

Interview 1

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Interviewers: Amber Hackney, Danielle Galeener, Sami Turpin

Interviewee: Charlene Brand

Sami: Our subject for our report is, as you now Colonel Archer and the original layout of Marshall. All right?

Charlene: The original layout of Marshall?

Sami: From 1835-buildings, up to 1860. Who were some of the famous visitors that stayed at the Archer House?

Charlene: Well, Abraham Lincoln probably is the most famous visitor that stayed at the Archer House. He was a close friend of Colonel William B. Archer's and he stayed frequently when he was a young practicing attorney and Clark County was on his circuit, so he would stay with his friend, Colonel Archer, whenever he was in town. Also, Grover Cleveland stayed at the Archer House. He had appointed John Schofield as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court and John Schofield went home and told his family, and they didn't want to move to the big dangerous city of Washington. So, he turned down the appointment and the next time Grover Cleveland was out electioneering, he had the train stop in Marshall, so that he could see the town that a man would turn down Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. And of course you know, Grover Cleveland is the only President that served two terms but not consecutively.

Sami: Is there anything special about the construction of the Archer House?

Charlene: I think everything is special about the construction of the Archer House. Um, First of all, it was done in 1841 and that was when they didn't have backhoes or forklifts it was just man labor and the Archer House has a full basement. And in the basement you are looking up at the full timbers. If you would go out and fell a tree the whole timber is used, laying from brick wall to brick wall. And all the walls are 12 to 18 inches thick and that is how the hotel, the whole first floor was built.

Sami: Now this corner comes to a point at the northeast corner. Why is that?

Charlene: Because, Colonel Archer was a good business man. He built the Archer House as a stagecoach stop and our Main Street was the old Cumberland Trail and Route One

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was known as the Dixie Trail and it was the direct route from Chicago to Vincennes Indiana. So, he built the hotel to a point so every stagecoach that went by here would see him, and stop at the Archer House instead of going on to another stagecoach stop.

Sami: How many rooms are in the Archer House?

Charlene: There are now 10 rooms since my restoration but, when I took possession of the Archer House there were 33. Now I'm talking about sleeping rooms. There were 33 sleeping rooms upstairs. But, they were just little, bitty, cubby holes but as a stagecoach stop, probably people didn't spend all night. They were up between catching you know, probably just catch uh.. couple of hours sleep. And I would imagine, that each room probably a straw tick or a feather tick, a little cot, peg on the wall to hang their clothes, a pitcher and basin and maybe a chamber potty and that would be all that they would have had. People didn't have clothes like we have today. they wouldn't carry, I have people come in now for a weekend and I when they come to the door I say "How many weeks are you staying?" Ha Ha Ha Ha. They'll have lots of suit cases, but see back then, it was just a carpet bag.

Sami: You already answered this one pretty much, but has it changed over time, or has it always been like a hotel?

Charlene: It was a hotel, until, it was always a hotel until sometime in the 80's and there was a short period of time like, maybe a year or two that it was, there was nothing. It was empty. And then, there were, then uh it was empty for a while and then a man bought it and put a supper theatre, restaurant and stage place. I think uh, school used, the high school used to have their uh, class plays here. For a couple of years, because you didn't have a stage in high school so, they used the stage in here for their class plays. But this was only a period of one or two years and then when I bought the hotel I put it back to a hotel.

Sami: Now earlier you said that it was a stagecoach dropoff, or stopoff. Did the stagecoaches stay out here or where were they kept?

Charlene: It was a stagecoach stop and uh, I wasn't living back then, I don't know, but I believe there, there was a stable in the back of the hotel. And, on the very back you can see where the big sliding doors were. So, that may have been, and there is a hayloft over a small area, so they may have put there, may have been a ground, above ground stable there and then the hayloft above. I suppose they just parked the, stop

that your knuckles will get ugly. You mustn't do that. That'll make your knuckles get all big and ugly. I hope you don't put that in your report. Did that answer?

Sami: Now the rest of these questions are about Colonel Archer. Do you know who was Colonel Archer? We don't know anything about him.

Charlene: The way to become more, most familiar with Colonel Archer is to read his history in the Clark County History and the library has that book. So you need to go to the library and ask for the Clark County History. It's a big thick book, but uh, there's just a section on Colonel Archer. um, I've read it, but I think you need to read it so everything is accurate, I'm telling you what I can remember and I don't remember as well as you girls remember. Um, it seems to me, that Colonel Archer, as a child, they moved from Virginia to Kentucky. And then his father, sent Colonel Archer and a brother up to this area to scout it out. See, it wasn't populated and they must have come from Kentucky up the Ohio River to the Wabash, and come up the Wabash to Darwin and then they scout it out. But you need to read this because for dates and that sort of thing and age. I, he was, I remember being astounded by how young he was for his father to send him to scout, you know like maybe he was 14 or 15, 16. I don't just remember but it seemed to be awfully young. I would have thought his father would have come to scout it out and then send for the rest of the family, but. And apparently, they must have bought, and this may be more clarifying in the History, but they certainly must have bought a lot of ground, because, every abstract that I have ever seen in Marshall has Colonel William B. Archer's name on it. And of course he founded our town, but that wouldn't mean that his name would be on every abstract, unless he had sold the ground to people, to build homes and he um. Colonel Archer was quite a philanthropist and Archer Avenue in Chicago is named for our Colonel Archer. And I think Colonel Archer was very instrumental in the forming of Illinois, or the growth of Illinois, I don't think the founding of Illinois. Do you know the date when Illinois joined the union, became a state?

Danielle: In 1818.

Charlene: 1818? O.k, that's what I didn't, I didn't know when, well so he would not have been in the uh, helping of the founding of Illinois but he did a great deal and he was very politically uh inclined and spent a lot of time and I think had quite a lot of influence in

Springfield. Well, I guess our first state capital was uh, Vandalia. So whether, when did Springfield become our state capital? Do you know?

Danielle: There were three capitals. One was Vandalia, and I'm thinking maybe Kaskaskia?

Charlene: I don't know.

Danielle: And then, I was thinking 1850's. . .

Charlene: I wonder if that's in Clark County History, I doubt, but it might be. I think the Clark County History is just about Clark County and people in Clark County.

Sami: Do you think Colonel Archer knew that the National Road was going to be built there when he founded Marshall?

Charlene: I don't know what year the National Road was founded. I don't know when the Cumberland Trail became the Cumberland Trail. See the Cumberland Trail is what it was first, and it ran from the Cumberland Gap in Maryland to Vandalia our state capital. And then the trail branched off, a north trail and south trail as we began to go farther and farther west and-a-west. But um, I can't answer that, but I would not think that he did because not knowing those dates I don't have that opinion, but I, do you know I suppose you need to look at the library for the state of Illinois, the History of State of Illinois, and see when the Cumberland Trail was established. The new issue of The National Geographic, do any one of you have that?

Amber: My grandma has it.

Charlene: Do you? All right, there is an article in there on the Cumberland Trail in the March issue. So, reading that would tell you when the Cumberland Trail was started. And we know that Marshall was founded in 1835, so, you'll know I think Cumberland Trail came about after that but maybe not. It certainly was by 1841 or he wouldn't have built the stagecoach stop here. And I do know that he personally paved route one, which was the Dixie Trail through Clark County. He himself payed for the pavement. Now, what was it paved in? Rock, or brick, I don't know, but I do know that it was brick under all that black top and our Main Street is brick under all this black top and North 6th steet is brick under all that black top. I remember when that black top on North 6th steet was laid, because my home was on the corner of 6th and Beech and it had the brick street. I, I was so sad when they put the black top on top of that beautiful brick streets, now these cities are putting the brick streets back.

And I heard the other, a week or so ago, some little town was taking up all the black top and going back to the brick streets and anywhere there were broken bricks, people were, and it's all volunteer, people of the town do it. Isn't that something? And they put back the broken bricks, where there were broken bricks they put new paving brick, and paving brick, I have some out here in the yard, were great big thick. You know the brick on homes are about this thick, but these paving bricks were about that thick, so but. And they make, there's a noise that they make when you drive on brick. It's kind of a neat sound. Have you ever gone up to Amish country? Out in the country where their horses and buggies are going up around Arcola and Rockhome. There are, up around Arcola, there are all these little old country stores and the Amish use those and there isn't anything that is, to me any greater than to be standing there on those stores watching those wagons and carriages.

Sami: Do you know what war or what battle Colonel Archer fought in?

Charlene: He mustered up a regiment himself and I think it's the Bull Moose War, that would be in the History book, the Clark County History book. Which you must look, and it will identify but as I remember it was the Bull Moose War. Are you familiar with the Bull, well I wasn't either so that's why I am saying... History Buff are you familiar with the Bull Moose...

Danielle: I was thinking that the Bull Moose was a . . .

Amber: Well, I've heard of it, I think

Charlene: Well be sure and call me and tell me. I'd love a copy of this. I'd love a copy of it. And see you'll be straight on some of these dates and things, then I'll rely on you. I believe, and I'm anxious to see it that's right. Because I and I don't have, I took it, and you can't take it from the library, you can't check it out. You have to go there.

Amber: I have that book. One of my dad's friends gave me that book and I have it at home, so that'll be a good thing.

Charlene: Great because at the library you can't and when I have a chance I have to go down there and read awhile and leave it and then go back because you can't get, they only have one copy. I wish and it's too bad. . .

Danielle: Didn't Teddy Roosevelt form the Bull Moose Party?

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Charlene: That was a party not a war. That's right.

Danielle: I wonder. . .

Charlene: That's right. Well, did they have a Moose war or a Bull.

Danielle: But that was quite a bit later maybe...

Amber: There was the Battle of Bull Run

Charlene: What? Bull Run.

Sami: That was later, 1860's.

Danielle: That was Civil War.

Charlene: Well, it would have been...

Danielle: The Bull Moose Party would have been at the turn of the century

Charlene: It was before...

Danielle: Maybe the Bull Moose Party was named after that battle.

Charlene: Well, I don't know. Please look that up.

Sami: We'll look it up.

Charlene: But the thing, the war was before the Civil War, when Colonel Archer, that I know, was Colonel Archer. And whether he was Colonel Archer when he founded Marshall in 1835, I don't know, or if it was after he had founded Marshall that he mustered this group and took to battle.

Sami: Was Colonel Archer married?

Charlene: Yes, he was married and his wife is buried and so is Colonel Archer at, out at Walnut Prairie. You know Walnut Prairie is, just south of town? And well, it took me forever to find his grave. First of all, the marker is way, a marker saying this is the cemetery where Colonel William B Archer's buried. I can't tell you what direction but I think the east edge, but you turn around all to get that cemetery, that I, I think the east edge, but his wife's tombstone is old, old, old, narrow cement and it says her name, consort of Colonel William B Archer. I looked that up. Consort of meant, I knew by reading it, that it was his wife, wife of , but, the dictionary says that consort of was used in England in royalty. Normally the context is

consort of was referenced to the royal families wife. I thought that was interesting. Colonel Archer's marker is new. Why it looks like today's markers. And I am assuming, but I do not know this that Isabelle McCormick would be able to tell or our historical society would be able to tell us but I would think that maybe during the secquentrial, they may have bought Colonel Archer a new stone. I am not sure he even had a marker. I have the feeling that Colonel Archer outlived his money. He was quite a philanthropist and I think he died...I think his money ran out before he died. I don't want to say that he died a pauper or I think he died penniless but I am sure the funds were getting very low. But I don't know this, I have gathered this from things I have read.

Sami: You keep calling him, William B. Do you know what the B. stands for?

Charlene: No, I don't. I have no idea what the B. stands for. Now let's see, what could the B. stand for? It couldn't stand for Bill because that's the nickname William. Bert?

Sami: Maybe.

Charlene: I don't know and it could have been that, that was just it, William B. There are a lot of people that do not have a middle name, but just an initial. Do you have a headache, sweetheart?

Amber: No.

Charlene: You're just doing that. all right.

Amber: I am just thinking.

Charlene: Oh, does it help. I'll start doing that then.

Sami: Do you know how Colonel Archer died, or what he died from?

Charlene: No, I don't and I don't even believe that is in the Clark County History either. I have no idea.

Danielle: The newspapers at the Genealogical Society had a lot of people die of paralysis.

Charlene: Well paralysis most likely was a stroke, what today we call a stroke. Because you know people have a stroke and then they can't move or they can't talk. So I think probably they call it paralysis instead of calling it a stroke, they call it paralysis. Thats, now again that is my assumption. Well polio because they used to call it, infantile paralysis. So maybe some of it

was infantile paralysis, polio. Which we never heard of that. But I think if people lived they usually regained some of the usage of their limbs, but maybe they died form infantile paralysis.

Danielle: How old was he when he died?

Charlene: I don't know. Are you looking for heaven? What are you doing?

Sami: How come it is so?

Charlene: This is the original tin ceiling. The ceiling is tin.

Sami: Wow!

Charlene: It is metal, tin. And this is the original ceiling. Many, many, in fact, in this period of time that's what they used was tin ceilings. And today you can buy new tin ceilings. For years you couldn't buy a tin ceiling. Now this is the original, today they are making new tin ceilings because Peggy and Jim Morris put a new tin ceiling in their bedrooms

Sami: I don't know them.

Danielle: They are the ones that live in the

Charlene: Victorian. Red brick, Victorian.

Sami: Oh yeah.

Charlene: What are you looking at, Snick? Is he asleep or awake?

Danielle: Yeah.

Charlene: Oh he looks you right in the eye. When he has to go outside, he stares right at you. He gets right in front of you and just stare until I have to finally pay attention to someone just staring at you. Regardless of what you are doing, it does get your attention. You said why is the ceiling wavy.

Sami: Why?

Charlene: Well because it has been up there since 1841.

Sami: No, I mean the boxes; it is real intricate.

Charlene: Well, that is just the way they made them. Used to everything was white, it was hand done, plaster. Have you all been in the Indiana Theater? Look how intricate, look how all that plaster. We have lost that art or we can't

afford that because of labor costing so much. But the outside, the part that curves down is the crown molding and then you have the border and then you have another molding and then you have the tin ceiling and I have found by sitting and looking, I think there used to be three chandeliers in here. You see coming down here that little blob of rough? I think that has been a chandelier and if you follow it down you see another little blob and I think there is three.

Danielle: I see it down there.

Charlene: So I think there has been three lights now whether they were chandeliers or whether they were cords with lights on the bottom you know, I don't know or maybe they were polar lights. But I do believe the size of this window, in front, its humongous, measuring it, it's over twelve foot. And it's as tall as a door, over 6 foot high. Well, I'm going to take this fabric, and I'm going to slip cover this chair and I shouldn't be wrinkling it like this, I'll have a terrible time, I'll have to iron it, I shouldn't be sitting on it. One of these days I'll get that done. I, I believe the reason for that huge window and these other three, it probably was the only means of lighting, except candles. So they had all the windows, too bad on the north. And when we had that horrible hail storm, yea know? I had just opened up the hotel in January, and we had that in May I think it was. It broke every window on the front of the hotel except this huge big one. And it is plate glass, thick, thick, thick. And the hailstones just bounced off it. And the others, the hailstones, I had hailstones back here, clear back to the wall. And glass. Now that old thing, it just stood there and they just bounced off. Isn't that funny? But it's plate glass, thick. Do you have any more questions?

Sami: I don't. Do you?

Amber: **Is there anything else like the ceiling or the window or anything like that, that was just-what am I trying to say?**

Charlene: **Different than today?**

Amber: Yeah.

Charlene: Well I think that window is very definitely different, and of course the tin ceiling.

Sami: Yeah, and the logs.

Amber: Yeah, the logs.

Charlene: Yeah, the logs, and the point in the building, I think. But something else that you don't or is different or people aren't aware, you all know what stained glass windows are, that wall before you go out? That wall is called a draftdodger, in olden days. That was called the draftdodger. And that's broke the cold air coming in from coming clear through the hotel. It cut down on the drafts. So they called it the draftdodger. Today we call it an entryway or a vestibule, but back then, it was the draftdodger. And that didn't mean the army. And that had been torn down, and I remembered it being there, from when Charity Downs owned the hotel, a friend of the family's lived here. And I would come to see Faith. And uh I remember the draftdodger. And a lot of places, where I have French doors, there were French doors. And upstairs in the hall out onto the back deck, was one of the French doors, the one that says parlor on it? It was one of the pair of French doors, the only thing that was left, that. So I remade that wall so we could have that and keep it. Umm, something I was going to say, when I grew up, the deck was there.

Sami: Okay, yeah.

Charlene: Do you remember the deck? But it had a roof, it was an upstairs verandah. See where the solarium is, that was an open porch, and above it on the deck was an open porch except it had a roof. But I ran out of roofing money by the time I got the deck down. There was something else that I wanted to tell you I think is interesting about the building. Or different. The draftdodger, the outside verandahs, that window, and what else? There was an area upstairs that wasn't over twelve inches wide, and it was like a closet, with a door at one end, and when I opened that door it had copper on the bottom and up the sides about that far. And I couldn't imagine what that was for. You couldn't put plants, you know the copper lined planters inside.--The water would be dirty and you would take it in and throw it in there. That's how they disposed of it. But there was no drain. Well, that meant, now I wish it was still there, because that meant that the innkeeper and help would have to dip all that out, and can you imagine, and it was level, it wasn't shaped like this, so I don't know whether they had to kick off their shoes and get back and start dipping, I don't know, that was strange. I had never heard of such a thing before, and I tore it out and I wish I hadn't because that was kinda neat, but I didn't know what the thing was. It would have been neat to have cut that wall there and just left that thing, and it would have been great to have put dirt and flowers or something, but to have kept it, but I didn't know. And there was, let's see what else is there, cat in the hayloft back there and the horses. Now that, a number of years ago, there were articles in the paper that said that there was a stable in the basement, but uh, there is no way anyone that knows horses knows that you couldn't take horses down in under a building, uh you'd never get'um down there I don't believe. The

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horses went in on ground level, and the basement was not used in that manner. They may have parked the stage coach down there. And I, there was a man south of town that used to cut things out of lumber and I tried to get him to cut a little stagecoach out of lumber cause I wanted to hang it out here on the corner as a sign. Wouldn't that be neat to have that little stagecoach, but and I even took him the wood and all but he never got it done. I think my wood's up on his barn somewhere.

Danielle: **Where did the innkeepers stay?**

Charlene: Where did they? I don't know, probably stayed here. I have no idea. During, uh, Charlie McMorris bought the hotel in 1921. Uh, and owned it until the late fifties. And they had and he, he and his wife had two children, Jr. was born here and they had several rooms like where the dining room is, and on back, but uh that was kinda their apartment, but I'm sure they lived all over because Jr. told me at one time he slept in one of the bedrooms upstairs in front. My grandfather bought the hotel when it was 50 years old, and at that time he changed the name from the Archer House to the St. James. And it, the Clark County History, told me something that I didn't know. When he bought it, he renovated it, it said he totally renovated it. Well it was 50 years old I suppose it needed some renovation. And then I bought the hotel when it was 150 years old not realizing that grandfather bought it when it was 50, and neither did I know he had renovated it, but by reading I have discovered it. But I'm sure his renovation didn't have to be quite as extensive as ours did after 150 years.

Sami: **Were there any other names beside the St. James?**

Charlene: The St. James, and then when Charlie McMorris bought the hotel it became the National Dixie, and when I was growing up the hotel was the National Dixie. Our old, our mainstreet was the Cumberland Trail, and then it became old National, then it became US 40, and now it's just plain old Archer Avenue. But it was old National, had been the original National, Route 1, as I told you was ah the Dixie Trail, so he named it National Dixie.

Sami: Why does your, it is ten till four.

Charlene: So the hotel had three names, then when Charity Downs bought the hotel, she put it back to the Archer House, which it should have been, none of them should have changed the name, but Colonel Archer had never, you know how there's founding stones on buildings, well and his name is there now, but I put it there, it had never been put in. So I put it in after I bought the hotel because I thought it should be there for our future years.

Sami: **Why did your grandfather name it the St. James?**

Charlene: That was my grandmother's maiden name, James, and I'm very sure that Grandmother thought all the James's were saints. I imagine my grandmother did, they were. And so that's why we have the Jesse James upstairs, all our rooms are named for something in history, except the Jesse James. That's just a family joke because my father told my grandmother she probably was a direct descendant of Jesse James. So that's why we have it to off balance the St. James parlor. And that's why the St. James parlor is called the St. James, and the dining room is called the National Dixie dining room to honor the McMorris family. Then the Cumberland Trail is our business meeting room, and that's cause of the old Cumberland Trail. And then we have the Carlyle Hurst Solarium, you remember, and Carlyle Hurst was the attorney for Ohio Oil and then he became when he left Ohio Oil after three years, he went into national politics, and he became a US senator, and then he became Speaker of the House. And he is, the last I knew he was still living, he's in his late 80's or early 90's by now, and he lives in Bugtussel, Oklahoma. Isn't it awful? Bugtussel, Oklahoma.

Sami: Well, I think that's all our questions.