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Baker, Sue Oral History Interview: Sesquicentennial of Holland, "150 Stories for 150 Years"

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Oral History Interview with
Sue Baker

(unedited)

Conducted March 19, 1997
by Louis di Giuseppe

Sesquicentennial Oral History Project
"150 Stories for 150 Years"
LDG: How are you, Mrs. Baker? How have you been feeling?

SB: I’m okay. Except that I’m old and can’t get around like I used to.

LDG: Well, that’s understandable. You’ve had a wonderful life. Why don’t you tell us a little bit about you, about your husband, and I see here that you have four boys and one girl. That’s Elwood, Keith, Donald, John and Marcia Lynne. Right?

SB: That’s right.

LDG: Tell us a little bit about your life in Holland. Where you were born, when you were married, who your husband was and something about your children.

SB: I was born in Graafschap on [date removed], 1904, and I lived there all my life until I moved here twelve years ago when my husband died and I moved in here. He was from Holland and well, we met on a blind date, to tell you the truth (laughs). My sister was fifteen years older than I am, Hattie. She married John Post, he worked in the post office and they had one daughter. My brother, they called him Bert, he owned the Reimink Plumbing and Heating Company in Holland. He died when he was 74 years old.

LDG: That was 1894. That was Lambertus?

SB: No, he died when he was 74 and he was ten years older that I was. He was born in 1894, yeah, 1894, that’s right. He was a business man, a real business man. Let’s see, my children…
LDG: And Susannah Reimink Baker, that's you.

SB: That's me.

LDG: You had one brother and a sister besides yourself.

SB: That's right.

LDG: Tell us a little about your husband, Garrick.

SB: He was born in Holland, Michigan, on 19th Street, and he was I guess you would call it a tool and die worker. His dad was a furniture worker, but he worked at the W. E. Dunn Company most of his life after he was able to get a job there. It was quite young in his life. I don't remember what year it was. But he died on February 19, 1985, of a heart attack. He was in the hospital eleven days though before he died. And my sister, she...in fact I didn't know I had a sister until...well, she was out of the house already when I was born. She was fifteen years older than I am and she was a seamstress. I think she took some sewing classes, and she was the alteration lady at Du Mez, a clothing store. You probably know the Du Mez store? You don't?

LDG: I've only been here three years. I'm from New York City.

SB: Oh, I see, yeah. Well, she was a seamstress. She did all the alterations for many years for Du Mez store. She started working when she 18 years old and she worked until she was 80 years old!

LDG: Right here in Holland?

SB: Right here in Holland. In those days, of course, cars were very few and she stayed in Holland. I lived between three and a half and four miles south of Holland.
That’s where we all were born. She was already working when I was born. So until I was three years old I hardly knew that I had a sister because she’d come home weekends and I didn’t get to know her that well until after we were married, then we really appreciated each other. She had one daughter. My brother had one daughter. I had one daughter, but I also had four sons. Elwood was a pharmacist. He graduated from the Ferris Institute and he...

LDG: He was born in 1926? That would make him 71. Is he still alive?

SB: He’s still alive. He lives in Deerfield, Illinois, and he was the head of Abbott Laboratories sales force and he had a good job there. Keith took two years of college and then the man that was going to be his father-in-law had a heart attack, and so he had only one daughter and they were going to be married and he asked if he could come to Iowa, he lived in Iowa, and help him because the doctor had forbidden him to do the hard work. So he went to Iowa because he was going to marry their daughter and he stayed there.

LDG: Is he there now?

SB: No, he was there...all his children were born there, he had six children. But he worked three months on the farm there with his father-in-law and then he had trouble with his back. He was in the army. The army took him, we don’t know why, but he had some problem with his back he was born with, an undeveloped vertebrae in his back. So he called home and said he was going to have surgery and he’s been having problems ever since. But he got a job in a bank there and he learned quite a bit and he wanted to, too, and he was very good at mathematics. So
he called home. He says, "Mom, will you call the bank and tell them that I would like to apply for that job." And he says, "Come immediately!" So he did. He got the job. He had to learn the trade, of course, and then they made him the president of the Allendale Bank. He worked there I don’t know just how many years...

LDG: Where’s Allendale? Is it in Michigan?

SB: Oh yeah. It’s north from here. It’s north from Zeeland, I don’t know just how far north of Zeeland, but it’s quite a ways. And he worked in that bank and then they wanted to start a bank in Georgetown, so they asked him if they would be the president there. He accepted that and he worked until he was fifty years old and he couldn’t anymore because he had to take so many drugs to keep the pain down that he finally gave up working. And he’s had problems ever since.

LDG: How about Donald? What’s he doing?

SB: Donald worked for Abbott Laboratories. His brother got him a job there.

LDG: Is he a pharmacist too?

SB: He’s a medical technician and he worked in the Fremont Hospital for some time.

LDG: Where does he live?

SB: He lives in Grandville. He’s retired now and he had a good job too. But he didn’t want to get into the office there. He wanted to be a salesman so he was a salesman for the Abbott Laboratories in Chicago. John, of course, is a dentist.

LDG: He went to Calvin, didn’t he?

SB: Yes, he did.

LDG: And then he went to dental school. He’s the gentleman I know. I know John.
SB: They've all gone to Calvin. They've all been at Calvin for some time, not the complete education. No, he went to Detroit.

LDG: John was born in 1939.

SB: Right. And then Marcia came eight years later.

LDG: Marcia Lynne Baker Steebe. She was born in 1947. Where is she living?

SB: She lives in Holland. She’s the only one that lives in Holland.

LDG: Your daughter...lives here! Oh, she’s the one that John talks about.

SB: Yeah, she was a LPN and she worked at Pine Rest in Cutlerville. I don’t know if you’re acquainted with Pine Rest at all. It’s in Grand Rapids, or Cutlerville.

While there, she met her husband. Not from the hospital there though. They lived next door to each other. They lived, a few girls together in a house, and he lived next door with a few boys. That’s how they got to know each other.

LDG: How about you? What was it like growing up in Holland during those times and what was it like working in the Heinz Pickle Factory which they may be closing soon because of all these closings? You did some canning in the factory during the summer, what was it like being young and in Holland that many years ago? This is really the fascinating part. What was it like then and now.

SB: Well, of course, we didn’t have all the conveniences that...

LDG: What are some of the things that you didn’t have?

SB: We did not have electricity and that was a big thing. In fact, the week that Keith was born, that was in 1927, December of '27, that week that he was born the electricity was turned on in our house. And I’ll tell you I enjoyed that!
LDG: You have a remarkable memory! God bless you! And you were worried about conducting an interview? Now I know why John asked me to see you.

SB: I've had so many people here. They've been sending the last few years...yes, I had it when I was still in the place on 40th Street too...they'd send the children from high school and they'd interview me. They wanted to know about it and I enjoyed having them come.

LDG: So you didn't have electricity. What kind of heat did you have? What kind of automobiles and were there horses and your husband did some farming. What was it like to farm way back then?

SB: We only had ten acres so it wasn't much and he raised corn. Being from the city, he thought that was great that he could raise corn. But he did and he enjoyed it. He'd have a large garden and he'd get a little wagon by the road and put some corn in it and whatever he'd have in the garden that he didn't need and he'd sell it that way. He got such a bang out of doing that. He wasn't used to the farm at all, but he enjoyed it. We sold the farm at least twenty-five years ago I guess and it's all houses there now.

LDG: Oh yes. We can see what's been happening. Well that's what we'd like to get your opinion on, you know, the difference between then and now.

SB: He wasn't too anxious to sell the ten acres. But I said, "Man, you're better off selling it because we're paying taxes on that acreage and we're not getting the taxes out of the ten acres, so that's foolish to keep it that way." So I said, "Let's try it." Well, he finally gave in to it. He was happy when it was done because we had all
kinds of people that wanted it, the acreage. It’s just outside of town…well, no, we were in the city. We were in the city. But he was happy that he sold it because he could see then that he was doing much better financially. I never worked like the ladies do now. I had the four kids. I had to stay home and work.

LDG: What was it like not having electricity? Where would you get your water and where were your toilet facilities and how were the streets and what was it like in town?

SB: The streets when we first moved there were not too good, but gradually they became a lot better. We lived on the corner of Fortieth and Graafschap Road. Fortieth Street was just terrible! You wouldn’t want to go down that street. It was all mud, chuck holes and…

LDG: Did you have horse and wagon?

SB: Let me see, did we have a horse? Yes, we had a horse. And we had a car. It was a few years before we got two cars that I could drive too. My dad had his first car in 1911. That was a Willis Overland. Do you remember the Willis Overland?

LDG: I never had one but I like cars so I would know of it.

SB: Oh yes. We were, I guess, the first people in the village that had a car. People didn’t have them you know. They all had a horse and buggy.

LDG: You called this a village. The town of Holland?

SB: No, Graafschap. It is. That’s where the pioneers landed and they built their church there.

LDG: Who were "they?"
SB: The people around, the pioneers that had come from the Netherlands and Germany.

LDG: You mean after 1847? When Van Raalte came here? Albertus?
SB: Yeah. They came the year after Van Raalte came in 1847.
LDG: And were they part of the Christian Reformed Church?
SB: That’s right. They always stuck there. We had a good size church for the small amount of people there and we’re still using it. It’s in good condition and everything.
LDG: Is that the Graafschap Christian Reformed Church?
SB: Yes, it is.
LDG: That’s still there now?
SB: It’s still there.
LDG: And you were a member then? What was it like being a member of the church then and has there been any big changes that you approve or disapprove?
SB: Well, I am disapproving of some of the things that are going on now. They want to build a new church and we’ve had many, many people. You see, I belong to the Graafschap Genealogy Society and I was put on that about 24 years ago and I’m still working on it. There was harmony except for a short time when there was also a Reformed Church there. The sad thing of it was that one was on one side of the parking lot and the other one was on the other side and they could hear each other sing. So you can imagine that didn’t work out too well. Then the Reformed Church got down to five families and they moved to Central Park. You know
where Central Park is?

LDG: Yes.

SB: Well, that’s where they moved. They moved the whole church down there. But they have taken that church down and have built a new church now. And I think we’re getting along good together.

LDG: Do you get out to go to church each week?

SB: No, I don’t. I haven’t since...it will be three years...three years ago, I broke my ankle, and I had a hip replacement several years before that and that was getting worn down. It gave me trouble. So John had a friend in Grand Haven that was supposed to be a very good surgeon. So John says why don’t we take you to Grand Haven and have Dr. Boeve look at your hip because, he says, I think you need a new hip. I still need a new hip. But John was going to take me. He came here and I was going to get in the car, we had an appointment made, and as I tried to get into the car I broke my ankle and I don’t know how because I can’t see where I did anything different. But I have been thinking that when my hip broke I had the same problem. I think that it was already broke before I fell. Because I fell on my left side and I broke my left hip. That was very satisfactory but now it’s worn down and I really need a new one. So that’s what we were going for and then getting into the car I broke my ankle.

LDG: So you couldn’t get to church any more?

SB: Well, I can get to church and I still work in church. They come and get me and they take me home. I’m about the oldest one there and they like to have some of
that old history and that's why they won't let me go.

LDG: Do you speak to them as part of the history?
SB: Oh, yeah. I sure do!
LDG: In what way?
SB: Well, we were asked...that was in 1872...
LDG: Who's we?
SB: Myself and another lady from the church and this other lady...
LDG: This is still in Graafschap.
SB: This other lady was from Germany. She had come from Europe and she joined our church...
LDG: And she lives in Holland now, too, like you?
SB: Yes. And she was pretending that she knew all the history of Graafschap and she knew nothing of it really. She was on the committee and she's still on the committee with us. But we're having many problems, although I don't like to say it, she doesn't know the history of Graafschap and she thinks she does. We've been having a lot of trouble with her and we don't like to kick her out either, so we get along with her. The council asked us if we would get the records straight. They'd give us the books of the church, all the (what do you call them?)...
LDG: The archival records?
SB: Well, yeah. All the materials from their...
LDG: Archives...
SB: Yeah. They were in Dutch.
LDG: Oh (laughs).

SB: So I was the only one that could speak Dutch.

LDG: And read Dutch. Wonderful!

SB: So I did some translating for them. This other lady that I was talking about she wanted to do it too. But she was a German and she couldn't read Dutch. She could read Dutch but her translation wasn't right, so we had problems with her. I'm sure this won't go any further because I don't want to have trouble with her...

LDG: Well, we won't put it on the record.

SB: Okay. She belongs to the Holland Genealogy Society too and...I better not say anymore about that, I guess. Because we had a lot of trouble with her and we're not there to cause trouble really. But anyhow the council gave us the books and we have all the records. We've been through all the records of the church and I translated most of it, and I've translated a lot of other stuff. Some of the books that were about the church, the early church in Europe. I'm getting to the place now where I would like to quit that job. But then the other women, they tell me, "Well, we don't know about this, but you do. You better stay."

LDG: Well, that's why we're doing this, Sue. Because nobody else knows and this is why it is important that we get information from people like you.

SB: I know.

LDG: What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in Holland in the past fifty years?

SB: I guess the cars and telephone. Those are big things. And I think I had somebody
say yesterday to me, "When did you have a telephone?" I said, "I know that they had a telephone in our house when I was born and that was 1904." Not everybody had a telephone, but my dad was that type of a guy. When there was something new on the market, he had to have it. And that’s how it was.

**LDG:** What are some of the qualities that seem to stand out concerning the City of Holland or Graafschap. Were you happy to live here and why? Any particular reason why you chose to stay here?

**SB:** I was always happy in Graafschap and I’ve always been a part of Graafschap. My dad was the type of person who wanted his kids to go to school. And very few people went to high school.

**LDG:** But you did. You completed twelve grades, you went to Holland High School. You also went to...

**SB:** I went...yeah, that’s another story.

**LDG:** Why don’t you tell us about it?

**SB:** I went to...

**LDG:** Longfellow Pioneer Public School 128 and Holland High through twelfth.

**SB:** Yeah. Now my dad got killed in 1917.

**LDG:** Was he in the war?

**SB:** No, he was a thrasher. You know what a thrasher is, they thrash the grain. I still don’t know today why he wanted to do that because he had hay fever. Well, when you’ve got hay fever you can’t be in the dust. He’d go all through the country to the different farmers and thrash their grain for them. He had somebody working
for him running the steam engine and that man, he was as good man, he liked machinery. But one day he wanted to go to town. He had to go to the bank. So he asked my dad, "Will you run the machine just while I go to the bank?" "Yeah", he says he would do that. So he was sitting on a box right next to the steam engine. He thought everything was in order, and after lunch the thing exploded and killed him instantly. His head was just...gone. So my mother was fifty years old at that time...he was fifty-three, I know that. So they didn’t have a lot of money and he wanted the kids to go to school. She had two farms. They were both inherited, one from one side of the family, the other from the other side. Well, my mother couldn’t run the farm, so she sold both farms. The one farm she didn’t do so well with, but the one she did. But she was only fifty years old, you know. She didn’t know how long she...She lived until '94!

LDG: You know at that time in Holland there seemed to be quite a bit of dissension between the various churches between the Reformed Church of America and the Christian Reformed Church. You were during that time. Could you tell us a little bit about that era and how the people reacted and why they did and who pulled away from where?

SB: They did not like each other at all!

LDG: Now, who are we talking about?

SB: We’re talking about the Reformed people and the Christian Reformed. Like I say, that both had a large church, one on either side of the parking lot where our church is now...do you know where our church is?
LDG: No.

SB: Well, they used to say...what was that song they used to sing? Stars in your crown...what is it. I can’t think of the title of that song. Something about stars in your crown. When they were through then the other side, the Reformed people would sing, "No not one. No not one." (Laughs) Terrible, wasn’t it? But anyhow, they did not get along.

LDG: How about in the town itself. Did the people speak to each other? My understanding is that sometimes they walked on opposite sides of the street?

SB: Yeah, they did.

LDG: And they were all Christians?

SB: Were they or weren’t they?

LDG: Well, that’s what I’m asking. Were they?

SB: (Laughs). I can’t tell you whether they were or not. Supposed to be.

LDG: Prayed to the same God!

SB: Yes, that’s right. That’s right. I don’t know. I have forgotten about it because I had lot of friends even in the Reformed Church too. And of course, I went to a public school and had eight grades in a one-room school. There were all kinds of children there, children from all the people in the area, so you had to be at peace with them.

LDG: Did everybody speak Dutch?

SB: A lot of them did, yeah. I don’t think my grandmother spoke much English, but my dad and my grandpa could. But they’d help each other. Like when they’d build
a barn or even a house, I guess they did that too, they’d help each other. The neighbors would come. They wouldn’t hire somebody to do it, they’d do it themselves...

LDG: And they’d all pitch in.

SB: Yes. In fact, we’ve got a picture of the barn...I don’t even know if you...yeah, I’m sure you must be aware of Russ’ place.

LDG: Yes. They’re a couple of them.

SB: Yes. They were members of the Graafschap Church. The Bouwses, Russ Bouws, yeah. And I knew them very well. In fact, I translated their grandmother’s diary. Oh, they were so tickled! The younger generation, they didn’t speak Dutch and how would they know what was in that diary if they couldn’t read it? So I translated it and when I got through I called Russ and I told him, "I’ve got your mother’s diary." Oh, he was so tickled! I lived next door to my grandparents and I was there most of the time as a little child then. And I could speak Dutch better than English.

LDG: I’ve even learned a little Dutch.

SB: Oh you have?

LDG: (Speaks Dutch unintelligible to transcriber)

SB: Oh yeah, that’s right. See that’s another reason why they want to keep me on that committee and I feel that I’m too old. I shouldn’t be doing that any more.

LDG: But look how important you are. When you were a little girl what kind of games did you play. You know, what did you use? I understand that there was an
interurban that used to come from Grand Rapids and they had all these beautiful hotels along Lake Macatawa. Do you remember those times?

SB: I sure do!

LDG: What did you do on a date when you went out with your husband and what are some of the things you did which is not being done now, besides going to a movie?

SB: I don't know... We just went out with other couples. We'd go to Lake Michigan to the beach...

LDG: Have picnics?

SB: Yeah.

LDG: Parties?

SB: Yeah.

LDG: Celebrate the holidays like Fourth of July and have clam bakes and things like that?

SB: But a lot of our entertainment was home made, you know...

LDG: Within the family.

SB: Played checkers and marbles and dominos. And we'd play tic-tac-toe, I don't know if you've ever played that?

LDG: Of course!

SB: You see, those things we always played. We those things we always did...

LDG: Things with a ball... stoop ball and...

SB: Yeah, umhum. And I think we were just as happy as the young people are now.

LDG: Maybe more so.

SB: I think so. I think so.
LDG: You know, Holland was a farming community for a long time, wasn’t it?

SB: It was.

LDG: And in order for the crops to be picked they usually didn’t have enough people from Holland to do it. So they’d have people come from other places like Mexico and Texas. And then different people used to come in to Holland. Could you tell us a little bit about that as you recall? For example, now the Holland community is only about 40% Dutch whereas then it was 100% Dutch. What do you think about people like myself coming into the community that are not Dutch.

SB: Well, there’s nothing wrong with it but I don’t know...maybe I’m wrong about that...You probably won’t like that when I say I don’t know whether we should always cater to some of those people. I think if they come to us they should learn our language. Is that right? Now, every so often there’s a Spanish paper with my Sentinel. Well, it doesn’t hurt me, it doesn’t bother me really, but why should we cater to those people? They’ve got to learn the English. Is that right?

LDG: I agree. There certainly wasn’t a lot of crime at that time, was there?

SB: No, there wasn’t. We wouldn’t think of locking our doors. Never! If we’d go away for a week, we wouldn’t lock our doors.

LDG: What do you think about the civility, you know of people today and then. At that time people used to hold doors, men used to walk on the outside. What do you think of these changes? Are they better or worse?

SB: They aren’t any better!

LDG: They’re not better?
SB: I don't think so. I have nothing against those other people. I have nothing against them at all. They have just as much right here as we have. We didn't always live here either. But I think they should do the things that we do...well, yeah, you can't say that either. I don't know. I really don't know what to say...think about it. It hasn't made things better. There's been a lot more crime in the last few years, even just the last few years I think.

LDG: And traffic?

SB: Oh! Has that increased. In a year! You know I sit here and eat my meals and the highway is right there and I count the cars. You would not believe how many cars go by while I'm eating my dinner or my breakfast or whatever. And that's all day long and it's all night long too! Not quite as bad at night, but 500 cars in fifteen minutes is nothing! That's a lot of cars!

LDG: Oh, I'm sure!

SB: But it's alright to me. I like it where it's busy.

LDG: We have a lot of new things coming to Holland. They're now trying get a large area for swimming and ice hockey and all that, and there's been a lot of controversy. How do you feel about that? Do you feel? Do you think that Holland should support more people coming here and ask more tourists to come, or would you like it the way it was in the old days?

SB: I liked it, but it's growing. Holland is growing. And they have to have workers here so where do we get them if they don't come to Holland? Well, they think nothing of traveling twenty-five miles a day to get to work. Of course, they get
paid a whole lot more...they pay them better now than they did then. We used to
pick strawberries and we’d get ten cents a quart, and oh boy, did we think we were
making money! (Laughs)

LDG: Were these local farms?

SB: Yeah.

LDG: When did blueberries come into existence because there are a lot of farms...

SB: They’ve been there quite a while. I would say maybe fifteen, twenty years. And a
lot of people pick their own.

LDG: What were some of the foods you used to make? Did you ever make ice cream?

SB: Oh did we ever make ice cream!

LDG: How was that done?

SB: Well, in the winter time the farmers would get the ice out of Black Lake.

LDG: Lake Macatawa.

SB: Yes. I don’t really remember, but I remember they had an ice house on Sixteenth
Street and they’d fill that up with ice and put straw between it, I believe? I don’t
know what that was for. Maybe so it wouldn’t stick together or something. But
anyhow, the farmers would go out there and they’d lose their horses once in a while
on the Lake if they’d go through the water. Oh yeah. Holidays, of course. We’d
make a couple gallons of ice cream always.

LDG: Well, after you got the ice what did you do with it? I have no idea how ice cream
is made.

SB: Well, we’d get these big chunks of ice and they’d put them in a burlap bag and
chop them quite fine and they’d put them in these hand cranked...well now they
have electric ice cream makers but then we didn’t have that. My dad was just crazy
about making ice cream. That was the first thing on his mind if somebody came.

LDG: Did you do any canning?

SB: Did I ever do canning! And it was fun to look over your canned goods when the
snow started to come.

LDG: How would you do that? What were some of the things you did?

SB: I had a pressure cooker when those became available. I didn’t have one all the
time, but I did my canning with a pressure cooker. And I canned everything, even
meat, to the point where I didn’t even like chicken any more because I had canned
so much chicken. And I didn’t like the smell of it anymore.

LDG: Did you have an ice box you used to put ice in before refrigerators came? What
did you do to fish? Smoke them? Do any of that stuff?

SB: Yeah, we had a person who did that commercially.

LDG: Was your husband a hunter?

SB: Yes, he liked to hunt although he didn’t get a lot of time for it but he did like to
hunt. Yeah, he was a hunter. Fish! Oh, the last years when he was retired, I’m
telling you if the neighbor would say shall we go fishing, he’d be all ready to go!

LDG: Where would they go?

SB: Well, they went to Hutchins Lake. That’s where they went most of the time. I
don’t know if you know where that is. Its south...it’s in Fennville.

LDG: Did you ever go hunting?
SB: No, I never did.

LDG: What were some of the sports you were involved in? Ice skating?

SB: No, I never skated either. I was kind of a home bird, I guess. I loved to crochet and sew and do that kind of stuff. I'd be just happy if I could sit for a day and sew or knit or...

LDG: Does your daughter know how to do that?

SB: Oh does she ever!

LDG: She's married, isn't she? That's Steebe.

SB: Yeah. She's got three children. Two of them are married and one of them is...

LDG: And you taught her how to do the knitting and the crocheting and tatting and that?

SB: The tatting? Yeah, I do that too. Right now I'm making an afghan for my daughter.

I've made so many doilies and I show them to the kids and the more I have them out they want them. So I'm glad I've got something to do. I told my daughter too, "Teach those girls while they're young!" I said, "I learned it when I was young and I had many years that I couldn't do it because I was too busy with children, you know, sewing and everything. But if you learn it when your young you won't forget it." Now a lot of people don't tat any more, but I love to tat.

LDG: Did you ever have an opportunity to travel?

SB: Not a whole lot. I was to Europe once.

LDG: You did go. Where did you go?

SB: I went to Germany to Noordhorn and (tape ends)...(Turned over tape) That's the
area that I visited, and I came across some relatives of mine that I never met before. That was in 1977 that I went to Germany and I stayed with some German people there, but they could understand the Dutch so we got along fine together. In fact, they still write me all the time. Very nice people. And they’ve been back to see me too. My relatives, the ones that I went to see, had a restaurant and a cafe in Noordhorn and it seems like a lot of people know them. When I was there, they were just celebrating their 125th year in business, the family. That was my dad’s side of the family. Oh, I enjoyed it so much! Oh, I enjoyed that trip!

LDG: That’s wonderful. It’s been so nice to have you speak with me and to have all your experiences in the oral history project. I hope we might continue some other time. I really appreciate this opportunity, Mrs. Baker.

SB: Well, I like to help out when I can if it does any good.