

## **Catherine Hughs Interview Transcription**

Interviewer: Rudy Nothdurft (RN)

Interviewee: Catherine Hughs (CH)

Credit: RJN Family History Company

Interview starts at 1:48

**CH:** I'm Catherine Hughs and I was born in Walhalla on October 30, 1919. My father was Wade Coke Hughs and my mother was Annie Biemann Hughs

**RN:** And your mother was related to the owner of the Biemann Hotel.

**CH:** She was his granddaughter

**RN:** His granddaughter. Tell us some interesting things that you can remember about the Biemann Hotel.

**CH:** By the time I would remember, the Biemann family didn't own it any more. And parts of it were used as a store and there must have been parts of it that were torn down.

**RN:** That was torn down.

**CH:** Parts of it

**RN:** Uh huh uh huh. Tell us about the house where you live in now.

**CH:** My house was built. Uh Dedriech Biemann owned that whole block each one of the early settlers got so much property and he owned that whole block where the house is and I don't remember the builders but it was built to be a boarding house.

**RN:** It was built to be a boarding house?

**CH:** and the first people to live here were the Tejuene's from New Jersey. he came down to Walhalla and they had a boarding house there. The Biemanns lived in the hotel down on Main Street.

**RN:** Oh they lived down there.

**CH:** And later my mother's father after the war between the states lost his Main St property and so he had to move his family to that house

**RN:** I see

**(3:36)**

**CH:** So they lived there from that time on. Dedriech Biemann and his son did a good bit of building in Walhalla. And uh maybe I mentioned after the surveyor marked off the lots, he numbered them and put the numbers on pieces of paper and everybody that had paid dues to the colonization society just reached in and drew a number and that was his lot. So Diedrich Biemann owned down on main st where the hotel was and he also drew the number for the block where I live and uh my house was a two story house and it was built to be rented as a boarding house and the first people who lived there were the Tejunes (sp?) they had come from New Jersey and later they had built in another area and then there were some one story houses on that block that were rental houses and I think there may have been 3 or 4. And after the war between the states of course people were in debt and uh my mother's father had to mortgage his Main St property that included the hotel and the store buildings and then couldn't pay off the mortgage so they were going to have to move his family to the house I live now. And my mother's mother was expecting her 7th child, the 3rd little child had died as an infant and I guess they decided they'd wait til after the baby was born before they moved and after the baby was born she developed an infection and died. So her sister in Charleston had two little boys, Ms Merton, so she took the baby and kept her for about a year and a half and so my mother's father had to move his family then to my house. That's where they all grew up. And he had appendicitis about two years after they moved there, and of course no hospitals back then, and he died. So my mother and her brothers and sisters were orphans they had to have a guardian of course til all of them were grown and uh in the meantime he had been to Charleston to see the little baby and he was talking to his brother in law and of course to her her aunt and uncle were mama and papa because she heard her little cousins call them that and she walked up to her uncle and called him papa and her father was standing right there and he said just pack her things i'll have to take her home, we'll manage some way. So he had to bring that little two year old child on the train from Charleston and so then she grew up with the others in the home. And so you know back then there were no nearby hospitals and when he developed appendicitis no one could save him so my mother and her brothers and sisters had to have guardians til they were all of age.

**(7:04)**

**RN:** Can you tell us a little bit about your family...about your I guess it would be your mother's family

**CH:** Well of course Dedriech Biemann was in the German merchant marines and he had landed at Baltimore and at Charleston. And then at that time when so many people were leaving Europe and coming to the United States. Uh he decided I guess his time for his enlistment was out so he just stayed in Charleston. And then when some of them wanted to live in the mountains and they organized the german colonization society then came to Walhalla and that's when he came. And he built the first house, it was a little log house on Main st.

**RN:** He built the first house. Was that up there were the courthouse

**CH:** The very first house. No where the Biemann hotel would later was

**RN:** Oh the Biemann Hotel

**CH:** I think they just moved that house to the back of the lot and built the big hotel in front. I know next to the hotel they had a few stores. They had a grocery store and they had a blacksmith shop that was at the back.

**RN:** Do you think that Blacksmith shop might have been owned by Mr Joost?

**CH:** Well it could've been but maybe it was just on Biemann's lot.

**RN:** Yes right

**(8:33)**

**CH:** And he had uh have I guess I mentioned he had a General Store.

**RN:** General Store

**CH:** And he was the first Senator from Oconee County, first South Carolina Senator

**RN:** First South Carolina Senator

**CH:** It was split off from Pickens District and i don't remember the date it would've been in the 1800s sometime and of course Wade Hampton who was later Governor the Hamptons would come up, they had a summer home at Cashiers and they would come up by train and then they would always spend the night at the Biemann Hotel and then they would hire a driver to take them up to their home

**RN:** In Cashiers

**CH:** Up to Cashiers

**RN:** Up to Cashiers

**CH:** And that's where Wade Hampton was when he was elected Governor.

**RN:** Oh he was up at the home?

**CH:** He was up at the home and the message came by telegraph so they went to the livery stable and got the fastest horse they had. And a rider rode, I think he was a Crisp, he rode from Walhalla up to Cashiers to tell Wade Hampton he had been elected. And he came back to town and they had a big celebration, a big bonfire in the middle of the street. And of course he spent the night at the (Biemann) hotel and then the next day he went back to Columbia.

**RN:** I believe someone told me that he made his first speech from the Biemann Hotel when he got back there the next day before he went back to Charleston or Columbia or wherever he went.

**CH:** Yeah I understand that's the way it was

**RN:** Well that's a very good story Catherine that is very good. I'm glad that you included that.

(Video Transition)

**(10:20)**

**RN:** And the rest of the family continued to live here in Walhalla...

**CH:** Yes the oldest daughter and of course they went to the town schools we didn't have public schools. Miss Ida McCollough had a school and also Miss Kate Steck had a school and uh my mother's oldest sister Kate learned about a music school in New York and so she went there and studied music and then came back and taught music and she taught they had a little school connected with the mill. They had a cotton mill then. And my mother took a business course and she was secretary to Colonel Jaynes. He was one of the lawyers and he was also one of the guardians for their family. And then the next sister Gertrude married Jess Neville she went to Winthrop and she got her degree and taught school before she was married. Then the one little child died then one brother was Dietrich Rieppe Biemann and he took a business course and he worked with the railroad also during WWI he was working with the railroad. Later he went to Raleigh NC and he was partner in a heating and plumbing business. Then Dick Biemann he was Henry Dietrich lived in Walhalla. He served in the army in WWI and he was overseas. He came back to Walhalla and he had a gas station and a garage. And then Ida Biemann went to Lander College and she prepared to be a teacher and in the meantime she met Charlie Hetrick. Now do you have information on the Hetrick Hosiery Mill while it was here?

**RN:** No

**CH:** Well the Hetrick's came down from Philadelphia, I think and they worked with Colonel Jaynes and they started the Hetrick Hosiery Mill. And then during the depression they had financial trouble and that mill was ended. But Kenneth Mill took over property and took over the building and that's where they got their start and we had that mill here as well as Victor Monaghan it was a cotton mill and uh my mother's father i believe bought some stock in that mill and when they made the first cloth he told them he wanted some of that cloth and he had a seamstress to make shirts for his little boys and they had a meeting of some of the directors of the mill and he brought his little boys so they could see some garments that had been made from the cloth.

**(13:19)**

**RN:** And what was the attitude of the people who founded Walhalla?

**CH:** They were just willing to work hard and do it. And uh build a town. And of course Walhalla was already here when the War Between the States started. And that would've been of course the south was a defeated nation and so that would have affected them. I guess there that must've been followed by a depression and that was when my mother's father lost so much of his property. He also owned out in what they called the tanyard that's out and I think the Keowee Key area now. They had uh a lumber mill out there and they would bring the lumber in to town on wagons then load it on the Blue Ridge Railroad to ship it out. And for a long time the Biemann family owned some farm land and they rented it out for farm land and uh my mother sold hers but some of the members of the family still own some of the property. I think probably Henry Biemann might own some out there and the Nevilles. Her sister my mother's sister Gertrude married Jess Neville its very possible they still own some property out there.

**(14:46)**

**RN:** What makes Walhalla unique among the little towns in this area?

**CH:** Well I suppose the mountain climate, the location of it. And uh of course Highlands north carolina has been noted for being a resort especially for the summer time. And of course alot of the people were farmers. Walhalla was sort of a rural community and uh then the different businesses like the lumber business and the mills. But I guess originally it was more or less rural.

**RN:** Catherine, tell us about the naming of the streets.

**CH:** Catherine St now Catherine St. is named for Mrs Diedrich Biemann. And there's also a little street named Diedrich. And some of the streets are named for the people, we have a John St. and Ann St. that was one of the couples. We have a Bauknight St. Uh well just if you read a list of the streets a good many of them are named for people.

**(16:05)**

**RN:** What about uh any festivals that they had in town in the early days?

**CH:** Well they would have in the summertime, usually because of cold winters, most of the festivals would be in the summer. The lutherans would always have a lawn party and uh then of course we were celebrating anniversaries they called it the semi centennial which would be 1900 wouldn't it. That was a big event. They had floats, horse drawn floats because there weren't many cars back then. And then in 1950 we had our hundredth anniversary

**RN:** Do you remember the 100th anniversary? It was in 1953

**CH:** Very well. We participated in floats and parades and exhibits at that time. And some of the people Charleston came for that. In fact some people come in 19 when was would the semicentennial be 1900 yes.

**RN:** 1900. And then 1953 for the 100th year of Walhalla and the 1976 for 200th anniversary of the country.

**CH:** And then the county Oconee County

**RN:** uh yes right

**CH:** And of course Oconee was part of Pickens District at first and I don't remember well I guess around I don't remember the exact date.

**RN:** It was 1850... I think 1858

**CH:** That they split off from Pickens District and formed Oconee County.

**(17:53)**

**RN:** And Walhalla is a very unusual name for a town. What can you tell us about the origin of the name?

**CH:** I know when I went to Winthrop College as a student, we would introduce ourselves to the students and we'd tell where we were from and so many of them were from either Spartanburg or Orangeburg or Greenville or Summerville and when I say Walhalla they'd say where'd anybody get a name like that for a town so I'd explain to them the origin of Walhalla. And of course Seneca now I believe Seneca and Oconee are supposed to be Indian names.

**RN:** Oconee is an Indian name. Seneca there was a famous Indian by the name of Seneca but there was also a Roman by the name of Seneca I think also.

**CH:** And Westminster I don't know the connection, you know they have an Abbey st in Westminster and I don't know whether that's connected to England and Westminster Abbey.

**RN:** Yes Westminster is from England yes

**CH:** And of course Salem now I don't know where they got the name for Salem. And of course Clemson was named for Thomas Clemson. Well at first it was called Fort Hill the town and when they started the university they began calling the town Clemson.

**RN:** So it changed from Fort Hill to Clemson?

**CH:** I think that's right

**(19:27)**

**RN:** Catherine, now tell us about when you were a little girl

**CH:** Well uh all the streets weren't paved. I remember when they paved Main St and I have some pictures made before it was paved. And we had babysitters, we had young girls, children in the neighborhood that would take us to walk, to entertain us and we could go to the drug store and get an ice cream cone for a nickel and then we'd cross the street from the stores. The stores were on one side of the street and the other side were houses. That was where the Wylie house was, Dr Bell's house, uh and the Strother house. All of that was on the other side of the street. There was a wall out in front of the Wylie house and we would walk across the street and sit there and watch the drivers. They used drag pans and mules to clear, to dig out the street. I can see them now they'd dig into the dirt and then take it over to the side and dump it off. And then dig some more. And now of course they have tractors or bulldozers to do that kind of thing. But I can remember when they paved Main St.

**(20:44)**

**RN:** What were some favorite things as you were growing up in Walhalla?

**CH:** Uh well we had an early movie house then on main st it was about in the area of where Neville hardware is now and they were movies at night and then we had matinees in the afternoons on Saturday and that's when uh they had the cowboy movies and we'd go to those on Saturdays. We didn't have a swimming pool for a long time, a town swimming pool I don't remember exactly when that one was built so we would go out to uh out on the Coffee road there's a place called Stribling Shoals, have you heard of that?

**RN:** Uh no

**CH:** A that's where we would go swimming. I didn't really learn to swim but we went out there and played. And uh let's see. The Brown family I guess up in Mountain Rest they had a big lake up there called Browns Lake. Now I don't have any information about that that would be do you know Jack Brown up at Mountain Rest

**RN:** No

**CH:** I think his family owned that lake they called Brown's lake. I'll have to check with Jack on that.

**(22:10)**

**RN:** Well do you remember when they still had wells?

**CH:** Oh yes. And uh

**RN:** Talk about the wells

**CH:** Well we of course we had well at my house before they ever had the indoor plumbing. And my mother conserved using town water she would draw water out of the well to water flowers. Of course in the early days they had to draw water out of the well and heap big ole wash pots in

the yard and they'd have to wash the clothes that way. I guess that's the way all laundry was done then. And of course by the time they had indoor plumbing they'd use the water that way. Uh and I remember to save water my mother would sometimes draw water out of the well to water her ferns and flowers and uh that way you see it didn't show up on the water meter when she used it.

**(23:14)**

**RN:** What about the linden trees? I think you talked before about those, tell us about those..

**CH:** Uh well of course isn't there a famous street in Berlin called Linden?

**RN:** Yes. Right.

**CH:** They did. We had a linden tree in my yard and I guess different places in town probably had them too. And finally they made the driveway wider so they cut the tree down. But I remember we would play in the shade underneath the linden tree on a hot day

**RN:** Uh huh. I understand that they had linden trees in the center of Main St up and down Main St.

**CH:** That sounds probably right. And uh we had the two there was kind of an island in between the two sides you know and uh if you crossed the street before we had traffic lights uh if we wanted to cross from one side instead of going all the way to the end of the block, we would cross right in the middle from one side walk to the middle section and then watch the traffic then go to there to the other sides. So there was that island in between uh the two lanes of traffic

**(24:35)**

**RN:** And what kind of traffic are we talking about?

**CH:** Well it'd be model t fords and wagons. I don't remember seeing anybody in a buggy but I do remember a lot of wagons and people of course that lived on farms most of them had a wagon they'd bring produce into town.

**RN:** you don't remember any oxen then pulling the wagons

**CH:** I'm not sure it seems to me that somebody did have didn't they call them a team of oxen?

**RN:** Yeah

**CH:** I don't remember who had it but I can remember the yoke you know the harness. Sometimes if we had a Christmas parade they would look for somebody that maybe had that in a parade.

**(25:26)**



**RN:** What do you know about Newberry College?

**CH:** During the war between the states, the yankees went into Newberry and took over the buildings and the lutherans were worried they said what can we do now about our college. And Dietrich Biemann was in the state senate at that time and he told him I have a lot in Walhalla you can have. So they brought the college and it's over where the civic auditorium is now. And I imagine they were wooden buildings but they built, well maybe two or three and I don't remember how many years it was here. Dr Smeltzer I think was probably President but I'd have to check on that. And of course after the war Newberry wanted them back. So they moved the Newberry college back to Newberry. And then Adger College was started on that spot. I believe that was more or less Prebyterian and the buildings were just wooden and I think two of the buildings burned and of course there was a big depression after the war between the states so Adger College went broke. So that was the end of Adger. And then I don't know how it became a public school and the present building I think was finished maybe 1914 I'm not sure about that. But I have a picture of the building before they built the other wing on it, it has just one wing and a center area. Uh so actually Dietrich Biemann gave that lot to start with. He was the first owner of that lot. And then the building next to it i think it's torn down now was built in 1925 and I was in first grade at that time and during recess they were working the brick masons and carpenters and of course the little boys would walk across the street to watch them building and we came in from recess one day and the teacher said now children the carpenters have told us to tell the children not to cross the street stay on this side because they might drop a brick or a tool if somebody is standing out there and that's how I remember when that building was started. Then they had the first old gymnasium that must've been built in the early 1940s and at one time we thought that was all the buildings we'd ever need. And now I don't even know where all the school buildings are

**(28:16)**

**RN:** Tell us about the Keowee Courier newspaper

**CH:** I don't know who actually started it. Mr. Dick Steck was editor and at one time my father was one of the stockholders in the Courier and at one time I think above the headline it said "Steck, Shelor, and Hughs". Mr Joe Shelor was a lawyer and uh he invited my father to come into his law firm as a junior partner and I think on some of the early issues it would have at the top of the page "Steck, Shelor, and Hughs" That's been my connection with the Keowee Courier and I don't remember when it was actually started. And I don't know who actually started it.

**RN:** So your father was a lawyer then?

**CH:** Yes. Well he graduated well he stood the examination for the Citadel and he made a high enough score so he went to Citadel on scholarship. And he graduated there in 1901. He majored in civil engineering so he helped survey when they were building railroads and highways. And I think he did some of the surveying for the highway to Highlands and but he always wanted to be a lawyer and he got a scholarship to go to the Citadel. At that time each county in the state could give a scholarship so he got the one for Oconee County and he went

to the University of South Carolina law school and he graduated there in 1907 I believe. And Mr. JW Shelor was one of the older lawyers and he invited him to come into his law firm as a junior partner and their office was above where the Keowee Courier is. That was their law office. And we found some of those old law books, I don't know who had them but they're getting them for the Heritage Center here. After Mr. Shelor's death, my father's brother Harry had become a lawyer and they were living in Plant City, Florida for a while but then they came here and he went into the law firm and it was called Hughs & Hughs.

**RN:** After this wonderful interview with Catherine we were able to sit down at a table and talk about the photos she had brought with her.

**(31:09)**

**RN:** Catherine, tell us about the wells on Main St.

**CH:** This is the well. I remember when they had that right in the middle of the street.

**RN:** Oh that's a well then. Ah ok.

**CH:** And I remember seeing people going there and drawing a bucket of water, and they had cups or dippers something to drink out of. when Mr. Pitchford, I don't know if the first store burned and they built a bigger one when they rebuilt

**RN:** It was a very fancy store

**CH:** Yes

**RN:** Very fancy store

**CH:** and this would be and of course here's the wagons and horses. Someone's on horseback there. This was the Otto Schumacher House.

**RN:** Ok

**CH:** And his wife was a sister to my mother's mother. She was Sophie Rieppe from Charleston. And she was married to a Meiburn first and they were living in Charleston. She had a daughter and two sons I think. And he died and in the mean time Otto Schumacher came over from Germany and they met and were married and they were living Charleston. My mother's father told him he had a grocery store in Charleston and my mother's father said we need another grocery store in Walhalla, so why don't you come up. So that's how they happened to come to walhalla. And this was on the corner of Main and N. Spring Street. And it had porches all the way around it and some people called it the Boat House because old riverboats on the Mississippi River had porches.

**RN:** Ah thats the Boat House. Ok ok

**CH:** That's the Boat House

**RN:** I remember reading about that and I didn't exactly understand why it was called a boat house.

**CH:** yeah the boat house because it resembled those old river boats

**RN:** Ok. Very good.

**(33:02)**

**CH:** And that is this one and there was another house in the middle. I don't remember who built that but Mr Crisp might have owned that house at one time. And one of his daughters married Otto Schumacher and this house. I don't know whether Colonel Jaynes built it or

**RN:** But it was the James House?

**CH:** J-A-Y-N-E-S. C.G.

**RN:** Colonel Jaynes?

**CH:** RT Jaynes. And my mother was secretary for him at that time and this is the house that burned. Now the new ones didn't have these so this is why I'm assuming this was the first one. And when they rebuilt it they built it of brick and to make it fire proof between the walls, I don't know whether they put bricks between them but the walls were this thick and if a room caught on fire they could close the door and those bricks would contain the fire until they could get it put out.

**RN:** Very Good

**CH:** And uh

**RN:** Very good

**CH:** Later he I don't know what caused his financial trouble but he had to sell it and so the Nevilles bought it and they lived there for a good many years and now that block I think a store building is there now. I hated to see that house come down. But they said it was not

**RN:** (Interrupting) Tell us about the uh Biemann Hotel

**CH:** Alright. This was on the corner

**RN:** On Main Street

**CH:** On Main Street with the corner of Catherine. Catherine ran right beside it.

**RN:** Uh huh

**CH:** For her Catherine Street becomes the Pickens Hwy, this big street and for Diedrick Biemann just a little insignificant street somewhere over I forgotten where it is named for him. And these were stores.

**RN:** Oh those were the stores?

**CH:** They had

**RN:** The hotel and the store were right next door

**CH:** Grocery store and maybe dry goods. And you see the well.

**RN:** Yeah Yeah

**CH:** Right in the middle of the street. And the hitching post

**RN:** The hitching post

**CH:** And the traveling salesmen you didn't want an expensive room so I think the little rooms in this part of the hotel were cheaper than the others and people would come from Charleston and the lower part of the state in the summer time for a trip to the mountains

**RN:** And we go right next to this one here then.

**(35:33)**

**CH:** They called that the Biemann Hotel bus. And they would take people to Highlands and well around the county. And I don't know what this building is. I have a faint recollection of that but this is

**RN:** That might be the stores

**CH:** Could be. This is my mother's father that's Henry Biemann and I don't know the man there. This is my mother Annie Biemann and this is Gertrude the man's holding her. That was Miss Neville. And I don't know the other people on there. I don't know how they got up there but I guess they just had to climb up there. But they would take people to Highlands. I don't know how many days in the week they would drive up there

**RN:** Could they drive up in one day?

**CH:** Yes I think so. And I think when the railroad was not all the way to Walhalla I think it stopped at one time in West Union

**RN:** Yeah

**CH:** So they'd meet the train then in West Union with the bus and they would bring them to Walhalla

**(36:35)**

**RN:** Ahh very good ok. Now tell us about this photo here.

**CH:** Diedrich Biemann and his wife Catherine Biemann and uh he uh I had a picture of him in the German Merchant Marine uniform and I can't find that picture and I don't know what happened to it but he would come when he was in the German Merchant Marines they would land in Charleston and in Baltimore and then some of them were beginning to get the idea of coming to the United States and that's how he got introduced to the United States being in the German Merchant Marines. And you see his fingers uh a little bit looks like arthritis

**RN:** Uh Huh

**CH:** He would handle the ropes. You know it was a sailing ship.

**RN:** Right

**CH:** And when they would handle to ropes for the sails in real cold weather they would be ice on them. And my mother said that was why some of his fingers looked like they were arthritis you know from handling those frozen

**RN:** Those frozen

**CH:** Those frozen ropes. He went back. He was in the United States first and uh he and another man went I believe I mentioned this so they came back with another couple when he went to get her and bring her to Charleston. Uh the two men roomed together and the two ladies roomed together and my mother knew the couple but I had forgotten their names and he had a little store in Charleston at first I think and then some of the people wanted mountain property and that's how they got in with that group. Now that ship was um

**RN:** Yeah that's a picture of the kind of ships that would come over on

**CH:** I don't know if that's actually what they came on but that was probably the kind of ship

**RN:** The kind of ship

**CH:** And they wanted to be farmers because they had been farmers in Germany and that's how they advertised it in the paper. Joseph Grisham owned the property and they contacted him and that's how they made a deal to start Walhalla.

**(38:43)**

**RN:** Ok. And then we were talking about the railroads so lets continue on then.

**CH:** That looks like a freight train

**RN:** Coming in to Walhalla

**CH:** And I don't know that I he looks like he's the conductor maybe or the whatever they the fireman. And this is Mr. Jess Neville standing by the engine

**RN:** Ok very good. And what do we have here?

**CH:** That's the freight depot that was on the other side. The little passenger depot was up this ways a little more and that's where they would load and unload the freight.

**RN:** Ok. Very good. We did that one. And we did that one. And I don't know if we can zoom in on this.

**CH:** The Kaufmann opera house.

**RN:** Be sure to get the Kaufmann opera house here.

**CH:** That was made for entertainments and maybe that I seen a school, maybe they used that building one time for a school.

**RN:** Uh huh

**CH:** Of course Mr. Kaufmann was one of the early builders of Walhalla

**RN:** Uh ok. And uh what do we have here, another street scene with uh

**CH:** Yes uh the Wagner monument was down there they moved it way up there to West End because they thought it was a traffic hazard down there but that was the street I'm trying to think the street where it was. That was near the Schumacher house and Colonel Jaynes house is back in here.

**(40:30)**

**RN:** So it gives us an idea of where it was located.

**CH:** And I uh I'm trying to think of the street name. Catherine is its is below Catherine. And of course I don't think we have a picture of the Confederate monument.

**RN:** Uh no I don't believe we do.

**CH:** That was up at College St right in the middle of College St and Main and this tells about him when he was in the Senate. The first state Senator

**RN:** These are what

**CH:** These are the Rieppes

**RN:** the Reeses

**CH:** No. R-I-E-P-P-E. And they were in Charleston. They both came from Germany. I thought I had a list of where they came from but I don't see it. These were the parents of my mother's mother.

**RN:** Oh Ok.

**CH:** And they stayed in Charleston. And one daughter was uh she was married to a Malburg first. I think I pointed her picture out and after his death she married the Schumacher. Now you know the Schumachers.

**RN:** Yes.yes

**CH:** This would be their great grandparents and that's where the Rieppe name comes from. He was Frederick Wilhelm Rieppe and she was a Schumacher before she was married and she was distantly related. I mean some of them were double first cousins I think through that. But that's who these people are. And their home was on 58 George St. and they were charter members of St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Charleston if you've heard of that church.

**RN:** Yes.

**CH:** And they lived. I think their home was near there.

**RN:** Ok I think I have a picture of their home here.

**(42:13)**

**CH:** They were across from the old Citadel you know they had a uh the Citadel was located and then later they built farther up uh to a new location. I think I mentioned my father graduated in 1901 at the Citadel

**RN:** Now won't you tell me about this. This is the one you gave me.

**CH:** That's 58 George ST in Charleston and that's where my great grandfather Rieppe had a store here and I think he had a Grist Mill and I don't where that was but probably. The children were born there they had the 3 daughters and they lost their only son and I think is still there. I think they made it into a museum.

**RN:** Ah very good.

**CH:** We were glad they kept the house. I remember visiting there.

**(43:09)**

**RN:** Ah ok

**CH:** Now this is this porch. Well one of the houses right in here. Alright this is Henry Biemann, Otto Schumacher, and this is the grandmother she was on a visit I guess maybe I don't know if he had died or whether she just came up for a visit. Because her two daughters were Sophie and Catherine and this sister stayed in Charleston, she was Mrs. Merton, she was Annie Merton and she was holding her oldest child. She had just two boys and uh her Malburg husband died and Otto Schumacher had come over from Germany and they met and they were married. And the Malburgs and all these were Lutherans, members of the Lutheran church. And uh her first family this was Annie Malburg and she married a cousin of the Biemann's, Fred Biemann. Now Otto no, Hampton Malburg you know some the Malburgs maybe

**RN:** No I don't know them.

**CH:** You don't know them in the Lutheran church. Alright this is Hampton and she had one named Tom and then Willie and Harry Malburg I think. One of the other boys is not in the picture, I don't where he could be but anyways these were her first family and then when she married Otto Schumacher, this is Otto, and he has a tricycle. My mother said he had the first tricycle in Walhalla. Now if you know uh who are some of the Schumachers in the Lutheran church now?

**RN:** Craig

**CH:** Well that would probably be his descendent. And uh this is my mother Annie. This is Katie she married Sydney Adams later they moved to Rock Hill. This is Gertrude, she married Jess Neville. This is Rieppe Biemann. His name was Deidrick Rieppe Biemann. Three German names for the two grandfathers and then uh she's holding. This is Rieppe. He settled in Raleigh. And uh then this is Dick. You know some of the Biemann's. That's Dick Biemann. Now she had Ida, another girl after this child. Now this is Bertha Schumacher, she's the 2nd family and uh did I mention this uh with his tricycle?

**RN:** Yes uh you mentioned that.



**CH:** I hated to see that house torn down. It was interesting. Miss Phillips owned it last I think and she had a boarding house there. People especially in the summertime would come there and I'm trying to think what store is there now. Well my mother's father and grandfather, Diedrick Biemann and Son, did a lot of building and uh on the block where I live this was the only two story the rest were only one story and the first people that lived there were the Tejuenes, they had come from New Jersey. Mr Tejuene needed the mountain climate and later they bought a lot on the next block and built a house and I think the next family were the Pennington's. I don't know anything about them living there. Then when the big depression came and mama's father lost his Main St property he had to move his family. He had to ask the people living there to let him have the house and so he had to move his family there. And my mother's mother knew they were gonna have to move but she was expecting her youngest child and they decided to wait til after the baby was born before they moved but she developed a fever and died so she never did get to live there. And so my mother's father added an extra wing to the house he added a breakfast room and a kitchen and a laundry room. that's on the back part. And of course they had fire places to start with Diedrich...Rieppe Biemann in Raleigh came down and he sent his workers and they installed a furnace. I remember when that was done in the 1920s sometime. But that was a boarding house at first and after they lost the property on Main St., some people still called that the Biemann Hotel. And some of them would come back to visit and they said they wanted to stay at the Biemann Hotel and of course they didn't have it on Main Street anymore.

**(48:03)**

**RN:** Since we're here and everything this is the Valhalla. This is the original Valhalla memorial in Germany. This is near Regensburg.

**CH:** Ah good. I didn't realize there was a Walhalla, Germany.

**RN:** Yeah it was built by King Ludwig's father I believe it was and inside is the over a hundred famous german people or German mythological characters.

**CH:** ohhh and of course Valhalla and Wagner's operas

**RN:** Right yeah

**CH:** Valhalla and the Gods and Goddesses. And some people said that's Pagan and said don't emphasize that.

**RN:** Now this is built on the model of the Parthenon in Athens Greece.

**CH:** Oh that's beautiful. Well I didn't know about that. Maybe I heard there was a Walhalla in Germany. But I don't know. Well you know they used to preach in Lutheran in German in the Lutheran church and then I think I don't know whether he would preach the same sermon then do it in English or whether he would alternate the different Sundays and they I have the German hymn book my mother's mothers German hymn book, and a German Bible, I've got Diedrick

Biemann's German Bible and somebody said that when some of the settlers would come they'd learn English and they would put an English Bible next to a German Bible and read it and that helped them translate. Somebody was smart to help them think of that.

**(49:55)**

**CH:** I never could roll my tongue for some of the, I have an anglicized pronunciation of German. This was I think you gave me a maybe small copy and somebody enlarged it for me and I had to write this I like to get that print somebody made this copy. I didn't get that line but I think that print is so pretty.

**RN:** It is yeah

**CH:** So I had to fill in what was up here. It didn't quite get that in on that but this is uh I don't know this 18 it says when that was started 1848

**RN:** But this one here is as of March 1890 after a lot of that had been built up.

**CH:** Right

**RN:** It shows the lay of the town. It shows the North and South Broad Street. It shows Main Street. And the railroad coming into the town. And I wanted to get a picture of that just for the record. And I'm glad you brought this along Catherine.

**CH:** Uh this was the way I understood about the North and South Broad. You see here's Main and this is the north side of Main and this is the South side of Main. But they run East and West. They should've had a West South Broad and a West North Broad, East North Broad.

**RN:** See here we had Cappelman's.

**CH:** Yeah Cappelman's. They were..

**RN:** And there was Biemann's land

**CH:** Biemann's land. Bullwinkel.

**RN:** And Thode. Thode.

**CH:** Oh Yeah. Crisp. Garner. I don't know some of these. Bullwinkel you know they call that Bullwinkel Hill down behind the Methodist church.

**RN:** Is that what you're talking about Bullwinkel Hill

**CH:** Bullwinkel. I think that's where it is

**RN:** Bullwinkel. He must've lived over there then. Because he had the land there.

**CH:** Yeah I think so. And John Street. There was a couple. Maybe John and Ann. We got a John street and an Ann Street so that was a couple but I don't know their last name. Spring I guess there was a Spring along there. And Church that would be the Lutheran Church, wouldn't it.

**RN:** Yes yes

**CH:** And uh Cappelman now uh the Cappelman's. Some Cappelman married into the Merton's family and we were related distantly to some of the Cappelmans. Then Hiebel now I don't know anything about him. Let's see that one I can't see that one

**RN:** Uh then

**CH:** Wendelken

**RN:** Wendelken

**CH:** Wendelken. Sometimes they combine it and Cobb's land. I don't know anything about that.

**RN:** Cobb. We still have some Cobb's in the church and everything.

**CH:** Ohhhhh

**RN:** Yes

**CH:** I'd forgotten that. But I remember Bullwinkel Hill and now you see this was the Tejuene Boarding House. Now you see that is my house. And the Kauffman Opera House. I don't know whether they really had real operas or they just thought it was entertainment so they named it the Kauffman Opera House. I don't know.

**RN:** Very Good. Very Good

**CH:** I hope I haven't rambled too much.

**RN:** You're supposed to ramble.

**Interview Ends (53:25)**

