

**Guide to the Oral History of  
BURROUGHS, MILDRED (1902-)**

**Biographical/Historical Notes**

Mildred Burroughs was a lifelong resident of Montgomery County. She was born in 1902 near Brookeville, Maryland. She was the daughter of Charles Zeitler and Ada Anderson. She attended Unity Public Schools and Strayer Business College in Washington, D.C. She worked as a practical nurse for many years. She was also a life member of the Mt. Carmel Methodist Church and served as a foster mother for 30 children.

**Interview** – Interviewed June 12, 1975 by James Scull for MCHS.

**Subject**

Huckster  
Influenza epidemic  
Rural life – Montgomery County  
Tornado of 1929  
Unity (Md.) – Early twentieth century  
World War I

**Subject Names**

Burroughs, Albert  
Parsley, John  
Spurrier, Harry

**Table of Contents/Index** – See also Time Index for additional topics and subjects. Archive file also contains an artist sketch of Burroughs.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
TIME INDEX

Oral History recording with Mrs. Mildred Burroughs, of Brookville, for Montgomery County Historical Society, June 12, 1975.

SIDE I  
Minutes

- Life in Brookville, UNITY*
- Brookville Length 25 mins*
- 0:0 - Introduction, James Scull
- 2:35 - Background of Charles "Sonny" Zeitler family and the Zeitler farms on the Patuxent River
- 6:45 - Mrs. Burroughs; recollections of hard farm life, going to school in Unity, childhood diseases, home remedies, the family doctor on horseback, neighborly help to the family with "legless" sons.
- 17:20 - Charles Zeitler and the huckster business- going to market in Washington, customers visiting the farm
- 21:10 - Background of Albert Burroughs and family, the Burroughs farm in Tridelpia, work in Bryant grain mill in Gaithersberg, job with Water Department in D.C., the three children, return to old house in Unity once a tavern built in 1770.
- 27:10 - Tales from the Civil War- soldiers confiscating horses, uncle's buried money.
- 29:35 - What Unity was like in Mrs. Burroughs childhood- row houses, blacksmith shop, old churches.
- 32:15 - Great "excitements" - barn burning on Zeitler farm, 1929 tornado demolishing father's house in Unity while he read newspaper, mail blown to Westminster,
- 43:10 - Robbery at the Sandy Spring Bank.

SIDE II

- 0:0 - Father's store in Unity - steak at 25¢ a pound, oysters, Christmas goodies, dry goods. The store stove as a gathering place for locals. Father's death in 1951.
- 4:20 --Burroughs family moves to Brookville- living in ancient house on top of hill. How Parsleys donated it to Burroughs.
- 10:40 - When President Madison stayed in Caleb Bentley house. Some old families and old homes.
- 13:50 - Mrs. Burroughs' memories of the Great Depression, World War I, Influenza Epidemic, Armistice
- 21:25 - Closing

Side II