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We are sitting in a home up in Redford and Mr. Trombley whose people have lived in this area for a number of will tell us something about the making of Redford glass here over a hundred years ago. Where will we start Mr. Trombley?

Well, these people, Cook and Suydam came from England to Keene Valley and then they went down to Lake Champlain and followed the Saranac River up. Here they found the materials for glass making – Potsdam sandstone and silicate sand in large quantities that could be got very cheaply. Suydam then built a factory.

His house was built here first – about what date?

In 1821 Cook and Suydam built the company house which was finished in 1826.

Was that a frame building or stone?

Frame. They then built a factory and used this stone silicate and Potsdam sandstone. In the house was a secret story where all the ingredients what makes for this glass. They had brought a certain someone from England by the name of Raybold – well, Raybold was the only man who had the key to this area. He mixed the ingredients and took them down to the factory to make the lovely color. In years after, he had trouble with the boys and quit and he went down to Wheeling, WV and acquired a little money and finally came back with quite a stock of raw materials here at the factory. With permission of Lane, he opened the factory.

These other people had meantime died?

He opened the factory and made lantern globes, dishes and so on. After his money was used up he had to shut it. Well, Mr. Lane was nothing but a bookkeeper for Cook and Suydam and Suydam had a daughter and these were very, very aristocratic English people. Lane got to making eyes at the girl and finally, the first thing the Suydams knew they were engaged. It was an awful humiliation for these people to have their daughter marry a bookkeeper, but they did get married. But Suydam died and Mrs. Suydam died and Lane's wife came in for Suydam's share. Lane's wife died. Cook had a daughter and Lane married Cook's daughter.

And this was the Gershon Cook that Lane married?

Gershon Cook. Mrs. Cook died and then he died. Cook was buried in the old Redford burying ground. Lane's wife then came into Cook's share. Two children were born of this marriage. Verdon Lane and Julia Lane. Julia Lane married John Henry Myers.

He was quite a man here in Redford during this time, wasn't he?

Oh, yes. He married Julia Lane. Well, Verdon, after his father died, got to running around here with the miners and got drinking finally he went down to New York and married Nancy. He brought her up here in this country place here and that didn't go. She decided to go back to the city. So Smith and Weed and John Henry Myers were administrators of the Lane will. They turned around and they sold the

property to Verdon and Verdon sold the property to Bowens and Williams for \$45,000.

Verdon then went down to New York and Bowens and Williams continued in the manufacturing of steel here in Redford.

Coming back to the glass works, they had to shut down because the plate glass came into existence and they couldn't compete with the old system of making glass with this new system.

It was a very fine grade of crown glass?

Oh, the very best and it's a lost art in glass making. I have the old flag of the Redford glass works. I have the bell that was on the glass company – not on the company. They run the factory night and day.

What year did they stop making glass?

Around 1840 – a little before that – about 1838 – that they started to make glass and they shut down in the ----- it was quite a system. They melted this glass into a great big ball, and then young men took it - glass blowers, and he blew a great big bubble and it was what they call a flasher and he welded a piece of glass on the back of this bubble and the blow tools ----- and that that broke it off. Then he took it and took it before a flame which yielded a white heat then he took that he started to whirl that glass at a high rate of speed which made a wheel from 3 to 6 feet in diameter.

The bubbles burst, didn't they?

No, they just opened right out like a wheel. That wheel would leave a bull's eye in the center of the round wheel and they cut the plain glass around the edges and this bull's eye was a detriment to them because you couldn't see good through them and Lane 400 installed it in the house.

The history of the Redford glass works is from John Davidson. My father owned the glass company's house and he used to come every Sunday. He walked with two canes. He was a great big man – weighed about 300 – in my imagination today - and he talked of nothing else but this glass works – nothing else. I was a young kid but I remember all this stuff being told. How they used to work. How they used to be called at night and each shift by the bell ringing on the glass company – on the factory.

Did they build any other buildings besides the stone glass factory?

Oh yes. They had a lot of houses they built for the glass blowers. Right across the road here, there was a glass blower who lived there and there was Franklin Davidson way up back and some other houses. There were some other houses on the hill that belonged to the glass blowers and the glass workers. I have a book upstairs when we were kids playing in the attic there was a great big board about two feet wide – you could crawl up between the rafters and we'd get in there. There were a lot of things in there. We found this great big book – encyclopedia. I'll get it and show it to you.

Alright.

Jim Raybold was dissatisfied with the company Cook and Suydam and swore he would never give the secret of the art of crown glass making to a white man. So he gave the secret to Martin Tankard, a colored man, he took full charge of the factory – Redford Crown Glass Company – Cook and Suydam. The glass blowers and workers were James Raybold, Gen. Superintendent; William Raybold, glass blower; Josh Hooey, glass blower; Bill Hooey, glass blower; Franklin Davidson, glass blower; John Davidson, glass blower; Andrew Davidson, glass blower; Jim Davidson, glass blower; Jack Richmond,

flasher; Jim Rupert, flasher, Bob Travis, glass blower; Jim Travis, mixer; Charlie Tate, mixer; Bill Roland, mixer; Alonzo Smith, glass cutter; Pat Moore, pot maker.

And that was the roll call.

That was the roll call.

The chief output at that time then was this crown glass.

Yes, ma'am.

And where did they sell it?

Well, I don't know that, where they did sell it.

They must have advertised.

Yes. I had, before the house burned, I had some of the boxes that the glass was packed in where they'd ship it and it was marked on it, Redford Crown Glass Company – Cook and Suydam.

None of those boxes are left?

I got one up in the shop and I don't know whether that's wrote on there or not. I know I've got one up there.

Who around here had the best collection of Redford glass after the works shut down? Was it your family?

No, no. After the works shut down, Lane was the main owner of this entire block of property here because he had come into Suydam's holdings through his wife and had come into Cook's holdings through his wife. Lane was the man then. Of course, after he died, Gerdon, was his son after they sold to him he owned the whole thing.

I think you told me that Bowen and Williams sold it to Bowens and Signor, was it?

Well, Bowens and Williams bought from Gerdon for \$45,000 they bought the entire Lot 33. Williams sold to Signor. Bowens and Signor were in the manufacturing of steel. They mortgaged through Vilas and Carpenter, Vilas and Carpenter sold mortgage to the Mutual Life Insurance of Glens Falls, the Glens Falls insurance company sold the mortgage to the Iron Bank of Buffalo, the Iron Bank of Buffalo sold the mortgage to the German Bank of Buffalo, and the German Bank of Buffalo sold it to John L. Weaver and the Merchants National Bank of Plattsburgh and Weaver foreclosed the mortgage and my father bought it.

That would be about what date?

About 1900, Weaver sold the so-called Lane farm 300 acres to my father in about 1900 or 1901, shortly after the sale of the mortgage. The Redford Glass Company house Signor – what was his name now? Ripley. Ripley Signor was a bookkeeper for Bowens and Signor. He had bought the Lane glass company house and borrowed the money from Smith and Williams - \$3,500.