

WIU Oral Histories Program - Mary H. Siegfried

Interviewee: Mary Hannah Siegfried

Birth: 06 Aug 1901

Death: 12 May 1991

Date of Recording: 06 Aug 1979

Age at Recording: 78 years old

Interviewer: John E. Hallwas

Description: In this interview, Ms. Siegfried discusses the Ellison family, her ancestors, Denver early in the century, her education at Carthage College from 1918-1922 - including her recollections of Dr. Alice Kibbe - Judge Charles Scofield and his novels, Frances Gilchrist Wood, Siegfried's work as a local historian, Hancock County in the Mormon era, and the founding of Denver, Illinois. Duplicate cassette in vault. Transferred to FLAC, September 2016.

Original Media: Audio cassette

Length: 23: 33

Note: Throughout the interview, there are sections where vehicular noises become very loud, as well as birds chirping. This interview includes a second male voice at the end, suspected to be Henry Isaac "Buck" Siegfried, Ms. Siegfried's brother, who was interviewed the same week for the Western Illinois University Oral History Collection.

Hallwas: This tape contains an interview with Miss Mary H. Siegfried, of Denver, Illinois. It was made on August sixth, nineteen seventy-nine [August 6, 1979], which was her seventy-eighth birthday. Denver is a small village south of Carthage. On the tape, Miss Siegfried discusses the Ellison family, her ancestors, Denver, Illinois early in the century, her education at Carthage College from nineteen eighteen to nineteen twenty-two [1918-1922] including her recollections of Doctor Alice Kibbe, Judge Scofield and his novels, Frances Gilchrist Wood, Miss Siegfried's work as a local historian, Hancock County in the Mormon era, and the founding of Denver, Illinois.

[tape cuts, restarts mid-conversation; 01: 00]

Siegfried: Most of their descendants stayed here. The oldest son John did go West with the Mormons, and he has a lot of descendants out there that come sometimes to [inaudible] reunions. And the rest of them stayed around here and finally wound up jo- joining various denominations. And uh, they make up uh, oh, quite an element in the population, yes, I feel.

Hallwas: Did they-

Siegfried: [overlapping] We're having a big reunion on the nineteenth of August.

Hallwas: Did these- how did they- when did they come to Denver? Your people, or-

Siegfried: Well that's when my father¹ was a doctor, and of course he was a- he's got a great grandson that's Matthew Ellison. But he was a- he studied in Keokuk at Keokuk Medical College. At first he was- practiced at Bentley a while, and then when they² got married, in nineteen hundred [1900], they went out to Washington a year, and then they didn't like it and came back, and then he found out there was a vacancy here at Denver for a doctor, so he- they moved here, and well then, of course, I was born here and I've lived here ever since. [pause] If that's-

Hallwas: [overlapping] What do you, what do you recall about uh, Denver when you were a youngster? What was it like? About the same?

Siegfried: Well, not too much different, although some of the buildings- the bank building wasn't there yet. Nor was the building on the other corner across from there. But uh, I can see and picture the town. Of course it's the horse and buggy days, and the road was muddy and marks was getting hub deep and [laughs] in mud. My father of course was a horse and buggy doctor.³

Hallwas: How much territory did your father cover when he was a doctor?

Siegfried: Oh, I think he must have went six or seven miles in each direction because um, well, all country doctors did then, because it took a long time to get out when somebody called you on the phone. And because a country doctor had to keep five or six horses so that they could have a change of horses, because the horses got tired.

Hallwas: Did you learn how to drive a buggy yourself, years ago? Ever?

Siegfried: Oh, I tried to drive a buggy. Of course I could go in a buggy with my grandparents some too, go drive. And just hold the reins a little while driving. [laughs] Wasn't too long, I think in nineteen thirteen [1913] we got our first car.

Hallwas: Where- where did you go to school at?

Siegfried: Well, of course I started here, and then I went to graduate the high school at Carthage. And [inaudible] from Carthage College. Graduated country college in nineteen twenty-two [1922].

¹ Henry David Siegfried (1871-1918). Source: *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>), Memorial no. 51476176.

² Henry married Otilie Elizabeth "Otta" Tanner (1876-1954) in about 1901. Source: *Find A Grave*.

³ A doctor who made house calls, traveling via horse and buggy.

Hallwas: What was the uh, school called here? That you went-

Siegfried: [overlapping] Just called the Denver School.

Hallwas: [overlapping] The Denver School.

Siegfried: [overlapping] Denver dis- the district school.

Hallwas: Was it one or, one room, or more?

Siegfried: Two rooms.

Hallwas: Two rooms.

Siegfried: And after a while they put in a two-year high school that had three rooms. Well they- it's been torn down, now, the building was south if it were here. But it was a pretty school, awful nice school, I often- course it just had the two rooms, and then they put on a third room on the south. [pause]

Hallwas: I suppose an old pot-bellied stove and everything in it, in the beginning-

Siegfried: [overlapping] Yes it did, the first did, and then they got the stove with jackets around them, and kind of like they used at churches too, which was a coal- those coal stoves [inaudible]. [pause]

Hallwas: You went on to uh, to Carthage College, you said.

Siegfried: Yes.

Hallwas: What- what years was that, that you were at the college?

Siegfried: Well, I started in nineteen eighteen [1918] and graduated in twenty-two. [1922]

Hallwas: Mhmm. How many uh, how many students did they have over at Carthage College to Nauvoo?

Siegfried: Oh, close to four hundred. There was only about just a little over a handful of hundred. But do you know what I think colleges were better when there were fewer people. They could make it out to be a kind of community.

Hallwas: How-How- What did you uh, study? [inaudible]

Siegfried: [overlapping] Well, I majored in chemistry, because I liked Doctor Hill⁴ as a teacher, and of course Miss Kibbe⁵ I'd had a measure under her too, twenty-four hours of botany, and zoology [or biology]. Because when she came, then- I don't know, she just had a way with her that students liked, and she was so very interested in plants and flowers. [loud vehicular rumbling] So, [inaudible]

Hallwas: [overlapping] What was she- what was she like, as an individual, would you say?

[05:00]

Siegfried: Well, she seemed to be very interested in flowers and woods and birds, and nature.

Hallwas: Did she go on hikes a lot?

Siegfried: What's that?

Hallwas: Did she go on hikes-

Siegfried: [overlapping] Oh, yes. She went on hikes a lot.

Hallwas: Did she take students, ever?

[loud vehicular noises]

Siegfried: Yes, she'd take some students, and then every summer she'd take students on trips in the Model T Ford. And I guess you saw that whale jawbone up there at the museum. She brought that tied on the top of her Model T Ford from Puget Sound!

Hallwas: [chuckles]

Siegfried: But she did bring a lot of special [inaudible] to the museum, there, and the students had uh, they'd all get biological credit for their study, all that- and they all- they just kind of pooled their money I guess and bought their own food and cooked outside on the campfire, and didn't cost 'em very much.

⁴ Dr. William Kuhns Hill (1857-1932), Dean of the College and Professor of Chemistry. Source: Carthage College (Ill.). In Memoriam, William Kuhns Hill. Carthage, Ill.: Carthage College, 1933.

⁵ Dr. Alice Lovina Kibbe (1881-1969), Professor and Chair of Biology at Carthage College from 1920-1926. Source: Alice Kibbe Museum; 306 Walnut Street, Carthage, Illinois.

Hallwas: Sure.

Siegfried: There got to be a lot of their trips. [pause]

Hallwas: Was she a pretty good lecturer, in class?

Siegfried: Yes, I think she was. She- well, she was interested in her subject.

Hallwas: Was she considered uh, the most well-known, or one of the most well-known uh, professors at the college at the time?

Siegfried: Yes, I think she- primarily she was during the years she stayed there.

Hallwas: Mmhmm.

Siegfried: Well she stayed a long time, and then of course she stayed until after the college moved⁶ and then she moved out to where her family lived out in Washington. [loud vehicular noise] She and- was there quite a while, and [pause] and was well-liked by her students. Or at least her major students really thought a great deal of her.

Hallwas: Who else was uh, among the uh, professors that were very well known at the college when you were there?

Siegfried: [overlapping] Well, Doctor Hill, he was um- he came there back in the eighties [1880s] when he was a young man, from Pennsylvania, and uh, I think he taught just about everything in the college and academy during the first few years, and he finally- of course he kept uh, building up on his chemistry, and finally he was head of the chemistry department. And he was considered one of the best chemistry teachers in Illinois. There about the university [clock chiming] they always liked to get his students because they said he was such a [inaudible] teacher. And he was.

Hallwas: [chuckles] Um, uh [pause] What was Carthage itself like at the time that you were a student? Where did you- did you stay in Carthage, or did you live at home and go to school?

Siegfried: Well, of course, part of the time, I was- you know it was the time when- during the years when things weren't so prosperous, and I looked- a couple of years, why I just uh- we st- just stayed at a house and did our own cooking, that old ladies would take students in that way,

⁶ Carthage College was accredited in 1916, and in 1927, enrollment had reached nearly 300 students. However, by 1943, enrollment was at 131 students, and in 1953, the Board of Trustees agreed to consider moving it. In 1962, Carthage College had moved to its present day location in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Source: www.carthage.edu

for not a very small- just for a small sum a month, and you would do the- your own cooking on their stove. And I did stay at the dormitory one year. [pause] Then-

Hallwas: What was the dormitory like? Did they have- how many uh, women did they have? Uh, would you suppose, in the dorms?

Siegfried: Well, I can't remember now. They had quite a bit- just built that new dormitory, [Hallwas coughs] which I think it's still there. And then they had the- converted the old one to a boys' dormitory, and then they built another dormitory south there later on, that was done, but this one [inaudible] Denhart Hall, they called it, [loud vehicular noises] named after a benefactor of the college.⁷ And um-

Hallwas: I suppose that uh, the young ladies, students, had to be in at a certain hour and everything else.

Siegfried: [overlapping] Oh, you bet they did! With Dean Simmons⁸ they had to be in, boy! [laughs]

Hallwas: [chuckles]

Siegfried: They didn't dare do very much skylarking⁹ around.

Hallwas: Did the uh- And I suppose there was no such thing as a married student, hardly, in a way. Probably all students were single. [loud vehicular noises]

Siegfried: [overlapping] Not very often. Every once in a while there would be one. But uh, mostly they were young students, and um, they'd say the boys had to stay over in their dormitory, and the girls in theirs, and only on weekends could they go out and go places and have dates.

Hallwas: What was uh, what was Carthage like? Was- has it changed a lot, since the early twenties, when you were in town?

Siegfried: [overlapping] No, I don't think the town has changed too much.

Hallwas: Hasn't grown too much.

⁷ The building is named for Henry Denhart, an early Carthage Trustee and significant benefactor. Source: www.carthage.edu

⁸ Letta Simmons, B.S., Dean of Women 1913-1928. Source: *The Diamond Jubilee History of Carthage College, 1870-1945*, by William Carl Spielman; 1945.

⁹ "Wildly playful or mischievous behavior". Source: "Skylarking". Merriam-Webster.com.

Siegfried: No, it hasn't changed too much in other ways, either.

Hallwas: [inaudible]

Siegfried: [overlapping] They always had quite a few churches. I think they've got ten now, but I think they had seven or eight then. But then, it seemed like they all had flourishing congregations. Of course the college was Lutheran, and the students mostly went there, but if a student belonged to another church he was supposed to go to his own church on Sunday mornings.

Hallwas: I see.

Siegfried: That was the rule in the dormitory. Everybody had to go to church. You had to go to your own or any other, but you had to go to church. Miss Simmons was quite strict but I think nice she was. She was a very good teacher, too.

Hallwas: Uh, do you recall the- any of the early county fairs that they used to have up in uh, Carthage?

Siegfried: Yes.

Hallwas: What were they like? They don't have them like that anymore, do they?

Siegfried: No, they have one down at Augusta, but they quit- they quit having the county fair. But they used to have a county fair and people would come from all over, and they had a race track, all kinds of tents for different exhibits.

Hallwas: Driving races?

Siegfried: Yes, they had [pause] And then, of course they had exhibits.

[10:00]

All kinds of farm produce, and cooking, and clothing, and people would spend all day, sometimes, at the fair.

Hallwas: Did your, your family ever get involved in the fair's exhibits, things, or-

Siegfried: No, I don't believe we ever did. We used to go, but-

Hallwas: Of- of the people in the uh, Carthage, notable earlier people-

Siegfried: Mmhmm.

Hallwas: Aside from those at the, at the college, a name that keeps coming back is Judge Scofield.¹⁰

Siegfried: Scofield, oh yes he worked [inaudible]

Hallwas: [overlapping] Do you recall him at all?

Siegfried: Oh yes.

Hallwas: What was he like?

Siegfried: [overlapping] He was our family lawyer, and my grandfather's family lawyer. He was a very fine old gentleman, and he was a- also a minister. He preached for the Christian Church there, and was very active, and I think really kept them up financially quite a bit too, because he gave very liberally. But he was considered one of the best lawyers, and he I think was circuit judge at one time. And he was Cook County judge, and circuit judge, and I believe he was [inaudible] along for the State Appellate Court at one time.¹¹ I think you can find some good biographies in some of the town histories. Because he was a man of very great prominence. [pause] And he was a very good man, too. He and his wife¹² both. And his wife was active in most of the social clubs in Carthage.

Hallwas: He wrote a couple of novels¹³, also.

Siegfried: [overlapping] Yes, he did.

Hallwas: Did you ever read them?

Siegfried: Yes.

Hallwas: Are they any good?

¹⁰ Judge Charles Josiah Scofield (1853-1953), practiced law for 78 years. Source: *Freeport Journal-Standard Newspaper*. Freeport, Illinois, December 21, 1953, page 3.

¹¹ In 1893 he was appointed by the Supreme Court of the state as one of the judges of the Appellate Court for the Fourth District, and sat upon that bench for four years. Source: Crossley, F. (1916). *Courts and lawyers of Illinois*. Chicago: American Historical Society. v.2, pp. 451-452.

¹² Rose (Nash) (Spitler) Scofield (1858-1932). Source: *Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com>), Memorial no. 138949441.

¹³ *A Subtle Adversary: a Tale of Callitso County* (1891); *Altar Stairs*, 1903.

Siegfried: Well, the one is a story of uh, of early politics, and the liquor [inaudible]. Well Warsaw and Nauvoo of course had saloons, and Carthage didn't, or at least they got voted out. And of course that was- they were quite interesting from uh- of course he gives out fictional names of towns and for the people, but it was the story of how the local politics could be- tried to be [inaudible] for the liquor [inaudible]. And the next one is more like um, oh, Sheldon's In His Steps,¹⁴ which was a- well maybe you've read that book? Sheldon, Sheldon's In His Steps?

Hallwas: Oh!

Siegfried: Anyhow, he- it's the story of a young preacher that tried to get a number of his church to pledge that whatever the situation that came up and they had to decide something, they would do what they thought Jesus would have done. And some of 'em got into some tight places! [laughs]

Hallwas: [chuckles]

Siegfried: But it's- they're both interesting. Because he was a rather able writer, and he used to write lots of history, and well, that Scofield History, that front part of it, the- almost the whole book of history, he wrote.

Hallwas: Yeah.

Siegfried: He was quite a historian, and of course [inaudible] and his father were lawyers too, growing up in the early days. And uh- [pause]

Hallwas: Uh, Frances Gilchrist Wood¹⁵ is another writer that comes-

Siegfried: [overlapping] Yes.

Hallwas: -to mind. Wrote the *Gospel Four Corners*-¹⁶

Siegfried: Yeah.

Hallwas: Do you, do you recall her at all when she was in town, or did she leave before you- [inaudible]

¹⁴ Sheldon, Charles M. *In His Steps*, 1899.

¹⁵ Born Minerva Frances Gilchrist, to Ellen (Walker) and Charles Allen Gilchrist. Married Lansing P. Wood. Source: White, Emma Siggins. *Genealogy of the descendants of John Walker of Wigton, Scotland...* 1902. p. 385.

¹⁶ Wood, Frances Gilchrist, 1859-1944. *Gospel Four Corners*. New York: D. Appleton, 1930.

Siegfried: [overlapping] I think I had seen her, but then- I think she spoke somewhere once, [inaudible] at the college- Let's see, I believe she spoke at the commencement of the Lutheran Church one time. But I did- have seen her, and- But that Gospel Four Corners was the corner¹⁷ where Franklin [inaudible; possibly Harts] lives now, and Don Forsythe, and uh, Nancy O'Harra lives over in the next house. But it was the four families that lived around that corner, and they had about thirty children all together, and they all played together. That's the history of how our community [inaudible] grew up. But uh, her book is rather interesting.

Hallwas: Yes, I found it-

Siegfried: [overlapping] Because she was a sister¹⁸ to General Gilchrist who was a, oh quite an engineer, surveyor and engineered a lot of railroads, and also he was a- mustered out as a general in the civil war.

Hallwas: Where did you go after you got your uh, your degree at uh, Carthage College?

Siegfried: [overlapping] Well, I taught school a few years.

Hallwas: Where?

Siegfried: Well of course, here, and in Mount [sic] Pleasant Hill, Illinois. And at West Point, Illinois. [pause] Then my mother wasn't so well, so I decided I'd stay home then. Took up a lot of hobbies, and things like this history business. [chuckles]

Hallwas: How did you happen to start the history business? Your, your writing and your history?

Siegfried: [overlapping] Well, I believe, the first thing, I was trying to find out about Tucker Town. That's- people used to hear about there was an old house that was still there when- when I can remember. And so I was talking to Abby Davidson, in the *Republican* office¹⁹, and I said I'd gotten the notion of starting one myself, if I can find out some things about it. And she said, 'Can you get it ready for our Christmas issue?' and I said, 'Well, I can try.' And so then I just kept looking at all the things I could find, and she showed me some memoirs, and one old paper

¹⁷ The name given to the intersection of Locust and South Madison Streets because four religious denominations were represented by the four families living there. Source: Floraandwill.com

¹⁸ This is *possibly* a mistake, referring to her father Col., 50th Regt. U.S. Colored Infantry, Brevet Brig. Gen. U.S.V. March 26 1865. However, her brother Robert Allen Gilchrist was listed as a civil engineer in the family genealogy. Source: Heitman, Francis B. *Historical register and dictionary of the United States Army*. 1903. p. 456.

¹⁹ At 521 Main St., the Republican Building was built in 1968 and originally owned by the Davidson family who published the *Carthage Republican* Newspaper, which ran from 1854 to 1954. Source: Allison, Judy Welch. *Walk Around the Hancock County Courthouse Square in 1908-2008*. p. 10.

that would help find it, and of course I went in the county records, and land records, and all I could find out about the town. So then, uh, they needed the whole page to print it.

[15:00]

That's one thing that- paper they got now won't print anything. He just don't seem to care whether he has any history or not! [laughs]

Hallwas: How long ago was this? Your article on Tucker Town?

Siegfried: [overlapping] In fif- fifty-one. [1951] It'd be in the Christmas number of fifty-one, if you want to look in the microfilm.

Hallwas: Of *The Republican*, correct?

Siegfried: [overlapping] Mmhmm, *The Carthage Republican*. Mmhmm.

Hallwas: You were on the committee then, that put together the nineteen sixty-eight [1968]-

Siegfried: Oh, yes. I was [inaudible]

Hallwas: [overlapping] I recall seeing your name in there, under a couple of uh, sections, or what have you.

Siegfried: [overlapping] Mmhmm. I don't think they got my pictures in it though, [inaudible] [laughs] But uh, it uh, yeah, I worked on that, right along with quite a few other people. I did the Harmony Township section. And also quite a few articles.

Hallwas: What uh, kind of impact would you say that the riverfront area has had on, on Hancock County? That is to say, would it have been a different county historically, if you didn't have the river influence?

Siegfried: [overlapping] Yes, I kind of think so, because all of the first settlements were there. And then you see Warsaw was shipping points for even McDonough County. Before the brand new railroads, why everything had to be hauled by wagon to Warsaw and then shipped down. [Hallwas clears throat] All the produce and grain and everything. And then the merchants' uh, goods would be come- sent back. They order from Saint Louis stores, and everything went down there to Saint Louis, and of course most of the immigrants came up that way, from New Orleans. So I think really they had quite a, an influence, and of course there was- The steamboat traffic was very heavy in those days, and- of course everything was shipped by water.

Hallwas: A couple of books I've read about the uh- written about the Mormon activity here-

Siegfried: [overlapping] Mmhmm. Mmhmm.

Hallwas: -especially books written by the church, people in the church, tend to characterize the uh, society of early Hancock County being kind of a rough top society, full of a lot of desperados²⁰-

Siegfried: [chuckles]

Hallwas: -and that kind of thing, when the Mormons came in. Is that accurate?

Siegfried: [overlapping] No, I- no, I had- I don't- they didn't have any more desperados in the early group. [laughs] Each one doesn't have very good words for the other one. You see, Gregg²¹ and um, Thomas Coke Sharp²² that published the papers over at Warsaw. Why they, they were pretty down on 'em, and of course they in turn were- had a lot to say about the people in the town in [inaudible]. And of course then they got to quarreling within themselves because the followers of Joseph Smith and [inaudible] Brigham Young got abouts with each other. And uh, of course, Joseph got killed here at the old jail. There began to be a lot of trouble, because it seemed like there was a lot of fighting back and forth and burning houses and things that way, and uh, so- Then Smith was arrested, and placed in the jail for his own selfkeeping [safekeeping], but then this mob came from Warsaw then and killed him.

Hallwas: [overlapping] During the-

Siegfried: [overlapping] Course I think Carthage felt kind of bad about that, but then it happened. Not too- couldn't do much about it. [chuckles]

Hallwas: During the uh, the years between his death and when they left, ah, a couple years later, did the uh, did the fighting keep up, really? Uh-

²⁰ "A bold or violent criminal". Source: "Desperado". Merriam-Webster.com.

²¹ Thomas Gregg (1808-1892) is credited with starting the first newspaper in Hancock County, *The Carthaginian*. He also edited *The Western Adventurer*, *The Warsaw Message*, *The Warsaw Signal*, *The Plymouth Locomotive*, and *The Hamilton Representative*. Source: J. A. Gordon. *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society (1908-1984)*. Vol. 18, No. 2 (Jul., 1925), pp. 433-435

²² Thomas Coke Sharp (1818-1894) was a prominent opponent of Joseph Smith and the Latter Day Saints in Illinois in the 1840s. Sharp promoted his anti-Mormon views largely through the *Warsaw Signal* newspaper, of which he was the owner, editor, and publisher. Sharp was one of five defendants tried and acquitted of the murders of Smith and his brother Hyrum. Source: *Biographical review of Hancock County, Illinois*, p. 109. Hobart Publishing Co., 1907

Siegfried: Well it didn't- uh, things didn't go very good because a lot of people didn't believe them at that time, and then a lot of those reformed the Reorganized Church and stayed here. But um-

Hallwas: There was a lot of internal conflict-

Siegfried: [overlapping] Yes.

Hallwas: -within the church.

Siegfried: [overlapping] I think the followers of Joseph [inaudible] relatives, didn't have any use for Brigham Young, and it just kind of kept up, and finally Brigham Young decided the best way- thing he could do was go out where there was no government or anything else to interfere with him, and so he went to Utah. And he thought it belonged to Mexico at that time, but before they got there, well the treaty was settled and [chuckles] Utah was ceded to the United States! But uh, one of the Ellison sons went to Utah and he's there, and quite a lot of relatives out there now, and they're all devout Mormons. [Hallwas coughs] But they sure had hard sledding²³ when they first went out there. I've got an Uncle Bob with two of his daughters and boy, if they didn't have hard sledding. Trying to make that- you know, you go to a dry and desert place almost, then try to eke out a living, and- [pause]

Hallwas: This fellow, Isaac Galland.²⁴ Nauvoo was-

Siegfried: [overlapping] Oh, Doctor Galland. He's a clever guy. [chuckles]

Hallwas: Yes, ah- he's another one that I get um- that I read conflicting opinions on.

Siegfried: Mmhmm.

Hallwas: From the Mormon point of view he's portrayed as kind of a Frontier shyster,²⁵-

Siegfried: [overlapping] Mmhmm. Mmhmm.

²³ An idiom meaning "difficult work or progress." Source: "tough sledding". *The American Heritage® Dictionary of Idioms* by Christine Ammer. Houghton Mifflin Company.

²⁴ Isaac Galland (1791-1858) was an entrepreneur, land speculator, doctor, author, and frontiersman credited with attracting Joseph Smith, Jr. to Commerce, Illinois (later Nauvoo), and selling 20,000 acres of land and the city of Commerce to the Mormons. Galland converted to the Mormon faith and while he was suspected of misusing church funds, he remained in high esteem, being considered a Mormon benefactor. Source: Hudson, D., Bergman, M. and Horton, L. (2009). *The biographical dictionary of Iowa*. Iowa City: Published for the State Historical Society of Iowa by the University of Iowa Press. pp. 176-177.

²⁵ "A person who is professionally unscrupulous especially in the practice of law or politics". Source: "Shyster". Merriam-Webster.com.

Hallwas: -and from the point of view of, say, people who live in Keokuk, Iowa, where he was more or less a bounder,²⁶ he's viewed as a-

Siegfried: [overlapping] Yeah. Mmhmm.

Hallwas: -a very uh, important uh, man of uh, really good character.

Siegfried: Yeah.

Hallwas: So.

[20:00]

Siegfried: Well, he was kind of- not on the business deals, he wasn't so hot I don't think, but he was quite a promoter of different things, and was an early doctor here. And of course they named the city- er, town after him in Iowa, Galland, Iowa.²⁷ [pause] And then, they say there are quite different opinions of him.

Hallwas: How did uh- to get back away from Carthage for a minute, to the, the town of Denver. How did Denver get its name?

Siegfried: Well, they found- they wanted to name it after one of the founders, Seebold, and- but he decided he'd been out West and took a trip out West and he said Denver [Colorado] was one of the prettiest little cities he'd been in, so he wanted to name it Denver, so they did. You see, when the railroad went through, these little towns was built. You see, that's why Tucker Town disappeared. Because Bentley was three miles west on the railroad, and- and um, oh a little town called [inaudible] started up down here and, and it's moved into Bowen then, [loud vehicular noises] took- they took the railroad and then the towns [loud vehicular noises cover the following words] the [inaudible] towns, probably four, five, six miles apart on these railroads. So that's why Denver was settled there, around the railroad. The two men that owned the land, one owned land this way, and the other one owned the land the other side of the streets. Seebold and Bush, laid it out, and- and of course people began to move in, and. [pause] build stores and things, and businesses.

²⁶ "A man of objectionable social behavior". Source: "Bounder". Merriam-Webster.com.

²⁷ Galland, a small village on the Mississippi River in Montrose Twp., was first known as At-Wip-E-Tuck, and later as Nashville. Galland is located a few miles south of Nauvoo, Illinois, on the southern edge of the Galland School State Preserve Park. It is here that Dr. Isaac Galland located in 1829 and opened a Trading House. Source: Fairchild, David S. (1847-1930). *History of Medicine in Iowa*. Iowa State Medical Society. 1927.

Hallwas: What did uh, what did Denver have at uh- in terms of population, probably, at its zenith?

Siegfried: Well, there were just a- Listed is two hundred, I don't know whether they ever had that many riding but they're not what [inaudible; chuckles] count [inaudible] around the area. Well maybe there was two hundred- bigger than it is now. Although it had a few more. Used to have three stores at one time. And a post office, and uh, usually you had somebody running a restaurant, and of course they always had the grain elevator, because the railroads would bring grain- business always cropped up around the railroads, of course, because the old farmers brought in, and then the elevators shipped out quite a lot of- now they ship it by truck to Warsaw.

Hallwas: Did you say that your dad was um, a graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons? In Iowa, in Keokuk?

Siegfried: [overlapping] No, it was the other one, Keokuk Medical Hospital. KMC.

Hallwas: Oh.

Siegfried: That was the kind of successor. He had been reading the articles and then saving them [inaudible] the Keokuk paper. And uh, two of his uncles graduated there too.

Hallwas: The, the Keokuk Medical-

Siegfried: College. KMC. Keokuk Medical College-

Hallwas: [overlapping] It succeeded the earlier one?

Siegfried: -[inaudible] and then they both unate- united with the College of Physicians and Surgeons about that time.²⁸ It's given the whole history in that uh, oh, in that- one of those little papers of [inaudible] and what's the other one? [inaudible]

Henry Siegfried: I don't know.

Siegfried: Huh?

Henry Siegfried: Well-

²⁸ Keokuk Medical College was founded in 1890. From an initial 143 students, the enrollment increased each year until its 1899 merger with College of Physicians and Surgeons. Also merging in were Keokuk Dental College and Keokuk College of Pharmacy. In 1908 the Keokuk medical complex moved to Des Moines to merge with the medical department of Drake University. Source: <http://www.lostcolleges.com/keokuk-medical-college>

Siegfried: [inaudible] is it?

Henry Siegfried: I don't [inaudible] that's the name of it-

Siegfried: But uh, it's published- it's published their history, all fallout. History of the medical college, and medic positions and everything.

[tape becomes muffled]

Hallwas: I suppose they supplied a lot of the positions for this area out of the-

Siegfried: [overlapping] I think so. I think they're- I think they're most of the positions around this part of the country are from there.

Hallwas: I know one of your articles was about early doctors in the [tape becomes clearer] area. That's why I thought of that.

Siegfried: [overlapping] Yeah. Mmhmm. Yep. I think that article in the sixty-eight history too, were maybe abridged some, but [pause]

[End of tape; 23:33]

Transcribed and researched for Western Illinois University Libraries by Julia Thompson in April of 2018.