

Notes 141N, Copy 2

Miss Mary Kate O'Bryon

Uniontown, Pennsylvania

February 4, 1960

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Interview with Miss Mary Kate O'Bryon, at her home, 117 Lafayette Street, Uniontown, Penna., by Forrest C. Pogue, Feb 4, 1960.

Tells of house where Thompsons lived across from Marshall home on West Main. House where Thompsons lived was joined onto the one still standing which has a new front on it. Parking lot and filling station on part of lot where Thompson place was. South Street back of it has been extended since they lived there (or is it Lafayette Street that was extended)?

The house really belonged to Miss Minnie Redburn, daughter of James R. Redburn, president of the bank. She was humpback. Told her suitor to marry someone else and have children. Mr. Redburn got his niece, Mary Anderson, to come as a companion to Miss Redburn. J. V. Thompson married Mary Anderson and came to live in the Redburn house. Children called Miss Redburn "Aunt Minnie." In 1896 Mary Thompson told she had about a month to live. She told the family let us make it a good month; don't be sad. Then "Aunt Minnie" took over the charge of the children.

About the time Mrs. Thompson died there was a cloudburst and an old cabin jammed the creek. Water was four feet in our basement. I remember being brought home.

(The part of a house which was attached to Thompson's and which is still standing was that of L. L. Minor). The only house standing as it was then is the Macrae house near the White Swan.

On site of Marshall house is V.F.W. building. Filling station is on west side of yard. The stable would have been to the back, east of the house. Creek is much the same as in those days. Honey locust tree is down. Tried to save seedling for George. Fruit trees gone.

There was a stable in back of Thompson home too.

Gilmore place is now part of Mt. Vernon motel. Had marble mantels which an architect is supposed to have offered \$10,000 apiece for. A. W. Bliss stayed at Gilmore's. Thinks that Marshalls kept there as a favor; Gilmores didn't have to keep boarders.

Marshalls never bought a place.

Gadd blacksmith shop set back from the street 25 or 30 feet. Next to hotel. Llewellyn wagon works nearby.

Marshalls probably ate at Brunswick hotel.

Scraps for dog came from Titlow Hotel. Then she said it couldn't be because that was built in 1905, but said maybe there was another hotel there before.

Does not recall a trial in which Mr. Marshall gave evidence. Tries to explain a case which may have been confused with it. Says she will get information.

Mrs. Conrad told the story of the chicken and waffle supper and George getting scared which Frye has. Frye stayed with Millers and talked with Alex Mead. Didn't talk to Mary Kate.

South Street not extended until 1921.

Judge Ewing very old. Attorney for B and O. Fought city when it attempted to get gates at tracks. Seemed like retribution when he was killed. Several lawyers in his family. Son was a lawyer. Billy was the grandson. Several judges in the family. Billy's father also a judge. Billy died young.

Stuart Marshall—not at all like George. Much neater features. George C Marshall Sr. was portly. I never thought he was pompous after he and my father rode with several of us on a large sled down Hospital Hill. I told George once I bet he never rode with his father and he said he had. Thinks Stuart got angry at the others because they got more of their mother's estate. Says Stuart went with Lilly Coles. May have been a factor. She was older than George.

First manufacture of coal tar derivatives in US at Dunbar. Stuart Marshall was head chemist. Remembers one Sunday going to church which John Wanamaker or H.J. Heinz conducted. So excited she gave her last \$1 to collection. Shortly afterwards was asked by lawyer if she wanted to go to Dunbar and take information. Dunbar going into bankruptcy. Got \$40. Matter of casting bread on the waters. Talked to Stuart Marshall--she wrote article--Stuart read proofs. Saw him some years later; he looked shabby.

Alex Mead--Mrs. Bliss' nephew.

De Saulles was apparently active manager.

Mary Kate did newspaper work for years (1908-19) and then was advertising manager for Metzler's.

Mrs. Robert Carson, a Ewing, lived in Washington, D. C.

In gathering data for the ad on Gen Marshall, I called the older Shepley girl (Mary Shepley, J. V. Thompson's niece). Her sister told of George being caught on picket fence and told me about Flicker. Thinks Mrs. Carson gave the two stories. Frye wrong in saying that I named in Flicker or that Helen Houston and I ran after the boys when we were little. I was at the Marshalls or Thompsons very little after I was six, because I had to help with my little brother. Other Shepley was Eva.

I worked hard on the ad. The people organizing the affair didn't know George. I didn't want him to have a cold welcome. Wanted to work up some warmth, so I asked people about him. He had been standoffish. Doubt if more than 20 out of the 300 at the dinner knew him as a boy. Talked to people like Jap Shepler. He was Thompson's nephew. Ad accomplished its purpose. George also played up the old days. Fine warmth. Metzler's got good reaction.

George's mother carried herself with same stiffness of shoulders as Queen Mary. Thinks George would be pleased to hear me say she was like that.

Circuses would have been where the high school now stands--out Lafayette Street--or on top of Morgantown Hill. Saw Buffalo Bill about 1900 on Morgantown Hill. Later my father and others bought plot out back of hospital and held circuses and things there.

Says story about r. r. crossing street at night correct. Was B and O.

At this point she recalls that the Marshalls remodeled their house in the 1890s and put in a bathroom.

Fred Hallow was coachman and man of all work for Mrs. Bliss. Did jobs for others.

Thinks Alfred Hopkins was name of young man who ran school.

Ball team called McCormick's Amateurs. W. C. McCormick and Dr. Altman involved. In 1892 played at end of Coal Spring and Connellsville Street. (Henry Brooks would know about this--McCormick was his uncle).