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Mary Kurtz
August 30, 1978
Accession No. LOH 78-278.2

- (b) LM: Good afternoon Mrs. Kurtz. To begin with this afternoon why don't you go ahead and introduce yourself. Tell me who you are and where you were born.
  - I was born Mary Edith Patton and I was named for my great MK: grandmother Mary Elizabeth Sherwood. Having my mother's middle name of Edith. But I was the third generation of Mary E. Patton on the ranch. I was born on the original Patton ranch at the head of Patton Valley which was close to Cherry Grove. That was before Cherry Grove was started. The Pattons had come across the plains in 1850 and my grandfather walked across at nine years old and carried a Ken-So I was seeped in the history of pioneers tucky rifle. and early settlers and grew up under that kind of influence that's and that is why I am interested. I married Reorge Kurtz in 1934 after I had been teaching for three years. We lived on the ranch for many many years and then moved to Hillsboro after we sold it.
  - LM: Your grandfather settled in what is now Patton Valley?
  - MK: Great-grandfather settled there and it was named for him and his brother. Then his son was Matthew Patton my grand-father. My father was Ben Gatton.
  - LM: Was your great-grandfather and his brother then the original settlers? First people in this valley then?
  - MK: Well, practically. They got there land from the original owner of the Conation Land Glaim.

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- MK: The original donation land claim with President Grant's signature is in our abstract. So we are right at the beginning.

  There were and very few settlers in the valley when they came.
- LM: What are the stories that have been passed down through the denerations as far as the geography or the particular land-scape around Patton Valley? Was it pretty much like what it is today?
- MK: Very much. A lot of the land had to be cleared and my folks were especially apt to getting that done. They were good in handling saws and axes and all of them were carpenters. Great grandfather was a blacksmith and when anything needed fixing he fixed it. The fields were cleared and early crops were grain and hay. Then later they made hops for many years in some of the big fields there. They always logged off of bhe old fanch. It was logged all down to the time we left and then was finally cleared off. But there has always been logging and lumbering and mills in the area. Many on the old ranch.

(10)

- LM: Since the original white settlement it has been a traditional
- MK: Farming and logging.
- know, the major interest today I think is the story of the Tualatin Indians in the Patton Valley. To open up the topic why don't you just say why you have become interested in this and some of the events that have lead up to your knowledge of the Tualatin Indians. What provoked your interest?

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MK: Stories from grandmother telling about her mother-in-law's experiences and then my own experience

It made it that so I started 2.Px collecting all this stories that I could possibly find about the Indians. Grandmother Patton told of her husband's mother telling her how when she had first moved in there as a young The Indians kept coming by and begging her for food. She would hand out home baked bread and of course they liked that very much. But they didn't go they kept coming back and she got tired of that. She was a very accomodating and friendly person but she got tired of being impossed on. So she pulled imposed. a naughty trick on them. They dearly loved her dried apples and bhey came back one fall and I think there was two of them, as I remember the story and she gave them all the dried apples they would eat and then she gave them some coffee and of course they had a tummy ache and she said at least those two Indians never came back. didn't poison them and didn't kill them but it made them uncomfortable when those dried apples swelled up. That was her But They told, and own father remembered seeing a few Indians coming story. down off the mountain through their barnyard in the 1880's weren't along in there but there wasn't a number of them. He tells me that the original log cabin that great grandfather and grandmother built on the place had portholes at the corners wherea they could put rifles out in case Indians had a up rising.

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- 20) MK: But the neighbors were all warned, There was a big bell at the back of the house to ring and call them in case of an emergency but none ever came. None of the Indians were ever anything but friendly.
  - LM: You mentioned that the Indians came by your grandmother's place for food, Was this common among the other farmers in the area to have visits?
  - of our own family stres

    MK: I suppose it was although my only knowledge is my families story

    of it. But there was Indians there because that was in the 50's

    and 60's and there was still Indians around.
  - LM: Do you think this was because of a shortage of food on the Indians part?
  - MK: I think so. The white settlers had come in and scared the deer away and caught their fish in the river. My family all liked to go fishing and it was a family tradition. I am sure the Indians were hungry and they loved the white man's food. They didn't have anything to compare to grandmother's bread.
  - LM: Well was there ever any mention of Indian's craving other white man's food like ground flour or sugar?
  - MK: I think the sugar. She talked about them likeling the dried apples because they were sweet and I am sure her dried apples were sweet apples. We had a sweet apple tree in front of the house. I am they would have been, naturally certain that these apples were from that tree. They were the sweetest apples that anyone had ever tasted. She had some of those dried and it is no wonder they leved them so well.

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- LM: When your great grandfather first arrived bere the Indians were, that was during the 1850's were saying. There must not have been too many Indians then anyway?
- MK: No, there never was a whole group of them or a tribe that anyone ever mentioned. All they ever mentioned was a few Indians would come by and my father said he remembered seeing one or two and wasn't particularly afraid of them or concerned about them but they did come down the mountain.
- LM: Then the original settlers in the Patton Valley never did see the Indians in there tribal or group habitat?
- MK: Not that I know of.
- LM: You mentioned that some of your interests derived that you were a teacher.

  Maybe you could elaborate on this a little bit more on how you first began this interest within the school and some of the things your students par took of?
- While my family was the Patton's in the upper part of the relieved grandmon Seth grandmon that they came to the Valley there and had been there as a little girl because her name had been Lee. In 1864 she married James Seth and I had some of the grand children of that family in my school. They told me that grandma Seth said that when she was a tiny firl she remembered seeing a few Indians, two or three Indians.

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MK: She claims that she saw them up there and she didn't know if they were looking at them or whether they were drawing them.

She wasn't sure of the exact fact. But she did see them there.

Another young man told us that his father had talked to what he called the last remaining old, old Indian. He said when the Indians got sick from this epidemic of small pox or measles whatever it was that swept through and killed so many of them off and they buried them in graves up there

that they drew the pictures and they indicated the story of the tribe. There was three men apparently and one woman if we can guess what the figures meant and then they moved out and ho more hunt and no more fish. They left the Valley. That had actually happened we knew but whether this history story is exactly true or not we know that that is what pappened that they did get sick and it probably came from the epidemic of the 1830's. When he died they buried him.

You found. LM: Evidence of campfires. You mean rock pits? Page 7 Kurtz Accession No. LOH 78-277.2

MK: No, we dig down maybe six of eight inches and find charcoal. At the same time we were picking up scraping tools and cutting tools of the charcoal and hard stone that the Indians had used. We found very few arrowheads but we found lots of utility tools.

We ended up finding

quite a lot of things that we could put in a display and give to Pacific University when the school closed.

My father and his sister told about when father was about eleven and his sister would have been thirteen pad they were hauling wood to Forest Grove to sell

Dad and his sister can down

over the hill and play in the sweat house at the foot of the hill.

For years I thought they meant that they found thisedifice made of willow branches over a pile of rocks that this described in all the Indian storybooks that a sweathouse was in Eastern Oregon. When I finally questioned my aunt that was still alive at that time she said on it wasn't that kind of a sweathouse it was one that was a cave dug into the banks. It wasn't very deep but it was cool down there and there was a little pond out in front of it and they said that the Indians especially when they got this small pox or measles or their evers would get high they would go in the sweathouse and get real hot and pour the water

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cont) over the hot rocks that they rolled in and then they would go out and jump in this little lake out in front and of course they got pneumonia and died immediately. That is why they had to bury so many of them up on the hill.

LM: This sweathouse then is it up on the hill itself, I mean the actual cave? Is it up the hill

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MK: I am sure that there wouldn't be any reason that there wouldn't be any indication of it.

LM: However it is on private property?

MK: Yes it is and a person wouldn't go in without getting permission of the local people. The lady that who's home was built on what we call our Indian medicane man's tee pee location, she had found arrowheads in her garden when she hoes it. She is just as interested as we are about the early stories.

LM: You mentioned the medicane man's tee pee or home. How did this story start? Who told you this?

MK: This came down through the parents and grandparents of these students that I had in school. I kept asking around the community. We had lots of community meetings when the parents would come to school for programs and things. We had lots of good chances to visit with them and I did that and One of the men on our school board told of I think it was about the middle of the 1920's.

His

into a bank and cutting into one the graves that was left there.

He thought it was a Indian woman's grave because she had long disintegrated the minute black hair and the hair just incenerated into dust when the air, atmosphere struck it because it was terribly old. He said that he didn't actually find any bones that there was a few beads and things of that sort but nothing to indicate real remains, because it was terribly

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MK: But he said there was evidence of hair.

IM: Then we're

LM: You don't know then whether the story of the home actually being there and the story itself originating there? From who or what source?

MK: I know it came from the family of Mrs. Seth some of those people.

whether

I don't know if it was her son or grandson that told me.

LM: Then the sweathouse wasn't in use by the Indians even during the first years of the 1850's?

MK: No not that we know of. Now you see it was 1870 or 80 before my folks went down to play in it. So there is no way of knowing how long it had been that it was used. But there was definate evidence there.

LM: We were talking about the rock carvings up on the hill in the valley. You mentioned that the story was told of the old Indian telling the story to your grandfather?

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- MK! No to one of the father of the men that grew up in my generation.
- LM: When was this story then told? When was the Indian telling the story?
- MK: It had to be somewhere between 1860 and 1870. The Indian was very old and the man who repeated this was very young when he saw the Indian. He repeated it to the next generation.
- LM: This old Indian then we assume was there when the rock carvings were being made.
- MK: When questioned to told about it and told them that they drew the pictures and all got sick and died. But the ones left drew the pictures story of the tribe.
- LM: This was during the Malaria epidemic during the 1830's then?
- MK: That is what is indicated and he could have been 70 or 80 when at the time he told the story. So he really could have lived in the time

  (50) that the epidemic was on.
  - there was two epidemics conjectured. One during the 1780's which some people say was a small paox epidemic and then during the 1830's is thought to be Malaria instead of Small pox during that time. I am just wondering which epidemic the rock carvings must had made. I am assuming it was the 1830's.
  - MK: That is what Dr. Haines' told us he thought the history base that he knew of the history of the Indians of Oregon. He said he was pretty sure it was between 1830 and 1836 and along in there. That there was an epidemic and our Indians traveled back and forth with the Columbia River Indians and chances they brought the disease home with them.

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- MK: It swept through the tribe. The tribes weren't tochealthy anyway.
- LM: You mentioned a light contact such as your great grandparents with the Indians. ‡to to draw generalizations on it if they were just meeting with the stragglers or the remnants but dere any stories ever passed down as far as there physical appearance such as height weight or color of skin, or anything like that at all?
- MK: I don't remember anything of that time had I been as smart as I am now I would have asked questions but I don't remember any of that. They were all pleasant that their characteristics that the were pleasant, they were demanding of food but they were pleasant. There was no hostility ever meant. That is all I can contribute from that side of it.
- LM: I guess we covered quite a few of the stories of the white contact with the Indians. Is there anything else that you recall? Other original families that might have packed down stories through their ancestors?
- MK: No I think that is about all. All of these parents of the children that I had there had spent there time digging into the graves and the people before them had of course

so by the time we got around all the graves had been totally buttered to abliverated. We couldn't even find the depressions that the parents told about seeing when they were kids

I don't know what we would have done if we ever found a grave we would have been scared to death of it.

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MK:

MK: Knowing that you are not supposed to de things like that didn't bother me a bit because we never found a grave. It didn't bother us to go out in the fields and find relics that was lots of fun and spent lots of time classifying them. We got M.G. Seaman to come out who wrote "Indian Relics of the Pacific Northwest". He and his wife came out and visited in the school and just shad a ball. We took them up to the writings on the cliffs and they helped us identify things in our collection. Then Dr. Haines and his wife and granddaughter came out and we had them go through it with us. So we had two authorities. It wasn't just a pipe dream of ours. It really was nice to have an authoraty to help us identify the things.

(60) LM: Before then before the school field trips then there was amateuar exeavating? exca excavations done before then? By the original settlers?

All over the hillside there. They had been doing that for 75 years at least. We started unearthing the writings on the cliff by pulling the moss gently off with our fingers. I wouldn't let any starts of them use anything else because we didn't want to wreck anything that we might be pushing on and we did that in 1942 or 1943. It was covered with about two inches of moss then. One little gorl finally. We heard they were there from the grandparents and the parents and we didn't know where they were and so we went one afterness and started looking and one little girl finally found two holes in the rocks and stuck her fingers in. She said what are these? It turned out to be the eyes of one of the drawings.

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And then we unearthed the rest.

MK: At that time there were two sets of drawings. One the large collection of four figures and a lot of things that we had no way of interpreting other than guessing of what they remaind they represented.

The son or the moon or the stars or what they represented.

The presented. But then there was a second very indistinct group

LM:

MK:

there were some lines. Not particular drawings that you could But these still were some lines.
identify but there had been things there. There was quite an extensive amount of drawings. They extended over quite a long distance.

LM:

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MK:

LM: When people such as Dr. Haines and this other man that you mentioned, did they ever make any educated guesses as far as the figures meant themselves?

MK: None particularly. Dr. Haines and Mr. Seaman both said that they were typical Indian drawings because to all occurances they had three legs. We said that dodn't sound right. They said that is typical and by going through these books that show these Indian drawings that is typical. It would be like a puppet on a stick. That is the way they look to a person looking at them.

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- The men didn't know why they drew them that way but they did. MK: They said probably somebody trying to imitate them would never think to put the third leg on it. It looked like a three-legged person. We talked about that especially. We said, " is that genuine?" and
- They said, "yes it is"
  What were these mackings to the West of the figures then? LM:
- MK: They were just lines. Just lines and various connections drawf into the rocky and we weren't sure that they part of the same but because they were close and drawn into the stone we suspected it. Of course the grass had grown over them quite a bit too.
- That is the kind of rock that we are talking about than? Is LM: sandstone?
- its all going to begone, Of course that weathers away and eventually it will all be gone. MK: End of Track 1

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## Start of Track 2

LM: We can continue with some of the things that, some of the sights up there. You mentioned to me yesterday when you and your husband were talking about these dirt mounds

Could you describe

these?

MK: They were about 8,10,20 12 feet across and about 2 feet high.

There was a whole series of them

They were just a series Even after we moved on to the ranch we helped of these mounds. level down for of them in the field that we were going to plant. I was there when my dad leveled down the rest of them . Dad always guessed that they were locations where the summer camps where they would pitch their tee pees. Oregon still gets kind of damp in the summer time and it was a nice way to be close to the fish and still have their tee pees out of the moisture. would be up so that they wouldn't get wet that way. Also father Theorizer always thought that Indians were very very smart and they knew that the river never even in the Spring never overflowed there. It never did. No matter how big a flood we had it never came mounds had been up where these mountains were located.

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MK: We searched alot and never found any indications that there were burial grounds or anything of the sort. They were evidently just living quarters.

LM:

MK:

them so if that we what they were and there was no reason to think there weren't because they definitely had been built by somebody. The white people hadn't done it. So my father and his father had thought that they had been left by the Indians before they moved out. If that is true than that is the place that they had their summer camps because there was deer right of course there washt any rad. It was only a trail than across the river in fact both sides of the river and lots of fish in the river at that time and lots of berries, so it would have been the ideal place.

Diackbarness and all kinds of berries. Up and down the hills.

LM: Was it just dirt or was it rocks mixed in with these?

MK: No it was just dirt. We didn't have to haul any rocks out.

LM: Was it packed rather tightly than?

MK: Yes it took allot of scraping to get it down when we had to smooth it off. We had to use these disc, and a drag and a lot of hard and work to smooth them down. Knowing what we know now we should have saved them.

LM: How wide were they then?

MK: They were any where from 8,16, 12 feet wide. They were big.

They weren't just little mounds they were big mounds and they too and anait.

Stood up two feet. It was mery evident with all these humps going down along the river.

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(10) LM: They must have been quite noticeable then?

MK: They were noticeable.

LM: So it was naturally not a natural formation?

MK: No it wasn't something that had washed in there or had just happened. We were very interested in it. Of course my dad was always interested in things lake that and he said that all the old settlers believed firmly that is was of the Indian making.

LM: Was this the only area that they were found

MK: Yes that is the only area that we know of. I never heard of any effect place else, and I am a little puzzled as to why we didn't working tacks and things find other things in there v I would guess they have been picked up by people there before we got there to pick things up. So there wasn't anything else for us except the mounds.

LM: There was no artifacts at all found there?

MK: There was nothing there that I know of found in there. My dad hat found a loto of arrowheads as a kid all around through there. By the time I came around there wasn't anything left for me.

LM: You were saying There were

You were talking about some of a lot of deer and fish in the

river and a lot of berries. There was native plants still grow
ing in that area? Such as?

MK: Lots of wild blackberries along the river there. Just lots of them. There is Sallelle and I am talking about the old wild blackberries there the one that had the vine. They loved those. They liked all the berries. There were several native trees that had berries on: Them. But They had used Those.

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MK: Of course they would use them with their fish and fix them for their winter and dry the deer meat and make jerkey out of it. We call it jerkey but they didn't.

LM: We were also mentioning yeaterday of the Mt. Richmond Indian trail or we mentioned it any way. Where exactly was this trail?

MK: The only thing that I can say is my dad said they came down right down the middle of the mountain and came down through the barnyard. There is a stream that comes down through there and they would have come down fairly well along there. The only reason I can say think that they might have come through there was that they were coming from another tribes on the Yamhill river area or something like that. I can only guess at typh because it is a high mountain there. But it is between the Yamhill area and the Patton Valley area.

LM: Was there any evidence of the trail in existence when you were a young girl?

MK: No because we had so much livestock that they would run over everything and there was a common trail that came down the mountain but there is no way of telling if it was the Indian trail or not.

LM: It possibly could have been?

MK: It could have. There is no reason why it couldn't have been because they were smart people. They would take the best traveling and the folks would see them logging and things up there so a lot of it would have been covered up.

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- LM: We were talking or you were mentioning that your school children and the original families would dig up these artifacts when people would plow their fields. Could you describe some of these things that were found? The quantity?
  - MK: We found rocks and mortors. We never actually found any of the bowls. The mortor bowls were given to us by the people around there

Sometimes they would break them with their plow but sometimes they would get a whole one. We found some of the pessels the stone grinder center pieces and we found lots of pieces of have been traded and sharpened obsidian and of course that had to be brought in from Eastern Oregon. Real hard tools some of them in the shape of a half moon that Dr. Haines said was used to scrape arrow shafts smooth. Lots of pieces what were sharpened on one edge with a pretty good grip for your thumb and finger so they could scrape There were a lot of those pieces that we would find. He said a lot of it he called working tools. We got so that we picked up every chip and then we would spread them all out and try to identify what they might have been used for. We found Squaw rocks that squaws used to smooth the leather when they were hangtanning it and preparing it for use. They also used those small rocks to finish off any wounded left overs from there enemies that were in the areasthere. The Indian men would go out to chase the other off and the wives were left to kill off the left over enemy enemies.

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MK:

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MK: I thought that was a rather gruesome story but we found the squaw rocks and Dr. Haines and Mr. Seaman both identified it and said that was what it was. Just unbelieveably smooth on that we found the side. One of them was chipped a little bit on the side that we found and we suppose that must have hit somebody real hard, because a piece of the rock is chipped off.

LM: Were all these working tools and things found made of the same kind of rock?

No there was various kinds. There was two or three different kinds and they were different colors. Some of them would be brown and some red and some black the obsidian, We also for We also found would be three moccasin has and they are a reddish rock a totally different from what the regular color gray rock is. Then we found them in three different sizes that they could make three different They are very smooth sizes of moccasins around those rocks. because they have used a great deal. I suppose the leather left We were a really pleased that we found Those. there effect on them I don't know. The children and I had an we had sort of an unwritten rule that anything that we were absolutely sure was we capitalized that worth saving for the collection we't would put in our cupboard. Then when the school was closed we gave it to the Pacific University and I understand that they still have it. But the children can keep anything that they individually found that they felt that they couldn't part with. So everybody came out pretty well, are we had a collection of 72 artifacts. Everybody had his own there own private collection.

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- MK: The children would speed through history We had no trouble teaching Oregon history in that school. We had all eight grades a wonderful wonderful bunch of students
- LM: There was never any stories at all of people finding any actual leather clothing of any baskets or anything. It was more less the permanent rocks and working tools.
- MK: Yes, I never heard of any baskets. I don't know why not because the bet they made them out of the willows.
- MM: They said they were made that they did have them to my understand ding. I just never heard of anyone finding anything like that from the Tualatin Indians.
- MK: We made lots of baskets in the school. That was our own and we were using native things but we never found anything of that sort.

  We were really excied when we dug into a hill where the old medicene man was supposed to have been. We thund a charcoal about found the lot inches or a foot deep and we got real excited and we were sure we found one of his campfires and we found some bones close to it.

LM: Oh you did?

- MK: We got so excited. We thought we found something and somebody

  took them in and analyzed them and insisted they were goat

  bones. I hope they were right but it was terribly disappointing

  because we were so sure that we found something important. Our

  The sore

  imagination ran away with us but we had a wonderful time doing it.
- LM: I think what your class did was quite a valuable thing when it wasn't so popular to dd such things as that.

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- LM: The concern for the native American or preserving some of the information why it is still fresh there. It was almost like your own foxfire project of today.
- MK: Yes and there is so many things that I have learned since then that I should have been doing because when we found that campfire sight that should have been carefully investigated all around there and we might really had unearthed some layers. I didn't know anything about doing that the I do now any I certainly would have called somebody in There could be several layers there of indication there.

LM: It is possible that it could still be there.

- MK: It could be it very well could be. The people there are very friendly.
- LM: That is all the questions that I have. Maybe there is something that you would like to add for a closing remark or anything that you think might be valuable to finish up with.
- MK: The only thing should be a big thank you to the parents and the youngsters who were so patient with my interests in these things. They were all contributing. I had one family that got maybe some of there relatives had dug some of the holes up on the rocks and they even went along with us and helped us with our expidations and things and the parents never seemed to feel that we were invading there privacy. They were always very generous with there stories and my school board members were right in the (hiddle of it and were so fine.

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MK: We had a marvelous bunch of parents and had a wonderful time there. It is too bad to see the school gone because it had a place in our early education. I had all age levels and all age interests and they really grew up in the Indian history. All I can say is a big thank you because it got me started on a life long interest.

End of Interview