



Track 6 (02:44):

C. Mack: Now your grandfather Walter was not the first Cornelison was he?

Walter Lee Cornelison: No, no. James Eli was his father and I held sales records for him, it's accepted fact that I talked to older, much older men that worked for him and told how years ago how the pottery business existed and how they ran it, how they sold it. It was interesting, one of the ways that I talked to men, they said, "We haul it out of here on spring wagons and haul it to different towns." And another group of men said, "Well we had another way of doing it, we're only two miles off the river and we'd take it town and put it on the flat boat, especially in the fall of the year, we'd go up the river to the mountain communities and pull in during canning time and they brought the fruit jars and churns and tings to can in and then move on up the river a bit to another community and sell it there." So it came into existence, this pottery or a pottery, you have to put it that way, has been in existence in this area for many, many, many years and maybe dates back to the Boonsboro settlement time. Legend has it, now this is strictly legend by the historian of Madison County, Dr. J.T. Dorset of Ester, that the people of Boonsboro indeed did find the clay here and out of necessity, started using it. This certainly is on route from Boonsboro, from down river Boonsboro to up river into Ester County where they found their iron ware. The old iron furnaces are still there so Boonsboro, they spread out here, and they had to go the other way to get their salt at Salt Lake and I suppose they found their clay here and iron ore in Ester County and, and they used them. But they're, because of the excessive availability of this clay, there have been four or five potteries within a three or four mile radius of here down through the years and due to deaths in the family, which often happen in pottery families, another generation doesn't carry it on I know of one family that came here that was sent for it, they were German potters, a family by the name of Zittle, that they sent for and started pottery. People, there were several German families, my family is Dutch, but there was Zittle, and the Bumstark family and there was the Cornelison family, and the Grentstard family, all of these

families at one time or another was involved in the pottery business in this small community, all in a two, two or three mile radius.