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REMINISCENCES

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OF

CLYDE STANLEY

Stanley, Clyde M.

Interview by Dr. John E. Saffell March 25, 1976

Prepared by the Rodman Public Library for the Oral History Project, Alliance, Ohio.

1978





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SAFFELL: Now Mr. Stanley where were you born?

STANLEY: I was born in Beloit, Ohio. North of Beloit on a farm near the East Goshen Church. But our, well I guess our, we did our shopping at Beloit, mostly, and once in a while we got our mail part of the time up at Snodes Station.

SAFFELL: Now let's see, about when were youbborn?

STANLEY: In 1889.

SAFFELL: In 1889. What was your father's name?

STANLEY: Micajah, Micajah B. Stanley.

SAFFELL: Micajah B. Stanley.

STANLEY: Micajah B. Stanley.

SAFFELL: And what was your mother's maiden name?

STANLEY: Crew. And they lived down by Lynchburg, Augusta.

SAFFELL: Now about when did your family come to this country?

I wonder. Do you have any idea about it?

STANLEY: Oh, Thomas Stanley came over to this country, uh,

I can't tell you the date.

SAFFELL: It would be pretty early though, like the 1700's would you say?

STANLEY: I suspect, but I'm not sure.

SAFFELL: Now , you're of British background aren't you?

STANLEY: Well, mainly. Yeah.

SAFFELL: Now, let's see you had, I know of two sisters.

Did you have a brother?

STANLEY: Yes. A brother Harris. He's in Copeland Oaks now. And a brother Morris, who is in Denver, Colorado. And then I have a sister Blanche in Beloit and a sister Rea who died a few years ago.

SAFFELL: Oh, I see. Well now you, as you say you grew up in the Beloit area. You lived there.

STANLEY: Beloit, until I was ready for high school, Damascus Academy and my dad's health failed, so we rented the farm, and we bought a house in Damascus, and we moved over there. And he lived about a year.

SAFFELL: Issee.

STANLEY: Then my mother had the responsibility of five kids. And I was the oldest of the five.

SAFFELL: Now how old were you when your father died?

STANLEY: Well something like 13 or 14.

SAFFELL: Well that would have been a real challenge for

her.

STANLEY: Oh, a big challenge for her. And we had, financially we were in pretty fair condition. But she took in some sewing and got some money that way. And she pretty near always had a school teacher rooming, living there with us.

SAFFELL: Let's see. What was your religous background?

STANLEY: Friends.

SAFFELL: You were Friends. That was a great Friends community.

STANLEY: Oh yes.

SAFFELL: Over through there. Well now you went to school, elementary school would this be right in....

STANLEY: I went to elementary school when we was on the farm. And that was Beechridge.

SAFFELL: Beechridge.

STANLEY: North of Beloit, between Beloit and Snodes.

SAFFELL: That would be a one room school.

STANLEY: That's right. That's right.

SAFFELL: You have pretty fond memories of the effectivness of the one room school?

STANLEY: Oh well, sure, yes.

SAFFELL: Many people today seem to think that we're getting back to something like that with the open classrooms.

STANLEY: Well, maybe.

SAFFELL: Then you went to high school, where did you go?

STANLEY: Well, I went to Damascus Academy.

SAFFELL: That was a private....

STANLEY: That was a Friends Church that maintained it.

SAFFELL: I see. But not many non-friends same thair hads

STANLEY: And we drove, for one year we drove horse and buggy, Harris and I, the two of us, drove over there, and then we bought property over there and moved over there.

SAFFELL: Now just where was this academy in Damascus?

STANLEY: Oh, it's....

SAFFELL: The building still there?

STANLEY: Oh yes, it's a, it became a high school for a while and then later on, gosh, I don't know. I wouldn't be sure it's still standing. I guess it is, I'm not too....

I'll tell you, it's on the east end of town. You know where the old sub station used to be, Stark Electric? Well just, if you were going from Damascus to Salem just before you get to the sub station it was a big building to the north.

We had quite a nice little walk up there.

SAFFELL: This would be a frame building?

STANLEY: That's right.

SAFFELL: Well now, about how many students would have gone

to that academy?

STANLEY: Oh, maybe a hundred.

SAFFELL: Would you take in non-Friends?

STANLEY: Oh yes. But not many non-Friends sent their kids

there because they had to pay the tuition.

SAFFELL: What sort of tuition was there?

STANLEY: Oh, I don't know how much. But they had to pay the tuition and then it wasn't very long, it was after I graduated, but not very long, it became a high school.

SAFFELL: In otherwords the public system took it over.

STANLEY: That's right. They bought the property or rented it or something. And then the high school that served the Damascus area for several years was there. And then a few years later they built out on the Garfield Road.

SAFFELL: Oh, that's very interesting. What about the offerings in the high school at that point. What courses would you have taken?

STANLEY: Oh well.

SAFFELL: I suppose everybody had some Latin, probably.

STANLEY: It was offered. I took Latin, yes.

SAFFELL: Maybe no Greek.

STANLEY: Oh no, no. There was Latin available. And then just the English and math and the social studies and the sciences.

SAFFELL: Now would they have had the sciences divided into chemistry or would you just of had a course in science?
Would you have had chemistry and physics?

STANLEY: I don't think I had, they were divided into group sciences, different subjects I'm pretty sure.

SAFFELL: Do you remember any of those faculty members?

STANLEY: Oh, well, Walter Williams he's a minister, has been a missionary and he was the principal when I was there, he was the principal. And then there was Ethel Hawkins, and she was a teacher, and I don't recall who else.

SAFFELL: What sort of educational background would these people have had? Would they all of been college graduates at that point?

STANELY: Oh yes, oh yes. It was good.

SAFFELL: I'm just curious to make sure I have the date about right. About when did you graduate from there?

STANLEY: 1914. And was not be the summary which were well as

SAFFELL: 1914. So you're just sort of on the edge here between the period when people were going to private high schools and the emergence of the public high school movement.

STANLEY: That's right. That's right. Then I went down to Ohio Wesleyan and spent four years there.

SAFFELL: Now how did you happen to go to Ohio Wesleyan?

STANLEY: Well Walter Williams, our principal, was a graduate of that school and I liked him so much and I thought, well, that would be a good place to go. So that's where I went.

SAFFELL: Now let's see. What years would you have been in college?

STANLEY: 1914 to 1918. Oh wait, I'm wrong here. I'm wrong now. I graduated from high school in 1909. I graduated from the academy in 1909, and then I taught one year at Valley, and then the next year I went to Ohio Wesleyan and graduated from Ohio Wesleyan in 1914.

APPELL: Oh I've seen a conv of that. I've seen a copy of

SAFFELL: I see. While you were in college did you have any jobs?

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STANLEY: Oh yes. I worked some. Sort of a science assistant there at the school.

SAFFELL: What did you do in the summers while you were in

college?

Bibles?

STANLEY: Well....

SAFFELL: You didn't have to work on the farms.

STANLEY: No, we were off of the farm by that time and living there in Damascus. Why, I sold books one summer over in Indiana. And I just don't remember what I did in the others.

SAFFELL: Would this be the encyclopedia kind of thing or

STANLEY: Know Thyself.

SAFFELL: Oh, I've seen a copy of that. I've seen a copy of

it. Did you have a pretty successful salesman's....

STANLEY: Well, I would say. Pretty successful, yes.

SAFFELL: How did you happen to get that job, I wonder.

STANLEY: I don't know. Somebody....

SAFFELL: Did you just go around door to door or did you have

leads?

STANLEY: No. We went to a certain city. There were four of

us in a group. And we went to this city. And then we divided up the area and then we would go out from there.

SAFFELL: Did you do that more than one summer?

STANLEY: I am not sure whether we did or not. It's amazing how much you forget, the older you get the more difficult it is.

SAFFELL: This is so true. I suppose the extra curricular life at the college was pretty slim in comparison with the present time.

STANLEY: Well, I suppose. But really we had real good times. I belonged to a fraternity, Alpha Sigma Phi. And I was an assistant in bird study. And Dr. Rice, your Dr. Rice's daddy, was my favorite teacher.

SAFFELL: Is that right. Well thats very interesting. Very interesting thing, I would say. You had a very early science interest then I gather.

STANLEY: Oh ....

SAFFELL: Always.

STANLEY: Well, I was always interested in birds.

SAFFELL: Now, which, what subject did you major in in college? Chemistry or Biology or....

STANELY: Biology.

SAFFELL: Biology. Well then following your graduation from college, that would be about the time....

STANLEY: 1914.

SAFFELL: The war was breaking in Europe but we weren't in yet?

STANLEY: Yeah, well then I went, I was drafted and went down to Chillicothe. And then I was sent after while to Camp Mills New York, and then from there I was sent over to England. Stayed there a couple of days, and then went to France, and stayed there a month, and then I went to Italy, and stayed there something over a year.

SAFFELL: Well now, what sort of assignment did you have in the military? Were you in combat?

STANLEY: I was in a field hospital, I was in a field hospital.

SAFFELL: How would you happen to go to Italy in this?

STANLEY: Well, I'll tell you. They wanted some American soldiers in Italy to boost the morale of the Italians.

And they were getting pretty hard pressed by the Austrians I guess it was. So our company was sent over there. And I think an entire military regiment, one regiment, the 332nd regiment was sent over there and with it one field hospital and one ambulance corps.

SAFFELL: Would this have been up in the north of Italy?

STANLEY: Yes, we, well yes. We were in France near the Belgian border and then we crossed over into Italy and at the very north. And then we went from there clear over to within 20 miles of Venice. And that's where we had our head-quarters. Well then later on I was sent to, a group of us was sent to Florence, and to Rome, and to Naples, and then we headed north again, and then Milan, and then back over.

SAFFELL: Sounds as though you just had a grand tour.

STANLEY: It was. It was.

SAFFELL: Well now, were you on an official assignment when you were in Naples, for instance?

STANLEY: No.

SAFFELL: That was just part of the trip.

STANLEY: Well I'll tell you, I think that that trip that I just indicated to you was one where fourteen of us got special permission and leave for three or four weeks.

SAFFELL: To see the sights.

STANLEY: To see the sights. We went down there. And when I was down there I met a fraternity brother of mine by the name of West, he was an Ohio Wesleyan grad.

SAFFELL: You were in Italy when the war was over?

STANLEY: Oh yes, we stayed there, we was there during part of the war and then after it was over until the following March or something like that.

SAFFELL: Did you detect that the Italians were pretty bitter after the war? I always had the idea that they felt that they didn't get quite as much territory up there in the north.

STANLEY: Well I ....

SAFFELL: Didn't get to see much of that.

STANLEY: I didn't have that....

SAFFELL: I think we perhaps skipped a little area in your career back there from 1914 to 1917. You got out of college about....

STANLEY: 1914.

SAFFELL: 1914. And then you wouldn't have gotten into the war until 1917. So did you have a teaching job in there right after you got out of college? You weren't married when you went to the war.

STANLEY: Let's see.

SAFFELL: Let's see, where was your first teaching job?

STANLEY: Alliance High School.

SAFFELL: Now when would that have been?

STANLEY: I guess it was the fall of 1914.

SAFFELL: Oh. My word. Your whole career then.

STANLEY: Yeah.

SAFFELL: That's an amazing thing.

STANLEY: I started there and taught at Alliance High School until Stanton was built. And sometime before then, Wendell Pfouts and I had been put in, given the responsibility of buying a projector for the Alliance High School, a film projector. And we did. And we made it available for the teachers. Well, he died within a years' time. And then that fell on me. So my job then was to be in charge of audio visual and I was responsible for helping to buy eventually one or more projector for each building, each school in the city. And then we had several of them in the high school. And some of them, until they all got their own, we would send them out and this school truck driver would take them out and pick them up.

SAFFELL: You were the audio visual coordinator.

STANLEY: Oh, yes, yes.

SAFFELL: Well now that would be in the 30's then when that was happening. Cause didn't Wendell die along in the mid 30's, Wendell Pfouts.

STANLEY: Yeah, I suspect that's right.

SAFFELL: Now was it Mr. Stanton who brought you to the

Alliance High School? Was he the superintendent?

STANLEY: Yes. He was superintendent then.

SAFFELL: Well it might be an interesting story to tell

how you happened to get that job. Did you go to see him or

did he look you up?

STANLEY: No. I don't know that.

SAFFELL: Well, you were lucky. It was easier to get a job

back there than it is today.

STANLEY: Oh yes.

SAFFELL: The kids are having a good bit of trouble.

STANLEY: That's right.

SAFFELL: At this point. Well now, when I first knew you,

you were Chairman of the General Science Department, at

Alliance High School.

STANLEY: Yes.

SAFFELL: Now. I wonder, about when did you get that job?

Had you been there a good while?

STANLEY: Well, I taught one or two years before we had General

Science and it was Physical Geography. I think maybe for two years I taught Physical Geography. And then we had started the General Science. And then it expanded during the years.

SAFFELL: Well now, how many teachers did you have in that General Science Department at it peak? I wonder, it must have been a pretty good sized thing.

STANLEY: Oh well, I don't know. Three or four.

SAFFELL: Oh, was that all. I thought it might have been...

STANLEY: No, it wasn't....

SAFFELL: Bigger than that.

STANLEY: And a few of them taught some other subjects. But pretty near always you had a few left over, not a full teacher supply, so we had that.

SAFFELL: Well I suppose when you went to the Alliance High School that was a pretty new building. How old was....

STANLEY: Yes, it was, that's right.

SAFFELL: I forget just when it was built.

STANLEY: Well, I've forgotten.

SAFFELL: It wouldn't have been so very long before that.

STANLEY: No.

SAFFELL: And you would have gone there then before the audit-

orium was built.

STANLEY: Oh yes, yes, it was built later.

SAFFELL: I forget just when but it would be.

STANLEY: I don't remember, either.

SAFFELL: Late teens or early 20's I would judge. In through

there. Is there still a General Science Department?

STANLEY: Oh yes.

SAFFELL: That's still a part of it.

STANLEY: Part of the system, yes.

SAFFELL: General curriculum. Well let's see, you'd be there

through most of the tenure of Mr. Stanton then.

STANLEY: That's right.

SAFFELL: He came about 1912 or 13.

STANLEY: I suppose.

SAFFELL: Maybe you could make some interesting comparisons

between his administrative style and, say, later superin-

tendents.

STANLEY: Well, I don't know if there is so much difference in the superintendents relationship to the principals and the teachers. He was the big boss, and he expected all the teachers to assume a certain responsibility. And he held them accountable for it.

SAFFELL: Do you feel that in your later years there was greater faculty involvement? That the faculty had more decision making power under the later superintendents?

STANLEY: I think that would be true, yes.

SAFFELL: Would you feel that that represented a distinct step forward? Has that caused an improvement in the educational system?

STANLEY: Oh, I think so, yes, I think so.

SAFFELL: You'd say that the faculty in your later years had greater control over the instructional programs.

STANLEY: Yes, I think that's right.

SAFFELL: So that you're general conclusion would be that the new educational bureaucracies really paid off.

STANLEY: Oh, I think so. No doubt about it in my mind.

SAFFELL: Well let's see. You were probably active in the Alliance Education Association, were you?

STANLEY: Oh yes, I was president at one time and I was on various committees and so from the time that it was formed and I was there, I was a part of it.

SAFFELL: Now, it was probably formed while you were there. Was it?

STANLEY: Well I think so, yes.

SAFFELL: What's your present, your attitude toward the present teacher attitudes? There seems to be a greater teacher militancy than there was back....

a good long time.

STANLEY: Well I'll tell you, I've been out of school now for 15 years, and I just have not been in close touch with it. When I quit, I quit. And, of course, I read something in the paper, and I hear people talk about it. Oh I think they've got a wonderful high school here in Alliance.

SAFFELL: Do you feel they're making real strides?

STANLEY: Oh, they've, no doubt about it.

SAFFELL: Well, I'm sure you look back on this career with a great deal of satisfaction.

STANLEY: Oh yes. I'll tell you. I was happy in the classroom and with other type of school activities. And I just enjoyed it, I liked it. I was glad I was a teacher.

SAFFELL: Well you had many many years.

STANLEY: Oh sure, that's right. If I hadn't like it, I wouldn't have stayed that long. I would have gotten into something else.

SAFFELL: Let's see. What was the year of your retirement?

STANLEY: Oh, 1957.

SAFFELL: 1914 to 1957 is a good long time.

STANLEY: That's right.

SAFFELL: This is certainly true. Well, we haven't said anything about your family life. Your personal life. I know your wife's first name is Mary. Maybe you could give us a little background on her family.

STANLEY: Well, she is an Ohio State graduate and came up to teach in the Alliance High School, she and Gertrude Pfouts came up. And the very first week, a committee of teachers sort of welcomed the new ones, and a few of the new ones were on the committee, and it just happened Wendell and I and Gertrude and Mary were on that committee and that's how we got acquainted, and it wasn't very long until we were going out, dating. It was quite a little while before we really became serious for both of us. But nevertheless we got acquainted. And of course, part of the story was getting watermellons, you know.

SAFFELL: Yes, yes, indeed.

STANLEY: I know we asked them once how they would like to,
Wendell and I asked the two girls, how they would like to go
out and steal some watermelons. And oh, they said fine. But
they thought we were kidding, they didn't think we meant it.
And when it developed we went out and got the melons. We took
them up to David de Witt's on Watson. That's where they roomed and next door was Charlie Hawkins, Hawkins Brass and Bronze.

SAFFELL: Oh yes.

STANLEY: And after we had the melons, and after Wendell and I had gone, the girls took the rinds and put them in Charlie's garbage can.

SAFFELL: They weren't taking any chance at all.

STANLEY: They didn't want any evidence ontthem.

SAFFELL: Well you were wise, you got good careful wives.

Now would you have been married in what, the early 20's?

STANLEY: Yes.

SAFFELL: Now where did Mrs. Stanley grow up?

STANLEY: In Columbus.

SAFFELL: In Columbus.

STANLEY: Yes, originally they were from Pennsylvania.

SAFFELL: Oh, I see.

STANLEY: But her dad was an auditor of the Ohio Fuel Supply which eventually became a part of Columbia Gas. He had traveled over the State to the different offices and he was auditor. But they lived in Columbus and they belonged to the Lutheran Church down there.

SAFFELL: Now what was her maiden name?

STANLEY: Hoffman.

SAFFELL: Hoffman yes. And you have the one son, Roger.

STANLEY: Yes.

SAFFELL: I know him, of course.

STANLEY: Yes. That's the only son and he lives in Painesville and he has an acre lot and he has a nice house on it.

And recently we had an annex built to it. Each one has it's
own seperate walls but from our front room we go out on a
patio, and from their living room they go out on the same
patio. So we're going to move up there pretty soon.

SAFFELL: Oh, oh that will be nice. That will be wonderful.

STANLEY: Well, they just kind of felt like the time was coming when a man my age needed a little more protection than just living alone. So they talked things over and we finally decided to just have the rooms built up there and we would just move in them.

SAFFELL: Well, that sounds very good.

STANLEY: That gives Roger a chance if anything happens to us, he's right there with us.

SAFFELL: Right.

STANLEY: If he lived up there and we lived down here and we got some sickness it would be pretty hard for him to go back and forth and expecially as busy as he is. He teaches at Lakeland Community College. He teaches Biology.

SAFFELL: Oh, I see. And how long has he been there?

STANLEY: Oh ....

SAFFELL: A long time.

STANLEY: Well he's been a math teacher, yeah, he's been at Lakeland Community College several years.

SAFFELL: Now he has children. Maybe I ought to have their names just for the record.

STANLEY: Yes, he has two. He has two, a boy and a girl: David and Jennifer.

SAFFELL: What was his wife's maiden name? Do you remember that?

STANLEY: Yes. She, they lived in New Hampshire, and I just can't tell you her name now. [Faye, Janet-Lee]

SAFFELL: Well we can look that up. Well, I certainly appreciate you being willing to sit for this interview, Mr. Stanley.

STANLEY: Oh well, that's fine.

SAFFELL: And if you think of other things that you would like to tell us, why we can get together on another occasion and you can fill in some of the details.

STANLEY: Yes, well I think that's enough.

ALLIANCE EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONStanley 17
ALLIANCE HIGH SCHOOLStanley 12
ALPHA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITYStanley 9
BEECHRIDGE SCHOOLStanley 3
BELOIT, OHIOStanley 1
CAMP MILLSStanley 10
COLUMBIA GASStanley 21
COPELAND OAKSStanley 2
CREW, MISSStanley 1
DAMASCUS ACADEMYStanley 2, Stanley 4
DEWITT, DAVIDStanley 20
EAST GOSHEN CHURCHStanley 1
FAYE, JANET-LEEStanley 22
FRIENDS CHURCHStanley 4
FRIENDS RELIGIONStanley 3
HAWKINS, CHARLIEStanley 20
HAWKINS, ETHELStanley 6
HAWKINS BRASS AND BRONZEStanley 20
HOFFMAN, MISSStanley 21
HOFFMAN, ROGERStanley 21
KNOW THYSELF (BOOKS)Stanley 8
LAKELAND COMMUNITY COLLEGEStanley 22
OHIO FUEL SUPPLYStanley 21
OHIO WESLEYANStanley 7
PFOUTS, GERTRUDEStanley 19
PFOUTS, WENDELLStanley 13
RICE, DR. WILLIAMStanley 9
SNODES STATIONStanley 1
STANLEY, BLANCHEStanley 2
STANLEY, HARRISStanley 2
STANLEY, MARYStanley 19
STANLEY, MICAJAH BStanley 1
STANLEY, MORRISStanley 2
STANLEY, REAStanley 2
STANLEY, THOMASStanley 1
STANTON, DR. BENJAMIN FStanley 14
STANTON SCHOOLStanley 13
STARK ELECTRICStanley 4
WATERMELON STEALINGStanley 20
WILLIAMS, WALTERStanley 6