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CUTTON: Well, you're Walter W. Scott.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: Well I'm Dr. George L. Cutton, and I'm doing this

REMINISCENCES

for the Library, the Rodman Library. They're making records

OF

WALTER W. SCOTT

of people's past history here and putting them on file up

there and anybody who wants to look back and see what hap-

pened fifty years ago *Scott, Walter W*

SCOTT: I see.

CUTTON: So I'll ask you a number of questions and you can

take your time answering them. Well first of all you were

born in Alliance?

SCOTT: Canton.

Interview by
Dr. George L. Cutton
December, 1978

CUTTON: Oh, Canton.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: And you were from Scotch Irish ancestry.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: And when you came to Canton you came here as a

boy?

SCOTT: Oh huh. Yes.

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

SCOTT: He was a contractor.

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CUTTON: Contractor and carpenter. And as a boy you did certain odd jobs around to earn a little money.

SCOTT: That's right, yeah that's right.

CUTTON: Well, you're Walter W. Scott.

CUTTON: Help your father?

SCOTT: That's right.

SCOTT: Well I wasn't much of a help for him.

CUTTON: Well I'm Dr. George L. Cutton, and I'm doing this for the Library, the Rodman Library. They're making records of people's past history here and putting them on file up there and anybody who wants to look back and see what happened fifty years ago they can find out.

SCOTT: Well.

SCOTT: I see.

CUTTON: You went to High School here in the old building.

CUTTON: So I'll ask you a number of questions and you can take your time answering them. Well first of all you were born in Alliance?

SCOTT: That's right.

SCOTT: Canton.

CUTTON: Oh, Canton. And that was 1891?

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: And you were from Scotch Irish ancestry.

I mean to Mount Union College for one year.

SCOTT: That's right.

SCOTT: That's right, yeah.

CUTTON: And when you came to Canton you came here as a

boy? What did you get a job or something that you wanted....

SCOTT: Uh huh. Yes.

CUTTON: With your father a carpenter?

played in various teams for the high school.

SCOTT: He was a contractor.

SCOTT: Yes.

CUTTON: Which did you like the best? Basketball, football or

CUTTON: Contractor and carpenter. And as a boy you did certain odd jobs around to earn a little money.

SCOTT: That's right, yeah that's right.

CUTTON: Help your father?

SCOTT: Well I wasn't much of a help for him.

CUTTON: You had a paper route?

SCOTT: No.

CUTTON: Oh you didn't. Millon or Canton in those days.

SCOTT: No. I don't know that we ever played them in base-

CUTTON: You went to High School here in the old building.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: What used to be the Alliance College.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: And then you went to the war, in World War I when

SCOTT: That's all washed up.

CUTTON: And then you went to Alliance College for one year,

I mean to Mount Union College for one year.

SCOTT: That's right, yeah.

CUTTON: What did you get a job or something that you wanted....

SCOTT: Yeah I got a job.

CUTTON: Now you were interested in sports I understand,

played in various teams for the high school.

SCOTT: Yes.

CUTTON: Which did you like the best? Basketball, football or

baseball? That's right.

SCOTT: Baseball. Let's see. When you came back in 1921,

CUTTON: Baseball. Now Mr. Scott what outfit

were you in of the war?
SCOTT: Yes.

SCOTT: 310 Ammunition Train.
CUTTON: That's a little slower.

CUTTON: That didn't take you into combat then.
SCOTT: Yeah, that's right.

SCOTT: No.
CUTTON: At any rate it wasn't like it is now, the teams that were able to beat Massillon or Canton in those days.

SCOTT: Well I don't know that we ever played them in baseball but we never beat them in football. and joined the Amer-

CUTTON: Then, you went to work for your father when you were, before you went to the war.

SCOTT: That's right. charter member of Post 166.

CUTTON: And then you went to the war, in World War I when you were about 21 years of age?

CUTTON: Well, let's see, then you went to work for your
SCOTT: Well 91, pretty close to that, yes.

CUTTON: And this was with the 310th Ammunition Train?

SCOTT: That's right. and around here until the Depression

CUTTON: And you were over in France.

SCOTT: Yes. I worked during the Depression too.

CUTTON: Did you get into combat? to build houses here,

making contracts with individuals. They had their own lots
SCOTT: No.

you know and then he built the houses.

CUTTON: You just supplied those that were.

SCOTT: That's right.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: Well now let's see. When you came back in 1921, that's when you came back. Now Mr. Scott what outfit were you in of the war?

SCOTT: 310 Ammunition Train.

CUTTON: That didn't take you into combat then.

SCOTT: No.

CUTTON: And did you like the experience over there at all?

SCOTT: Oh yes, it was alright.

CUTTON: You came back here to Alliance and joined the American Legion.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: And you are a charter member of Post 166.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: Well, let's see, then you went to work for your father, again.

SCOTT: Yes.

SCOTT: Well, I asked for the job.

CUTTON: And you worked around here until the Depression

CUTTON: Oh, I see. That's a good reason. Were you paid

SCOTT: Well, I worked during the Depression too.

SCOTT: No, I wasn't paid very much.

CUTTON: Your father had to, took to build houses here,

CUTTON: That was during the Depression. Now let's see, making contracts with individuals. They had their own lots you know and then he built the houses.

SCOTT: Yeah, brick pavements, then.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: And you just worked along with him, you didn't have any responsibility for the contracts.

SCOTT: No. that was quite a company then, wasn't it?

CUTTON: Not until after your father died.

SCOTT: That's right. you got connected with the State of

CUTTON: Well let's see, the Depression came along and Mayor Westover was the Mayor. got me a job, told me about a

SCOTT: That's right. the Liquor Department, as District Super-

CUTTON: And at that time he appointed you to some position. What was that? that was a good paying job wasn't it?

SCOTT: Service Director. good, that was a good job.

CUTTON: And that took care of what? as. Well, the

SCOTT: That took care of the streets and public buildings, sewer, water and everything that went on in the city except the safety department.

CUTTON: Well that was quite a responsible position wasn't it? How did you come to get appointed?

SCOTT: Well, I asked for the job.

CUTTON: Oh, I see. That's a good reason. Were you paid too much? business the way they should.

SCOTT: No, I wasn't paid very much. is job?

CUTTON: That was during the Depression. Now let's see, they built a good many brick pavements then didn't they?

SCOTT: Yeah, brick pavements, then.

CUTTON: And they got the bricks from where?

SCOTT: Alliance Brick Company.

CUTTON: Oh, that was quite a company then, wasn't it?

SCOTT: Yes, it was.

CUTTON: Well how did you get connected with the State of Ohio?

SCOTT: Well, George O'Brien got me a job, told me about a job down there with the Liquor Department, as District Supervisor.

CUTTON: Well, that was a good paying job wasn't it?

SCOTT: That was a pretty good, that was a good job.

CUTTON: And you supervised the stores.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: What territory did you have?

SCOTT: I had the eastern part of Ohio down to the river, down to the Ohio River.

CUTTON: What did the job consist of?

SCOTT: Well going into the stores and seeing that they are clean and seeing that everything's in order and transacting the state business the way they should.

CUTTON: How did you come to lose this job?

SCOTT: Change in political politics.

CUTTON: The Democrats came in then?

SCOTT: Uh huh. and someone else contracted for the plumbing and electrical work and things like that?

CUTTON: I see. Well, you didn't go on with any other state work, or any other....

SCOTT: No.

CUTTON: Or any other political job, that's the last one you had.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: So you were back to the building and contracting.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: Do you remember some of the places where you built or what street you built on or anything about them....

SCOTT: Well we built the Purcell House on Union Avenue and I built the Hart House on Overlook Drive, the Lewis House on Overlook Drive.

CUTTON: Right on the same street you're living now.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: But at the other end.

SCOTT: Yeah.

CUTTON: Did you uh....

SCOTT: The Akins House, we built that too.

CUTTON: How many worked in the group, how many were in the gang that worked?

SCOTT: Oh there would probably be six or eight men on each job.

CUTTON: I see, and someone else contracted for the plumbing and electrical work and things like that?

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: They had inspections then didn't they?

SCOTT: Yes, they did.

CUTTON: Well they probably did a better job of building, and a better job of inspections than they do now.

SCOTT: I don't know about the inspecting but the building I thought was pretty good.

CUTTON: Did you belong to any church here?

SCOTT: The Presbyterian.

CUTTON: Now was this your family church? For the rest of the family.

SCOTT: Yes.

CUTTON: Who in your family besides yourself?

SCOTT: I had two brothers and three sisters.

CUTTON: I see, all went to church then.

SCOTT: Yes.

CUTTON: What street did you live on then?

SCOTT: Well we lived on Market Street, West Market and we lived on Ridgewood.

CUTTON: Oh yes. I understand you went to Sunday School.

What was the name of the class?

SCOTT: B. F. Stanton's Class.

CUTTON: Oh yes, that's still going.

CUTTON: But you were building something for the Army?

SCOTT: Is it?

CUTTON: Yes. What year were you married?

SCOTT: 1922.

CUTTON: A little interruption there but we'll go on. You joined the Masonic Order in 1925?

SCOTT: Yeah.

CUTTON: And where did they meet?

SCOTT: In the Stone Block on Main Street.

CUTTON: Oh yeah. Were you in any other lodge?

SCOTT: Knights of Pythias.

CUTTON: Now as I understand it you were married about this time. Do you have any children?

SCOTT: Yeah, we have two daughters.

CUTTON: And they live across the street here from you now. Well you continued in the building business until World War II.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: And then did you enlist in World War II?

SCOTT: I got an appointment as Captain in World War II.

CUTTON: That was, they came to you then.

SCOTT: You mean when I retired from work. 1965.

SCOTT: Well just about yes.

CUTTON: 1965. And what have you been doing since?

CUTTON: What did you work at then?

SCOTT: Just working, sitting around.

SCOTT: Well I was in the contracting business then for myself at that time.

CUTTON: But you were building something for the Army?

SCOTT: No, I was building houses.

CUTTON: Oh you were.

SCOTT: Yeah.

CUTTON: And what did you do in the Army?

SCOTT: I was Post Engineer.

CUTTON: Where was that?

SCOTT: Maxwell Field, first I went to Indianapolis, then from there to Maxwell Field, Alabama. I was down in Alabama until I was retired.

CUTTON: Take your family down there with you?

SCOTT: Well they would come down during the summer, and stay with me down there. We had a house on the field.

CUTTON: I see. Did you like that work?

SCOTT: Very much.

CUTTON: Now after World War II you worked to a certain date, what was that date you retired? What year?

SCOTT: Oh, that's pretty tough for me to find the answer.

CUTTON: You still kept working quite a little while after you let up a little.

SCOTT: You mean when I retired from work. 1965.

CUTTON: 1965. And what have you been doing since?

SCOTT: Just working, sitting around.

CUTTON: You look in pretty good health.

SCOTT: Oh I'm alright except for a little arthritis.

CUTTON: And how long have you had that?

SCOTT: About a year.

CUTTON: Now just simply some of your impressions regarding Alliance. You think this is a good community to live in, do you?

SCOTT: Yes, I do.

CUTTON: Well we think of it as a progressive community and because you were building so much why you were in that business of helping to make progress, bringing people into homes of their own so that all helped to make people prosperous.

SCOTT: And a little happier.

CUTTON: Yeah. Do you think they are any happier today than they were then?

SCOTT: No. I don't think we're as happy as we were then.

CUTTON: What do you think has happened?

SCOTT: Too much government.

CUTTON: Well that's one answer. Well one thing is, people are making more money now days aren't they?

SCOTT: But they don't have any more left over.

CUTTON: Well what do you think about these streets, safety they have now days, compared to back then, people were more law abiding?

SCOTT: Oh yes.

SCOTT: Well I think they were yes. I think they respected the law a lot more.

CUTTON: Do you, what do you think are the greatest problems right now in our community?

SCOTT: Well we've got so many problems, to pick one out is pretty hard to do.

CUTTON: Well, _____ and violence enter the picture.

SCOTT: Yes, I think they do. Violence and, oh there's another word I want to use, where they just come in and break something for the fun of breaking it.

CUTTON: Vandalism.

SCOTT: Vandalism that's what I was thinking of.

CUTTON: I can't understand that.

SCOTT: And nobody else can.

CUTTON: Well for one thing do you think it's because the parents aren't controlling their children like they used to.

SCOTT: Well I think that has a good bit to do with it, yes.

CUTTON: Do you suppose that we could ever come out of this with a better Government?

SCOTT: Well it depends whom you select for Governor. Or for the government.

CUTTON: Are you able to enjoy the TV and radio?

SCOTT: Oh yes.

CUTTON: How about reading?

SCOTT: Yes, I read a good bit.

CUTTON: And do you have good eye sight?

SCOTT: Not too good.

CUTTON: Are the winters pretty hard on you here?

SCOTT: Well of course it's cold, that's about the only thing we don't like about it so well. But then we can't help that, I guess we just have to live with it.

CUTTON: But you don't have to get out much.

SCOTT: No, I don't get out everyday, no.

CUTTON: You have some grandchildren that help to take care of the lawns and....

SCOTT: We've got five grandchildren. Three boys and a girl. Four boys and a girl.

CUTTON: They take care of the snow shoveling and things like that.

SCOTT: Oh yes. I've got a son-in-law whose pretty good. He takes care of that too.

CUTTON: Well we're in a time of history when we don't know what's just around the corner. Do you feel like many people that you wonder what's going to happen for your grandchildren?

SCOTT: No, I think our grandchildren are caught up. They know what they are doing. They're good level headed children, very intelligent, good grades in school, they work hard at it.

CUTTON: What do you think with all the pollution and the high cost of living and all that?

SCOTT: Well of course nobody likes the high cost of living, but then that's what I mean when you asked me about how much money I had over. When I said we didn't have any of it left over. No I think our kids are pretty smart kids.

CUTTON: Well, that's good.

SCOTT: Real smart. Two of them that are lawyers and one of them has got a good job, a real good job at IBM the other one is, has a pretty good job with a _____ Company in Pittsburgh. None of them are home. And our granddaughter is in school. She's graduated from high school and she's in school now.

CUTTON: You were speaking all about your grandchildren then. And what about the children that live across here, what business are they in? Your children? What business are they in?

SCOTT: Well my one daughter is widowed and the other is City Judge.

CUTTON: Oh, where?

SCOTT: Here in Alliance. Jack Gwinn.

CUTTON: Oh, that's your son-in-law.

SCOTT: That's my son-in-law.

CUTTON: Oh I see. Well that's an important position.

SCOTT: Yes, it is.

CUTTON: Maybe he can hold down the rising crime.

SCOTT: Well, he's doing a pretty good job of it, I think.

CUTTON: Is he a Republican or a Democrat?

SCOTT: He's a Democrat.

CUTTON: I see. Well what do you think of the religious situation?

SCOTT: Well, that's, I don't know. I don't bother much about that. That's up to the individual. Let him choose what-ever branch of the religion that they want. That's up to them.

CUTTON: What I meant was, "If religion was doing it's part a little better would it be a better community."

SCOTT: What?

CUTTON: If religion, if the churches were doing their part.

SCOTT: Oh yes, and the churches expect you to go there every Sunday and most of them don't do anything, you know during the week. That's when the trouble goes.

CUTTON: That's when the troubles going around.

SCOTT: That's right.

CUTTON: Well, we still believe in America.

SCOTT: Very, very much.

CUTTON: Good, well thank you very much.

SCOTT: Okay.

AKINS HOUSE.....	WScott	7
ALLIANCE BRICK COMPANY.....	WScott	6
ALLIANCE COLLEGE.....	WScott	2
ALLIANCE HIGH SCHOOL.....	WScott	2
AMERICAN LEGION.....	WScott	4
AMMUNITION TRAIN, 310TH.....	WScott	3
BRICK PAVEMENT.....	WScott	5
GWINN, JACK.....	WScott	14
HART HOUSE ON OVERLOOK DRIVE.....	WScott	7
KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS.....	WScott	9
LEWIS HOUSE ON OVERLOOK DRIVE.....	WScott	7
MASONIC ORDER.....	WScott	9
MAXWELL FIELD.....	WScott	10
MOUNT UNION COLLEGE.....	WScott	2
O'BRIEN, GEORGE.....	WScott	6
OHIO LIQUOR DEPARTMENT.....	WScott	6
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.....	WScott	8
PURCELL HOUSE ON UNION AVENUE.....	WScott	7
STANTON'S CLASS (SUNDAY SCHOOL).....	WScott	8
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