghouse employees, Pompano, circa 1910. (CHAPMAN COLLECTION)
the boat. And the two surveyors, when they got through here, if I think I'm telling this right, they left. They were camping only and went to Miami Beach and laid out Miami Beach. I believe that's right.

Q. This Pierce, was he any kin to Uncle Pinky Pierce, do you know?
A. Yes, Uncle Pinky was his brother but, see, Mr. Jim Pierce hadn't settled here at all. He was only here as a surveyor. But, later, he did settle here on the beach and, later, Uncle Pinky Pierce came, and his wife.

Q. Do you know if they came from Georgia? Where were they from?
A. Oh, they were from Georgia. Good old Georgia crackers.

Q. Well, Pompano used to have a lot of Georgia crackers.
A. I guess so.

Q. Then, in fact, the Hardy's were the first permanent settlers here then?
A. Well, as far as my knowledge is, the first ones who came here and settled and stayed. I'm pretty positive of it. Right behind us came the McNab family the same year. And what time they got here after we got here, I don't... They settled on the beach, too. And the Griffin family came right along then. When the Griffin family got here, it could have been the early part of 1900. They didn't stay. They stayed a while and moved on.

Q. And they were from Georgia, also?
A. I don't know where they were from, really. I don't know where the McNab's were from, but I believe they came fr... Q. From North Carolina.
A. They were? The McNab's? I didn't really know.

Q. Well, they moved here from the center part of the state of Florida.
A. My folks came from North Carolina, and they go back for generations, to the Revolutionary War.

Q. So, then, there be would the Hardy's, and then the McNab's and the Griffin's?
A. You might say they were the first three families that stayed.

Q. Right.
A. In the beginning. Of course, they began to come in here, then. People began to come in slowly.

Q. And everybody wanted to farm?
A. All farmed.

Q. And can you remember anybody after the Hardy's, McNab's and Griffin's? Early, real early? Say, the Smoak's? Were they here real early?
A. Not that early, no. They came later. Well, not too later. I'll really take that back. Mr. Smoak, the grandfather, or great-grandfather, he would be now, he and his wife were here. They came, I believe, because their son-in-law was a section foreman on the railroad.

Q. Do you remember his name, the grandfather's?
A. I don't know. The Smoak's would all know that. He helped us build our home. I just wanted to pick up a while ago and tell you that we stayed in this little house until our lumber was floated down here, and we started building right away.

Q. When you say it was floated down, do you mean it came on a boat?
A. I think most of it was floated by water, some would have been on a boat. Floated like a raft.

Q. That was floated from Hypoluxo, was it?
A. Hypoluxo.

Q. And when that lumber came in...?
A. We started to build the house.

Q. Did you build by Lake Barbara? Santa Barbara?
A. Oh, yes, we built close to this little house I was telling you about. Maybe a half block on the creek, right on Cypress Creek.

Q. Do you know about how long you lived there? Until you were grown?
A. Our first house, my father built a two story, and it burnt when I was about 16.

Q. That would be about 1910 or '11, that period? You were born in 1895.
A. I think I'd have been a little older, wouldn't I?

Q. Well, 1895 to 1911 would make you 16.
A. I was about 16, I'll say, about 16 when the house burnt up.

Q. And where did you move to?
A. Well, I was off at school.

Q. Where did you go to school?
A. At that time I was going to school in Delray.

Q. And, that was a high school, wasn't it?
A. Yeah, there was none here; there was none here at all, no high school.

Q. Do you remember the name of the second teacher? You said that Mrs. George O. Butler was the first teacher.
A. I think, if I remember rightly, the second teacher, I believe her name was...
Firchcoff. And the next teacher was Miss Tucker.
Q. Miss Tucker? Did you know Miss Firchcoff? Do you have any idea how that word is spelled? Or where she was from?
A. No, I don't.
Q. Did you like her?
A. Oh, yes. I had to like her because she boarded with us, and so did Miss Tucker. Better like 'em. No, they were very nice people.
Q. Were they young, real young?
A. Oh, yes, very young.
Q. They weren't married, of course?
A. Neither one of them was married.
Q. Do you remember Miss Tucker's first name?
A. No.
Q. Do you know where she was from?
A. Miami. Married later in Miami and lived there until she died.
Q. Do you know how old you were when you first went to school? You indicated that you came here when you were four. Was it probably two or three years before they started a school?
A. It must have been. I really don't know. But, I must have been around six, or close to six, but I'm merely guessing. Maybe, in two years there were eight children here.
Q. Of course, the Hardy's furnished, as you said, a lot of them.
A. Maybe one or two of the McNab children went to school.
Q. Your oldest brother, how old would he have been when you came here?
A. I don't know, but he was grown.
Q. Oh, so he wouldn't be one that went to school?
A. Oh, no.
Q. Your father now farmed. Did you have to work on the farm?
A. No, sir. My mother or I, neither one worked on the farm.
Q. Neither did your sister? Just the boys worked the farm?
A. Just the boys, only.
Q. How did your father take his farm products to the railroad station and ship them from there?
A. I actually don't know how they got them there first. But I do remember some big lighters pulling up to our docks and loading vegetables from some of the farmers around and taking them to Fort Lauderdale, I presume, to be shipped to the Clyde Line in Miami. Later, maybe then, I really don't know how, by railroad. They were taken on down by railroad.
Q. Were people coming in? When they came here to Pompano in the beginning, did they come by railroad or by boat, or both? By wagon?
A. Some did, and some came by train because ... At first, the train was pulling nothing but the last coach, the caboose. And then, later, they put on one little car for passengers.
Q. Did you leave here at any time when you were young, to take a trip, say, up to North Carolina?
A. My mother and I went to North Carolina when I was 11 years old.
Q. Of course, you went by train?
A. Oh, yes.
Q. There's a story around, you can verify this, that some ships would lose lumber from over their deck, and that lumber would float ashore, and people from this area would go out on the beach and would save it until they got enough to build a house. Do you recall anything like this?
A. Well, every ship that wrecked out there, and there were several, would have stuff, naturally, that washed ashore. All kinds of stuff. Canvas and rope and lumber and everything.
Q. Whoever got there and put it in his possession would own it, in fact?
A. And unless you put it up, I think they said, legally, if you put it way up above the highwater mark, you could claim it. One time, a ship wrecked out there loaded with cross ties and they all washed ashore. And the people rushed to get them to sell and dragged them above the highwater line and nobody touched them but the people that...
Q. Why would anyone want to buy a cross tie, to make a fence?
A. I don't know.
Q. I suppose those cross ties would be railroad ties?
A. Oh, yes, they were railroad cross ties, definitely railroad cross ties.
Q. Did you ever have any contact with the Indians?
A. All the time. They always camped on our creek, right there where our house was.
Q. How far were you from the beach, would you say? Would you go swimming?
A. Well, if we got in a rowboat... If me and my sister got in one rowboat and two of my brothers got in the other rowboat, and we raced to the line at what we called the Indian mound, which was the beach, I'd say we would be there in 15 minutes, whichever one got there first.

Q. Did you go there often to swim?
A. Oh, yes, that was the place to go. Everybody went. We were raised on the beach and creek.

Q. Of course that meant that you probably got sunburned. If you got a sunburn, what would you do? You didn't have the modern lotions that we have now. You would just have to live through it until you got better or until your skin peeled?

A. Well, going back to that many years ago, women didn't go around sleeveless like they do today. And you wore big palmetto hats.

Q. Did you ever have any trade with the Indians?
A. Yes, my father, at one time while we were living there, ran a small grocery store just for a very few months; he had vinegar, and flour, and meal, and sugar, and lard, and not much more than that. And the Indians made great demand, for meal especially. They used a lot of meal.

Q. To make cornbread?
A. They would come in and tell my father how much they wanted and say: "We bring you in a piece of venison to pay for it." So, they would bring him in a backstrip. That was what my father wanted, a backstrip. This was deer meat. Well, a backstrip is a long strip just like a pork chop strip is today. You cut it up just like you do a pork chop. And, we had to carry it to school in our lunch boxes 'til we got tired of venison.

Q. You mean it was like pork chops?
A. Yes, it was just every day when the venison was there, we had more venison than our... 

Q. You made sandwiches out it?
A. No, no. It was put down in the bottom of the lunch box on whatever was down underneath it, hot grits or left-over rice. 

Q. That's interesting. What were some of
the things you took to school for your lunch? Grits?
A. Always a piece of meat. My father believed in everybody having a piece of meat, if it was nothing but a little strip of bacon. So, I guess we were fairly well nursed to be pioneers. And, sometimes down in the bottom of our lunch box would be grits or maybe a strip of venison on top of it, or a piece of ham. And, there was always a biscuit, and when we got to where we could get jelly, the biscuit would have seagrape jelly between it. Got tired of that, too.
Q. Was there anything you didn't get tired of? Did you have cheese here?
A. Oh, yes, we had rat-trap cheese. That finally came in later.
Q. Rat-trap cheese? What does that mean?
A. Rat-trap cheese is the best cheese you could buy anywhere. That's not for sale today, that I know. It's a great big cheese like this, and when we got grocery stores when more people were here, you'd go in and order a piece of rat-trap cheese cut off. "And how much do you want?" "Oh, maybe a pound. How much is it?" "Oh, about 15 cents." And everybody had rat-trap cheese. You just bought a piece and they cut it off a big round. Well, they do it today, too, but they don't have that good old rat-trap cheese.
Q. It had a good flavor?
A. Oh, delicious, best cheese you ever ate.
Q. Now, I gather from what you said, your father may have been the first store proprietor here.
A. No, no. Mr. McNab on the beach had the first post office and the first store.
Q. And it was on the beach?
A. Mr. Harry, on the beach. When I say "on the beach," it was right on where Cypress Creek went to the beach, to the Indian mound. We always, when we say "the beach by the water," we always say "landing at the Indian mound."
Q. That Indian mound is still there?
A. Oh, yes, it's still there.
Q. If you go down A1A today, can you see that Indian mound?
A. There's a sign there. It should be there pointing toward it.
Q. Of course, that was because the first settlement was right around that Indian mound?
A. Absolutely, on the beach. Between there and the ocean, itself.
Q. The Indians, did you ever have any... what would they be doing there?
A. Well, they hunted and camped all over south Florida, wherever they wanted to go to fish or hunt or anything. But, later, when we got to picking tomatoes, they would come in and ask permission to camp. My father didn't care how long they camped. They never gave us any trouble at all; the squaws would pick our tomatoes.
Q. Did they pick them on shares, or did you pay them by the hour?
A. No, my father paid them in cold cash. I don't know what they paid 'em. I guess they picked them by crate or bushel basket. I really don't remember that.
Q. Would you say that there were as many as 30 or 40 Indians here at one time? That many?
A. No, I think counting the children and all that, about the biggest camp was probably about 15. Didn't that many travel together.
Q. When you saw a camp, how'd they
sleep? Did they have a tent of some kind? Or, did they sleep out in the open?
A. They could throw up something in no time short.
Q. They just cut down some trees? Make themselves shacks?
A. Made out of those palmetto limbs.
Q. Do you recall who built the first school here? First school building?
A. Whoever lived here, I guess. I really don't know, but they must have got together and built it. I can tell you where it was. It was right out where the old cemetery is.
Q. Where the old cemetery is? Now we have two cemeteries; where we have the white people and the black people.
A. This is the old part, the old part.
Q. White or black? They're right together, anyway.
A. Well, what you call the colored cemetery. Right in there was nothing but wilderness at that time. We had... I don't know who done it, but the Model Land Company had someone do it up. We cleared off the place for the cemetery. That's where the old cemetery is today. That's where I first went to school.
Q. Do you remember what grades they had to begin with in the school?
A. I think they tried to teach to the sixth grade. None above that for a long time.
Q. Now, this is going away down in history, but would you remember when they actually started a high school here? When the high school first was established in Pompano? That is, say, the ninth grade?
A. Well, I was away to school. They didn't go any further than the sixth grade; so, I went away to school for two years.
Q. You boarded up there, then?
A. Oh, yes, I boarded in Delray. I lived with a family up there in Delray.
Q. Were they friends of your family or just some people...
A. No, they were just recommended to my family by an old good family friend called the Sunday's and they settled in Delray, too, by the way, the Sunday's did.
Q. Of course, you had to eat to live, and you ate from your garden mostly? Your vegetables, and you had some venison meat. What else would you have, as a pioneer, to eat?
A. Well, now, I'm not talking about stuff like meal, lard and flour. I'm talking about the land. Is that what you're asking about?
Q. Both. Off the land and also what you could buy at the store.
A. You know, in those days you couldn't get a whole lot of stuff at the store. But, you had enough to have...
Q. You'd have corn meal, flour, salt...
A. Oh, yeah, everybody had corn meal, flour, lard and you had all of that.
Q. And some canned goods?
A. Later. Not when we first got here, but later we could order canned goods out of Jacksonville. And a lot of stuff came in wooden boxes from Jacksonville.
Q. You ordered that specially?
A. My father ordered it.
Q. So, you didn't buy it through the store. You really bought it from the company in Jacksonville.
A. Well, the stores at that time didn't have a whole lot.
Q. So, Mr. McNab's store could furnish you with only a few things?
A. Yes, but he didn't keep the store for too long before he didn't have a store either.
Q. He was farming at the same time?
A. Oh, yeah, everybody farmed. But, to get back to where what we ate... As I said, outside of the things that came from the store, we lived off the land. What we ate from off the land was our garden, and we always had a big garden, and wild stuff and fish. Fish! Fish! Fish! And wild turkey. And venison, and quails, and doves, and little butterballs. Today, nobody knows what a butterball is.
Q. What is a butterball?
A. It's a little bird that comes down in the fall and is so fat, until if you were to fry them you would fill the frying pan full of grease. And we loved them because they were little fellows and they would be crisp when you got through frying them.
Q. Like French fries?
A. They don't fly down anymore. It's a bird.
Q. When you say "turkey," that meant you didn't have to go so far away to shoot your own game?
A. Right here where I live, right here at 19 NE 15th Avenue, one Christmas my brother shot four turkeys, and we had one in the yard. We had five turkeys; we didn't know what to do with them.
Q. Five turkeys at Christmas time?
FAR LEFT: "Uncle" Jim Pierce, circa 1930. (HARDY COLLECTION)
LEFT: "Aunt" Di Newbold in early 1900s worked on Hardy farm. (HC)
TOP: Lucius S. Warren, Sr., 1913, in his Metz. (HC)
BOTTOM: Pompano Community Church, c. 1910. Mr. T.H. Chapman, Sr., wearing derby. (CHAPMAN COL)
A. But, we just distributed them all around the neighborhood where some didn't have turkey that Christmas.

Q. Then, so you had all these different types of game, and then you had, from your farm, cabbage, tomatoes, pepper and, say, some sweet corn?
A. Seagrappes, cabbage. Palmetto cabbage was common in those days. Everybody ate it.

Q. What else would you have in your garden? How about some stringbeans?
A. My father always grew stringbeans. But, we didn't know that Pompano was going to become the bean capital at that time. 'Cause we didn't grow beans. And never did grow beans commercially, but always in our garden we had plenty. Anything just about you can mention we had in our garden.

Q. People later on, though, did take up beans?
A. The ones that started the beans commercially lived across the railroad track.

Q. West of the railroad track?
A. That's where they grew.

Q. How long have you been living in this location at 19 NE 15th Avenue?
A. I believe we moved here in 1924.

Q. And you married in 19... ?
A. Have to stop and think when married now. I married in 1913.

Q. And your husband was from...
A. Georgia.

Q. That's Lucius S. Warren. Do you remember what place in Georgia he was from?
A. Blackshear.

Q. Yes, in south Georgia. He got down here early, too. Did he go to school here?
A. Oh, no. He was seven years older than me, and when he came here he was just a young man. I think he came in 1905.

Q. That was still pretty early, 1905. A. And he lived with his brother who had been section foreman and then they moved down later where the race track, the Pompano Race Track sprung up, and farmed out there. That was all farm land out there. And he lived with his sister and his brother-in-law out there after his brother quit being section foreman. And then there was a little boom and a lot of people built fairly nice houses on the railroad track. I believe that two of them are still standing.

Q. On both sides, or on just one side?
A. Both sides. But, 'specially on the west. Three or four houses very much alike. So, his brother-in-law bought one of those and he lived there with his brother-in-law until we married.

Q. Do you know who built the first roads?
A. No, there were dirt roads for so long 'til I don't remember that.

Q. We have a picture of you in a buggy. For some time you used a horse and buggy, here?
A. Oh, yes, horses and wagons, horses and buggies.

Q. Do you remember the first car you ever saw? Did it make a big impression on you?
A. I don't remember the first car I ever saw, but the first car my husband owned was in 1912. And, before we were married, there was so much heavy white sand, we called it in those days, between our house and where you had to drive through the dirt road to get to it, was this little pineapple patch. And, the sand was so heavy there, my family laughed about this, my husband would get that far coming to our house. And, the boys would have to go down and push his car through this pineapple patch which was maybe 50 or 100 feet or something like that.

Q. You say pineapple? That recalls to mind that Mr. Sample was a pineapple grower. Were you aware of that?
A. So many people that lived on the railroad track grew pineapples.

Q. So, that was a common crop here?
A. Oh, yes, very common.

Q. But your family never got into growing pineapples?
A. Not commercially.

Q. But, perhaps, for the table you might have?
A. Yes, we always had pineapples for the table.

Q. Oh, that was part of your garden then, the pineapples were part of your garden?
A. Yes.

Q. I suppose people loved pineapples? Or was it something you had to eat, like cabbage and corn?
A. About the only food in the very beginning was seagrappes and pineapples, and gradually mangoes came in, avocados came
in, and so forth.
Q. How about guavas?
A. Yes, there was plenty of guavas in the beginning, I'd forgotten about that.
Q. They kind of grew wild, didn't they?
A. I don't think so. No, I don't think so.
Q. Did seagrapes grow wild?
A. Oh, yes, they still do.
Q. It was quite an operation to transfer seagrapes into jelly. There was a lot of work involved in that. Did you ever make any?
A. Yes, sir, plenty of it.
Q. Did you have cows to give butter?
A. Never had a cow. I never saw a cow 'til I was a pretty good size girl, at least eight years old before I ever laid eyes on one.
Q. Later on, some people used to keep cows in their backyard?
A. A family moved in here with 8 cows.
Q. That was almost enough for a small dairy, then. I read a newspaper article about Ollie Tinney, whom you knew. She said that in 1914 there were about 15 cars in Pompano. So, that means that your husband had one of the 15 cars. Do you remember what kind of car he had?
A. Oh, yes, Metz. I think it was spelled "Meth."
Q. Sounds like it might be a German car.
A. I don't know. Usually, at night, you got out and pumped up the lights, and then you opened a little door or something and lit them, and that was that stuff under pressure. What did you use in those days?
Q. Probably carbide.
A. Something like that.
Q. Carbide lights? So, you married in 1913? And you had how many children?
A. I had one child; he was born in 1915.
Q. That was Luke?
A. Lucius S. Warren, Jr.
Q. And your brothers had their families here? And they grew up and stayed here?
A. Yes.
Q. That means that [your] father and mother are buried here, then?
A. Yes.
Q. And all your brothers are now deceased? And you're the only one left of your family?
A. I'm the only one left in the Hardy family of the older settlers.
Q. They're all buried here?
A. Not all of them. My oldest brother is buried out at one of the memorial gardens out of Fort Lauderdale. And another brother, who moved to Palm Beach, was postmaster up there for a long time.
Q. Was that Mack?
A. And Mack is buried in Crescent City.
Q. How about Gene?
A. Anna and Gene and Clara and my folks are buried out here in the old cemetery.
Q. I understand that Gene was Eugene E. Hardy, who had one of the first automobile agencies in this area.
A. He had the first thing that even went into anything like that, which was a bicycle shop. Well, at that time I don't think they knew about automobiles. But, they did right away.
Q. If you had a bicycle, how could you ride a bicycle through sand?
A. Evidently by then there must have been a little rock here 'n there along the roads.
Q. The first roads were rock?
A. I don't remember what year.
Q. I remember that picture you have of 1912 shows you in a buggy. Was that on a rock road?
A. Yes, it was a rock road; it was about this wide.
Q. Do you remember Mr. T. Sol Bevil?
A. Oh, yes.
Q. And was he a pioneer down here?
The Bride Slapped Mosquitoes

By BEVERLEY MORALES
(Sun-Sentinel Women’s Editor)

It wasn’t moonlight through the palms that lured South Florida’s pioneers—it was the rich mucklands.

The Gold Coast was no place for a honeymoon in 1900. You couldn’t ambush on the sand because no roads led to the beach. And you didn’t dare gaze at the moon; mosquitoes were so thick you had to “srape them off your arms.”

Where now jungles now broken, it was the real thing. When you traveled — beyond your own yard — you either walked or rowed, Roland Hardy remembers.

Mrs. R. A. McNab, who did come to Pompano Beach as a bride in 1912, remembers early horse and buggy trips to Ft. Lauderdale—an all-day undertaking.

“We started out at 7 a.m. and got there two and one-half hours later.”

The same climate that has turned the Gold Coast into a romantic paradise emptied it of its 1890s. Most early settlers used mosquito netting; the screen lath was hard to get.

She once tried to go with her late husband to meet a train bringing in a mule from Jacksonville.

“The mosquitoes were so thick I could rake them off my arms like sand,” she recalls. “I had to turn back.”

“My husband built a small house in the yard to keep them from eating the smile that night.”

Mrs. McNab was headed to the annual dinner of the Pompano Beach “Ninety-Niners” under very different circumstances this week in her 1936 E. Atlantic Blvd. home. The “Niners” are 11 persons who arrived here before 1900, or married someone who did.

Pompano Beach’s “Ninety-Niners” meet but once a year. For membership, one must have arrived in North Broward County before 1900 — or married someone who did.

As a bride, Mrs. McNab set up housekeeping with only screen lath between her and the bloodthirsty hordes of mosquitoes. Most early settlers used mosquito netting; the screen lath was hard to get.

The bride in 1912, remembers early horse and buggy trips to Ft. Lauderdale—an all-day undertaking.

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They were farmers.

Among earliest residents still living here are Roland Hardy and his sister, Mrs. L. S. Warren. They arrived in July, 1909, when there were only eight White people in the area.

Like other Gold Coast pioneers, they were truck farmers. Tomatoes, at first, “hardy remember. Later, farmers raised green beans—and, still later, peppers.

“We farmed the mucklands. Now, the farmers have been pushed back in the sand lands.”

The rich muckland yielded many more bushels per acre of crops than sand.

Chief opponent of the early farmer was “the elements.” Mostly cold — it seemed like we had more cold then, than now, although I don’t suppose we did.”

Wagon and Team

Mrs. Oscar K. Johnson, who also arrived in 1899, remembers spending all night in the depot with her father, mother and sister, while they waited for a wagon to take them to their new beach house. A “Florida cracker,” this hardy pioneer moved south from Tampa.

A pioneer housewife didn’t have an easy time of it in South Florida. There was no ice. And no way to keep fresh meat.

“We used to put our meat orders through on the freight train to West Palm Beach. They packed as much meat as possible in with a 100-pound cake of ice in sawdust.”

When the order arrived, Mrs. McNab divided hers with a neighbor — ice, meat, sawdust and all. The meat would stay good two or three days.

But, everything isn’t modern, in these pioneers.

“Fashions are going back! to what they used to be when I was 12 years old — they called them ‘hobble skirts,’ then,” Mrs. Johnson comments.

Mrs. W. H. McNab Sr., who also came here as a bride in 1912, is the widow of the organizer of the “Niners.” Others include Mrs. Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. George Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hardy, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Warren.
A. Oh, yes. He came in as a pioneer, but lived... You know, there's an old saying: "Where're you from in Pompano?" "I'm from the muck." "Where're you from?" "I'm from the railroad track." They used to say that a lot to show where you lived.

And Bevil settled up at the railroad track.

Q. Where would "muck" be? Out toward the beach?

A. "Muck" was out where we lived. We lived near the beach.

Q. Then, "muck" was the beach and the railroad track would be on higher ground? That is, sandy ground.

A. It was all sandy ground until they put some rock down.

Q. Do you remember the first church here?

A. The first church services that I remember were held in our living room.

Q. Was that a community church?

A. No, it was no church, no church. A preacher, a travelling preacher would come and that was where we would have a little service. He would stay maybe a week. Then, we started having services in the schoolhouse. And, then, from the schoolhouse they built what we called a community church uptown. "Uptown" was up there close to the railroad track. And that stayed a community church for quite a while and then it was made a Methodist Church. And it was a Methodist Church when the storm blew it down.

Q. The 1926 Hurricane? When you say travelling minister, would they be Baptist, Methodist, or...?

A. This travelling minister that I'm particularly speaking about was, in the very beginning, was Baptist.

Q. So, he would just come through here and you would let the word out that the minister was here and people would come to your house and you would have a worship service there. Would that be on more than just one Sunday?

A. He would probably be here a week. And we would probably have service on Sunday and then have services on some of the nights until he left. He usually stayed a week. Maybe, not always.

Q. Was he given anything besides his room and board?

A. Oh, yes. They would take up a donation. Just a donation. Pass the hat around every service.

Q. Do you remember any fires? Anybody's house burn down?

A. Our house burnt down.

Q. That's right. Your house burnt down when you were about 16?

A. About 16.

Q. And, then, your father, of course, built another house?

A. Yes. If you want it, I've got a picture of our house that we built after our house burnt down.

Q. So, what year would that be? You said it burned down when you were about 16?

A. Well, I can't tell you the exact year. But, it was a... we came here in '99 and I was four. I was about 16. I don't know exactly how old I was.

Q. So, then, you have a picture of the new house, the one your father built?

A. Yes, I was just going to show it to you. I didn't know whether you wanted it or not.

Q. Oh, yes definitely. Your father, did he ever spank the children? Did he believe in spanking?

A. No, not too much. That was left to my mother.

Q. She believed in it?

A. Once or twice he had to get after one of the children, the boys. But, not very often.

Q. Your mother didn't spare the rod?

A. There was nobody spoil it. There were too many of us. Couldn't afford to.

Q. There were about seven of you?

A. Twelve of them married. This was in Blackshear.

Q. So, what she was referring to was when they still lived in Georgia?

A. That's right. I just mentioned it be-
cause in those days you didn't, you didn't say anything the second time. You started using your switch or your paddle or your hand.

Q. The railroad was tremendously important. I'm sure you'll agree with that. Did you ever just go down to meet the train, or to see it go through? Or, was that something you didn't bother with?
A. If you were in town and the train went through, you'd naturally look at it. But after I was married, I lived on the railroad track.

Q. So, you didn't move directly from the railroad track to here?
A. No.

Q. Did you ever see any hard times? Or, was it all hard times?
A. The early days, I think were all hard times. But, in a way, when I say hard times, we had plenty to eat because we were in the land of plenty. So, I wouldn't call that hard times, really.

Q. Was slapping mosquitos and things like that, I ask you. Did you have coal lamps?
A. We had wood stoves in the kitchen. Big wood stoves in the kitchen.

Q. So, you cooked your meals there?
A. Our wood stove in the kitchen had a big oven and it had to be big, my father would step out the back door to the creek and he would hear the ducks coming in in the winter and he just lay down on the bank with his gun and shot into them and knocked them down, 16 or maybe 18, however many he could get with a shot. But we had, all of us, to dress 'em. And my mother would stuff them. Then everybody had a piece or more.

Q. How did you preserve your food? Did you smoke any of your food?
A. No.

Q. So, you had to eat that perishable food right away or it was gone for good?
A. Right. Right.

Q. Later on, do you remember anyone that had kerosene routes, who went around in a truck and came by your house and filled up your can? Did you ever have anything like that here?
A. No. As near as I can remember, we always went to the store for kerosene.

Q. That meant quite a few trips to the store, unless you had a large can, I assume?
A. Yes.

Q. When did your husband die? Mr. Warren. What year was that?
A. He died after Christmas in 1967.

Q. But before 1968.
A. Just about two days before 1968.

Q. And you've lived here 12 years by yourself?
A. Yes.

Q. Now, are you going to move over to the Masonic home in St. Petersburg?
A. Yes.

Q. The reason why you're going to the Masonic home is because your husband was very active in the Masonic Order?
A. Right.

Q. Were you involved in the ladies' side of masonry?
A. Oh, yes. I'm a charter member and a life member of the Pompano Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Q. When you say you're a charter member, how far back do you go?
A. I think we were constituted in 1931.
Q. In one of the pictures you showed me, you were sitting on the Woman's Club
building porch. I believe you said this was taken in 1912. You said that William Jennings Bryan was here and delivered the message the day the club building was dedicated?
A. Yes.
Q. That was some honor for Pompano to get a man of his stature, a world famous man. How did you manage that? Who had the influence?
A. I presume that Mr. Flagler had a lot to do with it because the trains came in from Miami and Fort Pierce hauling anybody that wanted to come to the speaking, and carried them back the same day. And there were a lot of people here that came to hear William Jennings Bryan.
Q. Did you hear what he said? Did he make a big impression on you?
A. Well, truthfully, my beau had come down from Delray and he played in the band. And I'm afraid that I was too interested in other things besides remembering what William Jennings Bryan said.
Q. That wasn't Mr. Warren, was it?
A. No.
Q. No? That was another beau? Do you remember who built the Woman's Club building? Do you remember some of the people involved in it?
A. The Woman's Club built it.
Q. Can you mention some of the charter members?
A. Since I've been looking through things ... I had that little book when I was a member of it after I was married; it had some of the old names in it. But, there was Mrs. Smoak, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Wyse, Mrs. Harry and, off-hand now, it's too late for me to remember all of them.
Q. Were you a charter member?
A. Oh, no. I didn't join 'til after I was married.
Q. Was there ever a clique in Pompano? By that I mean the well-to-do here and the poor people over there. Was there the kind of feeling in Pompano that you had the people who had the power, the influence, and the big money farmers? Did these stick together?
A. Not in the early days. Not in the early days. Later on through the years, some of the farmers were lucky and became very successful and some did not become so successful.
Q. And some of those that became so successful... Was Bud Lyons from here?
A. Very successful. The Blount brothers were very successful.
Q. And who else would you put in ...?
A. Well, there were more than I can remember right now.
Q. The McNab's, were they ...?
A. The McNab's were very successful, too. I'm about finished.
Q. Well, I want to thank you Aunt Betty Warren. You've taken your time on this cold day. I think the thermometer was 40° this morning. And, we're sitting in your kitchen before your stove. You're cooking your lunch, aren't you? I can smell it and it smells very good here. Is there anything you want to say? That is, that you would like to have recorded on this tape?
A. I really don't have anything more to say. It seems like I've said an awful lot.
Q. Are you sad about leaving Pompano? A. Naturally. I'm sad about breaking up my house where I've been 54 years. Breaking up a house is unbelievable.
Q. It's difficult. It's tough.
A. Especially when it's permanent.
Q. It brings back a lot of memories of the past, doesn't it?
A. Many of them.
Q. Thank you very much.

POST SCRIPT
After the tape was turned off, Mrs. Warren volunteered the following bits of information. The ship COPENHAGEN wrecked off Pompano Beach when Mrs. Warren was a young girl, about in the year 1902. The crew brought ashore articles to sell. Her father bought the ship's bell which was so heavy it required two men to carry it. Mr. Hardy hung the bell in his yard and used it to call his sons in from the fields. Later, it was stolen.

The present Pompano Park is the site of the original Hardy home. Its location was at SE 7 Street and 23 Avenue. The old cemetery is the site of the first school building.

For many years, Mrs. Warren's husband farmed and, in addition, operated a grocery store when they were married. Later he travelled for a wholesale grocery company before opening a farmers supply business, which he sold after a few years. Subsequently, he went to work for the Agricultural Department of the State of Florida and, upon quitting this position, he retired.