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ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION - TAPE NUMBER 10
INTERVIEW BY RICHARD VAIR WITH SPENCER KNAPP
PALMYRA, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: KNAPP FAMILY HISTORY

Rick: I came across an article in the newspaper, was it yesterday, about your graduation from Syracuse University.

Spencer Knapp: I'd like to see that. I've been unable to find it. There was a lady that interviewed me, I assume that she was of the School of Journalism at Syracuse, but I don't know. She asked if she might, and I said yes if I had any information that would be appropriate, I would be glad to talk to her. What paper was it in?

Rick: I believe it was the Palmyra Courier of 1910 or 1911.

Spencer Knapp: Well, I was in the Class of 1910, and I never dictated anything back in 1910 or 1911. You're sure it isn't a recent paper?

Rick: It was in 1910. It was just a small notice that said that you were graduated from Syracuse University.

Spencer Knapp: Oh, what paper was it in?

Rick: Palmyra Courier?

Spencer Knapp: Palmyra Courier. That's the truth. I was the only one there this last week from the class and they think they are all dead but me.

Rick: The sole surviving member of the 1910 Class.

Spencer Knapp: Yes, I assume to be the powers that be down there thought I was and I was the oldest man there at the exercises, etc? for all classes. About four hundred of us. Well, go ahead.

Rick: Well, I guess first of all what we want to know is have you been a lifelong resident of Palmyra and the area?

Spencer Knapp: Yes, I haven't moved only around the block from my birthplace.

Rick: And where was that specifically?

Spencer Knapp: Well, I was born in a brick house on the west side of Washington Street, which is now 131 and 133, in 1887. I was born there

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and it was the home of my grandfather once, Lyman Lyan and he was a member on this street here in Palmyra for quite some years. He came from Lyons in 1887. He had a banking institution down here. He was a banker with men in Lyons. I've seen the papers of their, shall we call it inauguration with Mr. — I guess I won't tell you his name. And yet I should be able to speak it because he actually was in the banking business in Lyons.

Rick: Could it have been a Mr. Gavitt? I remember reading Gavitt and Lyons together.

Spencer Knapp: Yes, it was a Gavitt in Lyons, and by mutual consent my grandfather Lyan came to Palmyra.' He was county clerk two times during the Civil War and the books are full of his writings. They had no stenographers in those days or machines to record it. He had to write it all in longhand all day long.' Stand over the desk and write it. I don't know for how many years, but a long time.

Rick: Did you have any brothers or sisters in your family?

Spencer Knapp: No.

Rick: You were the only child?

Spencer Knapp: That's right.

Rick: I understand that several Knapps have been in the house on Washington Street.' Several of the Knapp families.

Spencer Knapp: Yes, my son who has just died and buried was a resident in the house for a long time and owned it and I have been renting at 124 Main Street for some years.' I prefer not to have taxes thrust at me.' I could rent it cheaply enough so that I moved over to 124 Main Street where I live now.

Rick: And you were most recently in the insurance business? Is that correct?

Spencer Knapp: I quit about 1955? More or less connected, my name was, with the Knapp Insurance Agency after that as Vice-President. You have to have some kind of identification if you are going to have an incorporated business which it was. My concerts and myself constituted the whole number of people who were financially interested in it. And I've been in that business since 1913. Oh, I could say 1914. I was sort of an apprentice there when I got out of college, just to see whether I liked the business or not. And I knew more or less about it from childhood; I used to write policies long before it was allowable? You could write policies, but you couldn't sign them until you had a license from the state? So that had to be done by my father.

Rick: What got you interested in the insurance business? Did your father interest you in it?

Spencer Knapp: Yes, he had a partnership with Hiram G. Clark, a veteran of the Civil War, and he took up his insurance business in 1887, just slightly before the Garlock Packing Company was thought of. So I can pre-date the Garlock Packing by about two months or three. That was in June and the Garlock's was in September of the same year when it was started? My father died in 1925 and I succeeded him for thirty years, hereabouts, over Western Wayne and some of Eastern Monroe, but not much beyond Newark? I ran over seven townships anyway. Some in Manchester, that's in Ontario County of course and it's been fairly successful.

Rick: Has your location always been the same building there on Main Street?

Spencer Knapp: No? The first office that I knew anything about was in the Williamson Building, the Williamson Block it was called. The first block East of the then Post Office which was in the Village Hall. It was owned by a man in Batavia who was in the insurance

business with Mr. Clark and Mr. Clark became rather incapacitated about 1900 and died, I think, in 1901. He was in all the parades that there were, but he had to ride in a carriage because he lost a leg at the battle of Gettysburg and he didn't complain about it. He was glad that he could get into a horse and carriage and drive mostly in the E part of the division of the policyholders. They drew an imaginary line at the office, north, and south. My father took the west portion and Mr. Clark took the east portion, but he was familiar with both of them. As I say the partnership lasted until 1901 when Mr. Clark died.

SUBJECT: BUSINESSES

Rick: What do you recall of other businesses on the street?

Spencer Knapp: Well, I could go down the street pretty well from our office. I would know most of the people that went in the two main blocks in the business downtown.

Rick: Would you like to do that?

Spencer Knapp: The Williamson Block was a two-storied frame building built I know not when, but it was substantial enough to house businesses on the first floor and residences in the second story. The west store had been a barber shop at one time, but most of the days it was occupied by Clark and Knapp.' As I said, that's where the partnership started and on the side of the building, toward the west was a great billboard and the proprietor of the theatre pasted up the various shows that were coming to town always had a great overflow at fair time and from time to time those billboards would be changed as he got new talent coming in.' It was, I should say, 20 feet long and 9 feet high and the boy would come along with a pail and paste and tear off what he had to and put on the new and paste them over and those would be facing the audience or anybody who wanted to stop until the next show came along.

Andrew Lupoid had an ice cream parlor in the next store of the building and Kit Lupoid was the girl who sold the candy and dished out the ice cream, but Irv Young was a hustler before school to get the ice in.

The next one was a door to upstairs and it was occupied mostly by tenants, but one tenant was Mrs. Van Duyne, old Auntie VanDuyne, we called her. She had seven boys and four of them went to war and she became very poor because there was no one to work. The Grand Army did a great deal for her and I guess she died there. George Sanford and his wife lived up in that same building in her rooms after she

died.

And the next store was occupied by William Darling or Brad & Darling for a great many years. That was a real first-class market. No groceries, all meat. And on the East of that was a three-foot blank wall that went down to the rear of their quarters to Jerry McGrath's shoe store. Jerry would sit there and make a pair of boots for a man.- He was a good cobbler. I know he put bent nails in his mouth and blew them out of his mouth and into the shoe and gave them a whack. He sat there day after day on a little old stool and when Mr. Sexton wanted a new pair of shoes he would come over there and say "'Jerry, my shoes are getting thin, I know you've got the last that fits my foot and make it just the same as you did before.'" There were no caps on the toes and they were what we called bootees. They didn't come up only just to the bottom of the calf of the legs.' He'd say "'Pliny put your foot on a piece of paper, and I'll mark around it", and that constituted the patterns Mr. Sexton didn't want the leather to touch his feet and that was very satisfactory to Mr. Sexton of course. The Quakers were very partial to no ostentation and you didn't have it with Mr. Sexton's boots, I'll tell you that. He just wanted to keep his feet warm, he didn't go out for style. Well that about constitutes the building there. Now, do you want me to go on?

Rick: Sure we'd love it.

Spencer Knapp: The next property, the Bonte and Williamson property and Cuyler Street was known as the Rannie Block. R-A-N-N-I-E. He was a Scotchman and a cracker and baked goods. I never knew him, but the property was a very unassuming piece of work, two stories high, all frame, with a very wide cornice that dripped onto the walk on Main Street and the ridge pole ran East and West-shingled

roof, stoves heated it, hut on the rear of the corner store, Mr. Bareham had a bake shop with a revolving oven. There was a pole set in the center and segments on a plane which was turned by a boy outside with a cranks That revolved around over the fire so it was very uniform and the coals had to be cleaned out every week; It was anthracite coal that they used and that bake oven was certainly used until 19⁰, I would say, I wouldn't know the years that had turned. Mr. Rannie went from here to Canandaigua and they had a cracker war once, and they got something down so in competition with the Canandaigua Bakers so that Mr. Rannie said, "We'll get down to a penny a pound" and he ran it down to a penny a pound and Canandaigua went down to a penny a pound? Well, Mr. Rannie said "Now we'll start and I will give everybody a penny that will come and take box crackers away." And that stopped the war. Just a way of advertising.

Well that block had a Barber Shop on the first floor up three steps off of the sidewalk? The block seemed to have been cut down at some time for the bakery and Mr. Braman's Insurance Office which was just west? I remember going there to get a haircut? As a child it was 10 cents? A shave was 10 or 15 cents and the whole side around the mirrors were filled with mugs and soap of the merchants up and down the street? When they wanted a shave, they went over there and used their own mugs? The earliest one I remember was Fred Ryckman and he is buried in the cemetery with his wife. Then there was Andrew Ranier from Wolcott took his place and Eddie Farrell was in there a long time? I can't say who the last one was. John DuBois perhaps. He was a Dutch boy. His father was into the gang on the railroad. He was the boss of the section help?

The next was the telegraph office. Molly Knapp, her name was Mary, of course, but they called her Molly Knapp, ran the telegraph

office? That was up three steps? Next was the door to upstairs and there were two residences upstairs occupied by a great many people. A man by the name of Harry Shepherd ran a dentist chair on the second floor and Lawler ran a Dry-Cleaning Establishment on the same floor, but in the East end of the building; Mr. Braman had an insurance office there?

Next was the Bakery? Robert H. Bareham was mostly the proprietor but he did sell out for a time to a man named Botchsler but that didn't last very long and Bareham came back and started up his business a second time? That about constitutes it as far as going to Cuyler Street? It was bought by my father and Miss Agnes Eppler in 1908 and the trolley came along and bought the Williamson Block and we had to move? There was no place on Main Street so my father went into the office of his competitor and we stayed there until 1925 when we moved the business to its present location at the northeast corner of William and Main Street? That's where we are going to stay, I hope? There was quite a to do in town about Mr. Braman having to move because of the keen competition between the two insurance offices? But that has all gone away? Mr. Braman went into a little block on the North side of Main Street, next to the Story Co? and just East of the Cuyler Block?

So, I've got down there, I guess, to Cuyler Street? The brick portion of that building is very, very old? That has never been touched as to the area? There was a little barn back of the block with an entrance on Cuyler Street, where the automobiles go in today and Mr. Bareham kept a horse and wagon to deliver groceries etc? in there. Of course, that has been gone for years? It was 22 inches from the line and I suppose the wall is still buried beneath

the asphalt there. They didn't take it out when they covered it, that I know of, just filled it up. But the barn has been gone for a great many years. There was a dwelling there, come to think of it, back of the Barber Shop and they didn't have a bathroom so transients and so forth could take a bath-it was mostly transients-just back of the Barber Shop.

I guess I ought to tell you about the escapade on top of the Williamson Block. There was a fellow who came over every morning with a horse and carriage and tapped the milk cans which were left side of the buildings when the farmers brought their milk in great big 40-gallon cans. This fellow would come over every morning, early, and let down a dipper and take out what he wanted for the day. That went on for quite some time and Irv Youngs found out about it and Harriet Williamson was in the Post Office and could see it if she got there early to pick up the mail. They took up two 40 gallon cans and hid it behind the parapet of that block. So, when this gentleman came in and got out of his cart and dipped in, they both dumped a can of water on him. He very vociferously entreated the almighty in desecrating names etc. when the water struck. Well, Harriet and Irv lay low until he got away with the horse and buggy. Then they went up and down the street telling the merchants that so and so would be in, probably, and to ask him if he had joined the Baptist Church lately. Then more stories went on. And it stopped the pilfering of the milk for ages etc. (at this point the interview is interrupted by the mailman) Oh, my gracious. Well, how much more do you want?

Rick: Well, we would like to know as much as you can remember about the Main Street businesses. We're always interested to know who was

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in the various shops and how they changed hands and as much as you can remember.

Spencer Knapp: Oh yes, well I can do pretty well on the Jarvis Block that is still there. That was built in about 1876, I think. I think the figures are up in the false peak in the front of that block.

I think it is 1876. Well, the Cuyler Block was 1872, I think on the north side of Main Street. I am pretty sure it was after a great fire that the block was built. Mr. Farnham furnished the money, \$10,000.00 I believe to build that row of stores. He took the east store to use as his own business as long as he lived, and he had the use of it in lieu of interest on his money. That's the story of how they financed it. William F. Jarvis was a very shrewd man and owned the land, bought the land but he didn't want to build the block.

So, he got Mr. Farnham to take care of it in that way. Now the first store on the corner where the Pharmacy is, was in my days, a jewelry store. Smith and Ziegler were partners and Ziegler did the selling of stationery, dishes, and knick-knacks, but Mr. Smith was an expert marker on jewelry or repairing watches. His partner didn't pretend to do that. Mr. Smith was there for a great many years and his boy is in a home down here now-Rolland Smith. By the way he was down to Syracuse with me. He graduated there in 1930 so it was a golden anniversary for him. That store has mostly been for jewelry and a pharmacy, but once there was a grocery store kept by E.P. Dodson.

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He ran a Meat Market in the next store. The third story was the first telephone office in Palmyra and it was run by a Mrs. Gurden Drake. Gurden Drake was an undertaker here, but his wife ran that telephone office. In 1893 we went to the World's' Fair, but my

father started out alone and when he got to Rochester, he telegraphed back to Mrs. Drake to tell my mother to get ready and bring me along and we went to the World's Fair in 1893 and I remember it very, very well. We were gone a week or ten days and Mrs. Drake was obliging enough to walk up to our house and notify my mother to get ready and go to the World's Fair. We took the evening train and met my father in Rochester.

Well, the next store was a shoe store known as the four hundred. It was painted in the windows, and by the way, the windows were not plate glass. They were large, very large panes because I can remember the figures across the bars on the windows and there were no plate glass when I was born, in any of the stores in town. They were all plain glass windows and wavy glass, not clear glass often and the windows were higher. They were almost four feet off the sidewalk. Now they try to get them down so as to make a display and you look down on the display to about two feet. But there were none of them that I remember on either side of the street that had cut down frames.

Well, let's see, we would go down now I would say to Hislopp's. Hislopp had a Candy Store and the boys used to steal more than he sold we always thought. Part of the time there was a fellow in there who was called Levi Gillis.' He was actually deaf from birth, but he was a good salesman, but he couldn't hear himself talk so he made some queer expressions.' His voice would change and he wouldn't know it. The boys used to mock him a good deal, but that didn't hurt Levi any at all. He was a better manager. They didn't steal very much from him. He'd catch them at it.

The next store, Samuel B. Nichols had a jewelry store in there and that is one that the Collie folks incorporated into the end store. Now the east end store was Mr. Farnham's upstairs and down, and he

kept a great, great stack of good carpets. Nobody bought rugs. They bought runners, 37-inch or 36-inch, but there were no Persian rugs or serupes or anything of that kind of things in any merchants place, unless it was in Rochester, and that I am not sure either, whether they carried any of those oriental brand rugs, but Mr. Farnham carried great rolls of rugs and he'd roll them out on the floor for the ladies to look at from on the second floor. Broadlooms especially was his forte, and a great many imported from England, but as they got working down here in New York State at Amsterdam they supplanted the English imports, but Mr. Farnham could be depended upon for a good quality of carpeting. I've just forgotten how the lines were mixed. They would make them in seams, I should think they were ten feet wide. They sewed them together, butted them together for making a complete room. They were fine quality I assure you.

Now I should say that that gets down to the Calvin Seeley property where the great columns were, four of them, fluted columns on the porch. When Mr. Calvin Seeley died, they took those columns to Rochester and they were for years forming a prayer stile to the entrance of the fair at the end of Phelps Street off Lake Avenue, I think.⁵ It was Phelps Street. Anyway it went down to the old asylum for wayward boys etc., that had to be incarcerated. When that was done away with, Rochester had a great fair there.¹ And those gothic columns stuck up 30 feet in the air, I should think, to the cornice and made it a very pleasing entry and a place for the stiles to turn when the people bought tickets and went in. Mr. Seeley was a carriage manufacturer and he had a brick store close to Main Street. His home was, I should say, seventy feet back from the main sidewalk. He had his bedroom in the front so he could look out on Main Street and he cut the windows down so that he could lay there and see what was

going by; That was in the last years of his life, but he was a fine carriage maker.' Bill Boenheim did the striping of the carriages and the varnishing of them. Nobody could excel Bill Boenheim with a hairbrush and putting little curlicues on the spokes etc. He was very expert at freehand work and used some of the upstairs shops, where they drew the wagons up to be sanded and varnished etc. and made new. He also sold wagons for farmers, hard-kept harnesses, and blankets, mostly a horse shop. It was a peculiar thing about getting back into his property, there was a space beside his store that they had to go through about 30 feet of tunnel and only 8 feet wide back to his barns Dick Huff had a hitch barn, that was a new thing in town, way back-oh, that land went back to the Post Office lot as it is now. It was a very deep lot I'm not sure but it went farther, maybe down to the Hutchins's lot. Anyway, that was the peculiarity of an open space for horses and wagons to be driven through in the Seeley Blocks

Well, the next block belonged to Mr. Sexton. He got it from Frank Williams when Frank Williams failed as a jeweler and Mr. Sexton let the upper floors be used by the G.A.R., the Grand Army of the Republic, at no rent, or a minimum of rent 7 I understood it was no rent. And in that block was a Mr. Brown who kept a Grocery Store, Giles Crandall who kept an undertaking parlors and furniture sales room, Webber, Theodore, "Theet" Webber we called him, I guess his name was Theodore. The present boy is Theodore Webber that occupies that block and owns it. The next place was Rushmore's Drug Store. He kept books, especially for children that went to school.

And now we come to the Powers Block and Hotel built in 183 by the citizens of Palmyra and a man by the name of Nottingham was the

first proprietor of it Robert Hale followed him, I think, and Andrew Powers proprietored it in my day. So that completes it from 1934 until it was not used as a hotel anymore and I'm not sure but what there might be some rooms that are rented now by people. I do not know that, but it was a hotel known all over the state due to hospitality.

That takes me down to Fayette Street.⁷ The wide porch on the front was about four feet off the ground and about 10 feet or 12 feet deep;* It had the Doric Columns just as the second story shows today. They were a little bit longer and a little larger around, perhaps but made a very fine appearance with the Gable, the peaked gable. I've understood that there was a ballroom on the top floor. The spring floor they called it. I don't know how it was cradled, but they say it would move up and down as the people danced on it. I never saw one like it, but they said it was a spring floor, all maple, of course, and I think they were mitered on the corners, that floor, so you danced with the grain of the wood as you went around and they used to have the parties on that third floor, so I've understood. Well I guess that's a pretty good start.

Rick: Yes, about what year did they change the front of the Powers Hotel and put store fronts in? Do you recall?

Spencer Knapp: Oh, I'd make a guess-1920. Let's see it was after the big fire here when they had to thaw out the hydrants in order to get the valve loosened down below so they could turn the water on. Never had that happen before that I know of.¹ I guess it went down here to about 35 degrees below zero. It was a very severe time anyway.

Rick: Would you care to do the other side of Main Street today or maybe some other time?

Spencer Knapp: I would prefer to put that off, but I would take it up with you sometime.

SUBJECT: INVENTORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Rick: OK fine - Any notable inventors that you might have known of in Palmyra in your days?

Spencer Knapp: Yes, there was a man by the name of George Barron. He was a tinsmith for—I think for the Brigham Brothers. Charlie Brigham and his brother Ed ran a store here for a great many years and I think Barron was the tinner? He had a business on Canal Street making bicycle saddles. He had a plate and a cushion built on the plate and those two plates had a split in the middle and as you pedaled they worked up and down so same as the thigh of the leg when it went down the saddle one half of it went down and then the next one and that worked all day that way? They claimed it was a great thing and they made quite a business of it? He was always having some idea? Now he made the Barron water cooler and that was nothing but a cylinder with an inside cylinder and a place between the two cylinders to chuck in ice, small particles of ice, but the water was fed from the mains into the inner one and in that way they kept it as long as the ice would last and they would have to bring in some more at night and put it in there, but he sold them and they liked to go and draw a faucet off and have a glass of water. So they'd have it in their houses? They'd have it in their dining rooms? I know in the house where I lived there was one of those things? I can remember it very well.

Well, the inventors of course would be O.J. Garlock who made the gaskets? Gaskets had to be molded and you had to have a sample of every gasket until he made the gasket machine. I think he got the idea from seeing the pistons runs on the railroad. Make an oval of any minimum or maximum diameters? That could be set automatically

and laid out on the table and he'd bring the knives down and cut those ovals and that was a great thing for the Garlock Packing Company. I guess that was done about 1894 or 1895 I would say.

Rick: Did he invent this himself, O. T. Garlock?

Spencer Knapp: He would give you the idea and they would import them that were very skilled mechanics at making their machines to do it with.'

Rick: What was Mr. Garlock's background? Was he an engineer or businessman or—?

Spencer Knapp: No, he didn't even have a high school education. He noticed the escape of steam in the Beaumont Lumber Yard, where his father was a foreman on Canal Street, and he got thinking about the waste of steam and the consequent waste of power. He fixed up a piston rod, took an old rubber boot and cut out to make wads to go around the piston rod and squeeze it together some way, I don't know how, but that expansion of the gaskets made up of rubber boots did the trick. He immersed them in oil, and that was a patent, and that was the difference between the Crandall gasket. He had a patent on boiled oil? But the Crandall people had to go with non-boiled oil to avoid infringing on it? Garlock was a good fellow with his help? But he could scarcely write a business letter? It was pitiable but he was ingenious enough to keep the factory going when hard times came on in 1893, I know, and they were good to the men.' The wages were about—well, they got up to \$12.00 a week and that was wonderful. Working seven days a week, seven to six, Saturday and all. Twelve dollars a week was the highest that I ever heard that they were paying men possibly up to about 1910.

Rick: Was Mr. Garlock a good administrator?

Spencer Knapp: oh yes, yes.

Rick: He just picked it up?

Spencer Knapp: Yes, oh yes. He ran the shop and Griffith ran the financial end of the thing Griffith was a schoolteacher over in Phelps and Gene Nichols was a clerk in the Farnham Store and he had saved up \$300.00 and that's all the capital those men had \$300.00. They begged up and down the street, but nobody took any stock in it, never heard of such a thing as a packing company. And it was a partnership to begin with. Gene Nichols died very suddenly, but his widow got a man from Rochester by the name of Gallagher (who was from Buffalo by the way, whom I knew very well) and they made a great go of it. All the business was done on Main Street here up until about 1910 when they started over by the West Shore Railroad. They bought some land over there from Mr. Herbert and that grew to beat the band over there? Of course, all the water works people, all the automobile people had to have packing and they did a great business all over the United States.

Rick: So they grew with the automobile industry sort of?

Spencer Knapp: Oh yes, but they had a good business even before that. It was practically their own business. They had a factory in Rome, Georgia besides the factories here and they'd add on a factory, well, I think they made three additions. It was a furniture factory. James Jenner had a factory and a stack and a boiler. That's about all they started with? Jenner died and they took that little manufacturing up and made it grow to beat the cars.

Rick: It all started with Garlock*s invention and his idea, though. It was his idea to start the company? Right? He just went to the others for backing and expertise?

Spencer Knapp: He was the genius of the institution.

Rick: Did you know him personally?

Spencer Knapp: Oh yes, if there were any tools, he wanted them. I

was taken by him down in the cellar to see his tools² Why, my sakes, some of them he would never use. Just because he heard of them, he had to have them.

Rick: He always continued to work on new projects?

Spencer Knapp: Yes, he was handy with tools, and he could see what could be done with them and automation, automatic things were brand new things, Everything was done by hand. The chisels and gouges etc. He understood the carpenter business.' His father was a fairly good carpenter. He never made any money, but Garlock meant to make money. - the son. He was a Port Gibson boy, really. I think he was born in Port Gibson and I know he worked on the church in Port Gibson when it was built, running a wheelbarrow. He got so he didn't have to run a wheelbarrow' I guess he had about 3 million when he died, that was enough.

Rick: Any other notable inventors in Palmyra?

Spencer Knapp: They had two printing press shops on West Jackson Street. Mr. Jones started the first one. He was on the road when the war broke out-the Civil War and they impressed him into the service I think in Memphis, Tennessee and they didn't let him out until the war was over. It's said that he worked for the South, I don't know how much but he was of an ingenious turn of mind. We had printing presses, when I was a boy, going all over the world.

Finally, Mr. Marter came here from Chicago, and he was an inventor and he had a rotary press with cylinders, I should say, 42 inches in diameter and possibly five feet long on which type was put and rotated onto the paper beneath it. But the Globe presses, I should think there should be one of them around here, but I don't know where there is such a thing.' They were just a big wheel and a spindle in

the middle and the type down on a level and they screwed that down onto the paper.' So that was not a rotary, a flat rotary if you want to call it, but the other was a cylinder rotary, the one that Marter had, Now there were two shops there and they used to make all their castings etc. that was necessary. Sometimes they had to draw five days a week when they had lots of business. The Chandler Press. Chandler, Chandler let's see from Cleveland, Ohio, I can't tell you- Chandler and somebody else, they were type pounders and they made type here, but mostly they had some kind of presses and that was across the street in another building and in another firm. I can't tell you much else about any inventors that I knew.

Rick: Ok how about authors or artists? Any local authors or artists that you knew?

Spencer Knapp: Elton was an artist from the standpoint of taking pictures, photography, in the third story of the Exchange row. He walked up those stairs 55 years. From the first pictures that he made of the Civil War boys as they were going off to war, he said he would have to climb over them sitting on the stairs, the stairs would be full of boys wanting their pictures taken. He was an artist if there ever was one.

Rick: What was his full name?

Spencer Knapp: George M. Elton.

Rick: How long did he have a photography studio in Palmyra?

Spencer Knapp: Fifty-five years.

Rick: What year did he start and what year did he end?

Spencer Knapp: Well, 1855-61

Rick: Until about 1906.

Spencer Knapp: I married his daughter.