

# QUONOCHONTAUG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Oral History

# BARBARA & DAVID MOLTON

November 9, 1999

Interviewed by Anne Doyle

This is an unedited transcript of an oral history that is available in the QHS Archive Center. The policy for the use of this copywritten material can be obtained by contacting the Quonochontaug Historical Society ([archivist@quonniehistory.org](mailto:archivist@quonniehistory.org)).

Q: Today is Tuesday, November the 9<sup>th</sup>, 1999. Today I am doing an interview with Barbara and David Molton of 264 East Beach Road, Quonochontaug. I am talking to David and Barbara Molton. We were just talking about the house that they live in. Why don't we continue with that? This house was built in 1920.

B: Barbara Molton decided to own the house [inaudible 00:49] could move, so he told his architect to design a house that was just like a barn. That's why it has a tower on the end of the house, which was originally the water tower. The water was pumped by the wind. The arms of the windmill blew off during the '38 Hurricane. We never put them back.

Q: Was it in use until the '38 Hurricane?

B: No. Do you remember when the electricity was put in? I know they had it in the '30s, but I can't tell you.

D: I don't know.

Q: Do you remember the windmill being used for the water? Were you here during that period?

B: Did the windmill work to pump water when you were here? It must have, because you were [inaudible 02:20]. He was born in 1910. Davey, you were here when the house was built. There was a big copper tank in the parlor, which was taken down during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War for scrap metal.

Q: When did the two of you meet?

B: In school in 1919.

Q: When were you married?

B: In '36.

- Q: At what point did you come to Quonnie?
- B: It was before '27.
- Q: Did you stay here in this house then?
- B: Yes. But this room was not here. This was a porch. That room wasn't there.
- Q: Were your mother and father here year-round at any point?
- D: No.
- B: It wasn't a year-round house.
- Q: I know that they converted.
- B: We converted it. We took it over.
- Q: How long have you been here?
- B: We actually moved here year-round in '60.
- Q: Had you already done this room over?
- B: No. We moved here in '60, because we had [inaudible 04:20] a year-round place shortly after his mother died. I think we started in '57.
- Q: Thinking about the old days, who were some of the people that you knew down here?
- B: [inaudible 04:50].
- Q: The Fultons? Before the 1912 storm, I knew Elaine Henry was around here, and she took me around.
- B: [inaudible 05:08] with his sister.
- Q: What was your sister's name?
- B: Ruth.
- Q: Somebody was telling me how the house was moved back after the storm in 1912, and they moved it again over by the pond here. And then in the '38 Hurricane, it got moved again. So, you knew the [inaudible 05:38].
- B: Yes.

Q: And the Fultons. What do you remember doing with these families? Did you get together socially?

B: We didn't do too much socially, except at the beach. I don't think [inaudible 05:59].

Q: But they were moving from Providence too, is that correct?

B: No. Who were the two boys who rescued Bill with the surf one time? Was one of those [inaudible 06:17]? He doesn't know much of anything anymore. [inaudible 06:45] a German girl, who got one year exchange students in my cottage.

Q: [inaudible 06:59]?

B: [inaudible 07:01].

D: [inaudible 07:08].

B: The Jacksons was one of Bill's girls.

D: [inaudible 07:30].

Q: When you went to the beach, did you go down to East Beach?

B: Yes.

Q: [inaudible 07:58]?

B: Yes. [inaudible 08:10]. Up until this last year, we're not supposed to.

Q: You're not?

B: It's pretty much overgrown now. There are two or three houses, and they don't want you going through. We can't drive [inaudible 08:35]. You can walk over. [inaudible 08:40].

Q: What do you remember most about being here when you were younger, David?

D: [inaudible 09:08].

Q: Did you have a boat down here?

D: [inaudible 09:19].

Q: After the '38 Hurricane it got demolished?

B: Somewhat. [inaudible 09:39] brought it back, but I don't remember [inaudible 09:42].

D: [inaudible 09:50].

Q: When you went out on the boat, was a sailboat or a rowboat?

D: Rowboat.

B: We all had sailboats. You had a motor boat.

D: [inaudible 10:02].

B: It was boat with an outboard motor.

Q: Did you go fishing? What did you do?

D: [inaudible 10:10].

B: We just used to sail around.

D: [inaudible 10:21].

B: After our children were born, we didn't have the motor boat anymore. What happened to that boat? [inaudible 10:42]. The children were maybe two and three, or something like that. By the time we turned back, the wind was [inaudible 11:10]. All of a sudden [inaudible 11:17] the bottom of the boat. [inaudible 11:20] so we wouldn't tip over, because I didn't how I could swim with two kids. I only had to do one.

Q: You didn't have life jackets on?

B: No.

[overlapping conversation]

B: I wasn't [inaudible 11:40].

D: [inaudible 11:53].

B: I remember [inaudible 12:07] across the pond. [inaudible 12:16] turn around and go back. Of course, I didn't mind that, but when we got low, it was always [inaudible 12:30] for the children [inaudible 12:34]. I know we're not supposed to, but [inaudible 12:56]. Our field glasses also broke. That's how that happened. [inaudible 13:14].

Q: Why did they [inaudible 13:37]?

B: [inaudible 13:38].

D: [inaudible 13:48].

B: [inaudible 13:55].

Q: Do you have memories about World War II?

B: [inaudible 14:35] was before the war, but I remember walking on the beach. [inaudible 14:42].

