

Informant William Abbott Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill Date July 9, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1 Parents kept peddling accounts in their heads, since they couldn't write or read.
IA2 They always knew who owed how much. They sold on credit. Customers welcomed
peddlers, and knew when for example his mother was coming. They had a regular
route. His mother was well liked by her customers. Customers were farmers who
lived in isolated areas. If they needed a pair of overalls they'd rather buy it
from a peddler than go into town.

Father stopped peddling in 1940. Mother quit about 1935 or a little later, before
he went into the army.

Peddlers didn't buy from Assaley's at that time, he came later. Tom Assaley bought
from them too. They would go to Chicago and buy for both of their stores. Tom's
wife and daughter still have a store in LaSalle

Peddlers came to S.V. to settle because other Syrians were there.

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Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA1 Mother peddled for 15 - 20 years. Went to Peru, LaSalle by street car. Came back every day. Worked 4 to 5 days a week, 6 to 7 hours a day.
→ Children got used to it, made no difference to their lives. No one else cared for them. She came home by 3:30 when they got out of school.
- IA2 Mother quit peddling late 1930's maybe early 1940's before informant went into the army.
- IA2 Twin sisters older than informant worked in clockworks. (Westclock, Peru, Ill.)

V/1

Informant Miss Budelia Malooley Sex F Age 77* Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age ca. 1 year
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 4, 1980*
* 59 at the time of the August 1962 interview

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

VA
I/B/2

Attitude toward peddling: It wasn't a shame. It was a must that they (women?) made a living. It was the only place (i.e. way) to make a living.

BM
I/A/1

They didn't think there was anything wrong in that (peddling); they just came to make a living.

IV / 1

Informant from business list-conversation
Miss Budelia Malooley Sex F Age 77* Interview Schedule Code _____

Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age ca. 1 year

Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 4, 1980*

* 59 at the time of the August 1962 interview

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

The morality among the early peddlers was as good as gold. Her ^{maternal} ~~maternal~~ aunt and ^{maternal} ~~paternal~~ uncle peddled together and sometimes had to spend the night in a barn together. Amelia Assalley's aunt and uncle also peddled together and shared the same sleeping area like barns or empty school houses.

Informant Mr. H. K. Igram Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 18, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

Some people peddled for 15 years; made living off of it.

V/3/c

V/7

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962
*Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre-World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side II
213-829

Mr. Shabo lost his job¹ changing beer barrels in the hotel because he couldn't understand English and brought his boss a broom, a basket, a barrel, when he had asked for a piece of paper. So he took the \$10/check, severance pay, and gave it to his friend who had the store, for merchandise which he decided to peddle.

¹Mr. Shabo learned to say "Yes, Sir" quickly.
The boss was a big English man with a big moustache and a derby hat.
The boss kicked him out after he tried to suggest to another Syrian who could understand English to take his place and he would do the other Syrian's job, washing dishes in the cellar.

²He explained that he didn't steal anything, nor had he been in a fight, because he didn't know how to fist-fight; in the old country they used knives.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age
Interviewer Alixa Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962
*Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre-World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side II
213-829

The first day he peddled with another man¹ in Charlestown. They walked, knocked on doors, made about \$1.50,² confused, didn't know difference between "goodbye and "good morning". At nite he walked back again to his neighborhood, about 5-6 miles.

When he returned he was told that his boss at the hotel had sent after him six times. He trusted Mr. Mdarwi because he was a good, educated man,³ respected when he spoke by people. So he decided he would rather work at the hotel. The boss was waiting for him--he had hired a man in between and the man drank and the whiskey barrel was broken,⁴ the man was almost dead. That's why the boss wanted to take Mr. Shabo back. When Mr. Shabo told him "No English", the boss replied: "God dammit, you're all right". The boss put his hand on Mr. Shabo's neck and¹ stopped short of kissing him.

whom he asked if he could accompany² together; the informant made about 60¢.

³ He graduated from Beirut college; he's not going to lie.

⁴ leaking

Informant Mr. Assad ShaboSex M Age Interview Schedule Code V/1Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria*Immigrant Age Interviewer Alixa NaffCity West Roxbury, Mass.Date August 1962

*Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre-World War I World War I 1920's 1930's Side II
213-829

When he returned to his job at the hotel, the boss fed him. The next day he was concerned what to do with the check he had given Mr. Mdarwi for \$10, his severance pay, which he used to buy merchandise to peddle. He went out and sold his remaining goods and in one hour made a \$5 profit. A woman who made a \$3 purchase and realized he was saying "goodbye" for "good morning" and was amused, tried to teach him the difference, he was afraid that when she called to him she was going to take the \$3 back. He didn't care as long as he had the \$3. This was something, to make \$5 in one hour. Mr. Mdarwi was surprised.

As a result of his great success he decided to peddle during the day and work the hotel job at night. And so he did for 3-4 months. He began to speak English. His boss really liked him. Then the boss announced to the employees that "the wholesale failed??" and so Mr. Shabo was glad he had his own job. The \$10 check really made him a business man.

~~1 Mr. Shabo didn't understand why he was called because he understood English now.~~

¹ I guess that meant that some employees were laid off.

V/1

V/8

VI/7

V/7

VI/11

VI/3/f

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code I/2
Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962
* Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side II
213-829

Mr. Shabo comments on his honesty,² never cheated anyone, could buy goods all over the country on the strength of his name ~~(card)~~ without putting any money down in advance. *(honors)*

When interviewer suggest honesty is a characteristic of the Middle Eastern people, Mr. Shabo points to his hand, asking are any two fingers alike--there are honest people and crooked people. I think he says that he put 20 people (those he brought over???) in his business,¹ one of whom never lasted. The majority was crooked; either they cheated the customers or they cheated the people they bought the goods from.

¹ i.e. in peddling for themselves; he tried to help them to be like himself. He bought them the goods, showed them how to go out, and sell; some lasted 1-2-3-4 yrs;
² he shows interviewer a paper of some kind as evidence and come back none, he thinks, lasted 10 years.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962
* Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side II
213-829

Mr. Shabo continued to peddle and maintain his hotel job.¹
He bought a regular bag for peddling.

¹ I'm not sure, he may have said that the hotel closed in which case he just peddled.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age

Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

* Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side II
213-829

The majority of Syrians were peddlers, although some worked in the factories. The peddlers included hundreds and hundreds, men and women, carrying big (suitcases). At that time you could see on Hudson St. and ^{Neemer}St. (???) many peddlers going out, every day.

Some of the peddlers were from Damascus, Beirut, Syria and Lebanon.

VI/11

V/1

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962

* Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side II
213-829

Mr. Shabo never opened a business in the sense of a store; he would peddle.
Even now he has his car filled with merchandise which he peddles.

Informant Mrs. Mary Agemy Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 23
Interviewer Alix Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 5, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Many used to peddle. They're doing that in New York today. Do you know that they won't work here--they go instead to N.Y. to peddle. One man left his wife and went to N.Y. Usually they go for a couple of weeks and return. They make money. My Zahle friends (in Michigan City) peddled. They used to say that many women peddled. AS a matter of fact, I'm told that men would stay home and their women peddled.

No it was not difficult work. They would carry their suitcases and go from street to street. They were recieved. It was not dangerous then. You could carry (wear?) your gold on your hands. No one bothered you. The world is all upside down today.

V/1

V/6

Values - change in society / lack of security

Informant Mahomed Wazney Sex M Age 90 Interview Schedule Code SI/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 25
Interviewer Alix Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 3, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB2

He peddled and knew a lot of people who peddled. But he claimed that peddling didn't help him to earn money. Sometimes he went peddling "two or three days and couldn't earn a nickel," altho sometimes he sold a lot and got a lot of money. Usually he didn't sell at all. Had relatives who knew someone, an Arab, in Paris that got merchandise for peddlers from Moroccò. Informant wrote to the supplier in Paris to send him some merchandise, but "it cost too much moneh," so informant gave up peddling around 1922.

1980
1890 born
1915 arrived

dec 1981

Informant Ali Turfe Sex M Age 77 Interview Schedule Code V / 1
Religious Sect Shi'i Muslim Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff & Grant Farr City Dearborn, Mich. Date June 7, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Informant worked for 3 months in Michigan City, Ind. in a factory. Then went to Detroit. Worked in Ford Motor Co. for 40 years, from 1922 to 1962. Never peddled and didn't know people who peddled.

IB1

When asked if jobs were sold to Arabs by Italians or others he said he didn't know of anybody buying or selling jobs.

Around 1933 he was paid \$7.20 a day, then it was cut down to 50¢ an hour. This was during the Depression.

1903
17
1920 came

Informant Mr. Woodrow W. Woody

Sex M Age 72

Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Maronite

Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon

Immigrant Age 4

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Mt. Clemens, Michigan

Date May 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's family didn't peddle.

Informant Mrs. Minnie Barakat Sex F Age 63 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
000-072

to a Mr. Rashid
Informant got married/in North Dakota and then moved to Canton, Illinois.
Mr. Rashid was a peddler.

VI/1

~~V~~/13/2

V/1

Informant Wagha Sophiea Sex F Age 80 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 20
Interviewer Alix Naff City Royal Oak, Mich. Date May 28, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

- Informant's grandfather peddled in 1900 for a shortwhile but not her father. Her brother in law Tom would refuse to peddle - didn't like it. Another did peddle to farm houses on foot and after a few years got a horse and buggy and sold linens. Her husband peddled for a short time also.

Informant Mr. Peter Aref Solomon Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Grant Farr City Sterling Heights, Michigan Date May 28, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

They didn't peddle nor did they know anybody in Detroit who was still peddling in the 1920's.

1980
70
1910 born
10 arrived
1920

Informant Najla Nouhan Simon Sex F Age 82 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Mich. Date May 23, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB3

Members of her family didn't peddle. Her father remained idle instead of working, because in Damascus they ^{had} a business of their own. "They weren't rich but they were 'up' (meaning they saw themselves as part of a better class) More prestige in opening a store. Mostly the Lebanese peddled.

People from Lebanon would come to the U.S. and do any job, they didn't care. Her family had too much pride - "Hubriyya" (pride or haughtiness) Why should they lower themselves. They lived in the past instead of looking ahead.

Informant Mrs. Mary Schervish Sex F Age 88 Interview Schedule Code ~~V~~/I
Religious Sect Maronite* Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Grosspointe Park, Michigan Date May 14, 1980
* Maronite mother, Orthodox father; attends Roman Catholic church

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

Informant's husband had confectionary store; peddled for 3 years when first came; informant doesn't know about husband's early occupation before she arrived and before confectionary store; made good money peddling; quit to go into business; saved some money to do so.

V/2

V/7

VI/21

Informant Mrs. Mary Schervish Sex F Age 88 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Maronite* Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan Date May 14, 1980
* Maronite mother, Orthodox father; attends Roman Catholic church

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

Established themselves in small communities because they peddled. Made connections with dry goods store; travelled on foot; 1908 many people peddled. Men peddled in 2's or 3's; worked 8,9,10 hrs. a day. Peddling continued into 1930's; some had horse and buggy. Peddled for while and move to other work, depends on availability of other work. Average peddled 6-7 years and then went to stores. Goal of most was to go into business for themselves.

Illiterate would go to work for someone else (traces business for one's self back to Phoenicians); "we preferred to work for ourselves; peddlers not looked down on; rural households depended on peddlers.

Informant Aliya Ogdie Hassan Sex F Age 70 Interview Schedule Code 2/1
Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Mich. Date June 2, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IIA1

The earliest supplier was Ali Motyadin in N.Y. who had an import store. He came to the U.S. around 1900. He sold Arabic food to Syrians. They also bought wholesale from Montgomery Wards in CHicago and in N.Y, and it was shipped to them by train.

Her father would order from Chicago and sometimes go to Omaha. Sometimes the stores in Sioux Falls would buy in large lots and split it with peddlers. There was no supplier in Sioux Falls.

v/3/b

v/5

v/1

Informant Aliya Ogdie Hassan Sex F Age 70 Interview Schedule Code 5/1
Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Mich. Date June 2, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IB3 - Her father prospered in peddling and would bring over members of his family first a brother then 2 cousins. He would then start them at peddling with a small box at first. Her father took her brother out about 20 miles and told him he was on his own. This brother spoke very little English. There was a small pox epidemic at the time and every farm he tried he would hear "small pox, go away." He thought they were referring to his box. When he finally got back to town he asked for the biggest box they had.
- IIA1 The farmers in that area were Germans, Norwegians, and Swedes and their English wasn't much better so they were nice to peddlers.

Informant Aliya Ogdie Hassan Sex F Age 70 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Mich. Date June 2, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB3

Her father started as a peddler when he first came. He peddled with a box at first and later had a wagon with a team of horses. He would go throughout North and South Dakota. Would be gone a couple of months. He borrowed the money for the wagon from a German and the horses too. At first he had just a small wagon later a larger one. He sold suits, shoes etc.

Her father quit peddling in 1923 and opened a grocery store. There were about 50 peddlers in Sioux Falls.

IIA1

Her father sold a variety of merchandise to farmers from early spring to fall staying away 2 months at a time. Would restock and enjoy family for 2 weeks then leave again.

IIA1

He would also sell to the Indians. Still peddled after he homesteaded in S.D.

Informant Jack A. Hamady Sex M Age 71 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 11
Interviewer Alix Naff City Flint, Mich. Date June 13, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

Knew some Druze who peddled around Flint, Mich. His family didn't pursue peddling.

1909
11
1920

v1/2

v/1

Informant Mrs. Rahmy Francis

Sex F Age 77

Interview Schedule Code V/I

Religious Sect Maronite

Country of Origin Syria

Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Grant Farr

City Detroit, Michigan

Date May 15, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____

World War I _____

1920's _____

1930's _____

I/B/3

Her mother and father peddled when they first came, but when she came, her father didn't peddle.

Informant Mr. Mahomed Forge Sex M Age 86 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 26
Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 6, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Informant never peddled and didn't know anybody who did.

1980
86
1894
26
1910 *correct*

Informant Mr. Alex Ecie Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15-17*
Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Michigan Date June 2, 1980
* Informant provides conflicting data.

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Informant's father never peddled, but informant did for a very short time.
He knew a Christian who peddled in Alpena, Michigan.

1980
74
1906 Ann
12
1922 - arrived

Informant Mrs. Helen Dow Sex F Age 67 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Alix Naff City Fenton, Michigan Date June 13, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

her
Informant's husband (before they met) and/father were peddlers. They "would
They "would stay on the road 2-3 days or a week, then come back".

Informant Mrs. Helen Dow Sex F Age 67 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Alix Naff City Fenton, Michigan Date June 13, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Informant's husband, before marriage was in Virginia, working as a peddler. Her father also peddled in Pennsylvania. Father spent days on the road and slept wherever he found a place. He and others paid money to someone who provided room and board for them. Peddlers gathered as a group. Before they dispersed to do other business (usually open stores).

Informant Mr. Osman Mohammed Chamie Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code D/12
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin United States* Immigrant Age 32*
Interviewer Alix Naff City Dearborn, Michigan Date May 31, 1980
* U.S. born in 1907 but taken to Syria in 1913; immigrated to the U.S. in 1939
Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Father did peddle. 1896 in Sioux Falls. Bought his goods from a supplier.
"There was a man who sold him goods" There were many peddlers.

$\overline{V}/1$

$\overline{V}/3$

Informant Mr. Harry As'ad Bousamra Sex M Age 85 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Michigan Date May 16, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

He didn't peddle and he didn't know any peddlers.

Informant Mrs. Madeline Bolis Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin United States* Immigrant Age n.a.*

Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 27, 1980

* parents were immigrants from Mt. Lebanon

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/3

People in that area quit peddling in the middle teens (i.e. circa 1915).

V/1

V/7

DeJawon

Informant Mrs. Zahdi Barsa Sex F Age 81 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alixa Naff City St. Claire Shores, MI Date May 21, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

✓ Syrians did ~~nto~~ peddle, only Lebanese. Syrians worked in factories. Many peddlers in her neighborhood. Asked if peddling considered low class work, she said "Well, they were making money and they tried to make me go with them but I could never do it; could never carry suitcase on shoulder and walk".

Asked if she looked down on them, she said "I do...wouldn't put myself down; I never see Syrians do that"--to sell Madera linens was considered higher class and acceptable; to peddle other dry goods or notions was different. Many women peddled; Lebanese peddle outside city--used buses and streetcars--put big suitcases on shoulders and go.

Review

Informant Najla Nouhan Simon Sex F Age 82 Interview Schedule Code V / 1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date May 23, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB3 During the Depression Syrians put goods on push carts and went street to street selling fruits and vegetables in Detroit. One man couldn't even speak English but he managed. (Implication that these were Lebanese not Damascenes)

$$1x/2/a$$

$$v/1$$

Informant Anthony Latiff, Jr. Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 6
Interviewer Alix Naff City Warren, Mich. Date June 4, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

In Jacksonville, Fla. he didn't hear of any Syrians who peddled, they didn't like to carry the kishie. Lebanese people peddled, while Syrians went into the grocery business.

V/1

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alixa Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

See changes
Palestinians, Christians and Muslims, who were in neighborhood about 8-10 blocks from informant's, peddled cloth pictures which they slung over their shoulders. Some sold linens purchased from his brother.

V/1

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Informant's brother peddled--laces, embroidered goods. Came to Chicago, where his father-in-law lived. Later had own house in which he had a room where he stored goods and sold wholesale to peddlers; bought goods on trips to N.Y., got to know suppliers there. He supplied women peddlers.

I/B/1

Second brother peddled also; both brothers trained informant; he sold in Chicago; took street car; used to sell in bars (i.e. a store with a bar in front), to Italian workers who slept in back room of bars. Didn't sell to stores or houses. Each brother peddled alone; didn't earn much money but more than in Damascus, so was happy.

There were a number of Zahalni who peddled dry goods and linens in their suitcases rather than notions.

Informant's brother later went beyond Chicago to peddle in Lansing, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Sold dry goods in suitcases; travelled by train.

V/1

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/3

Had bought stocks in Chicago before 1929 crash. Heard about it from places he peddled. Cousin Rose had shares in Midwest Utilities; he bought too and lost. He paid cash, bought when he had cash. He had over 300 shares, bought for \$39-40 and sold at \$2.50. He lost all his savings. He had shares in different stocks.

Informant didn't lose in bank failure.

Informant peddled through the Depression until 1935. Sales dropped and customers who owed him slowed down payments, got harder to collect; lost much uncollected debts when he moved to Detroit in 1935.

IX/1

IX/2/3

V/1

IV/1

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ . 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

In Chicago

~~or~~ his brother

Informant was supplier of laces and embroidered goods to women who peddled--
sold on streets and house to house. Street car allowed them to go out further
and further.

V/11

Informant Mr. George J. Bouhana Sex M Age 67 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Maronite-R. Catholic Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Alix Naff City Warren, Michigan Date May 19, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- | | |
|--------|---|
| II/A/1 | Informant's father did not peddle; his mother peddled in the neighborhood in Detroit (did not know how long). |
| II/B/2 | Most people who peddled, peddled for themselves and there was a competition between peddlers. |

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alix Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B

Father peddled 10-15 years and accumulated much property; mother kept accounting; people brought rent to the house. She could read and write.

V/1

VI/11

VI 20/6

VI /7

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code I/I
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A

Peddlers set their own prices; people didn't bargain here.

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code V/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alix Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A

Eli peddled 2 weeks; didn't like it; wasn't aggressive like others; didn't do well.

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alix Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A

Father peddled and invested in house property.

Informant Najem & Bahia Basheer Sex M & F Age 84 & 64 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17 & 24
Interviewer Alix Naff City Richmond, Va. Date Sept. 21, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IIA1

He made good money from peddling but he sent "practically all of it" home.
He stopped peddling in 1914 because he "didn't like it" and went to Cleveland,
Ohio.

Informant Najem and Bahia Basheer

Religious Sect Druze

Interviewer Alix Naff

Sex M & F Age 84 & 64 Interview Schedule Code V/1

Country of Origin Lebanon

Immigrant Age 17 & 24

City Richmond, Va.

Date Sept. 21, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IIB2

He had difficulties in communicating when he came because he knew no English. He communicated with body language and was aided in learning the language by peddling. His wife already knew English when she came.

Informant Joseph Howar Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin Palestine Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer taken from articles City Washington, D.C. Date 1973

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Joe Howar used to buy merchandise in N.Y. from suppliers Awad and Khoury. These suppliers would cater to peddlers and would keep the peddler's satchels at their store overnight. Joe picked up his merchandise in a satchel and would carry it on the back of his bicycle. He would ride as far as Rockaway or Asbury Park peddling. He used to get around faster on his bike than other peddlers on the train.

He later went in partnership with Michel Dahood in a ladies wear store. When he became involved in building he neglected the store. When the partners dissolved the store Joe gave one of his apartment buildings to Dahood.

Michel Mashaad had a fancy fruit market near the White House where many people (Arabs?) used to gather.

v/3

v/1

v1/11

Informant Joseph Howar Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin Palestine Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer taken from articles City Washington, D.C. Date 1973

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Peddled when he first came in N.Y.C. in 1903, going from door to door. Stayed there only a short time, then came to Washington, D.C. in 1904. Peddled in Washington also, ladies wear and household items. Made train trips to N.Y. to buy merchandise.

Met Dr. Arbeely in Washington who befriended him and encouraged him to go to Berea College in Kentucky. Informant had not the educational or emotional preparation for college and left the college after a short while.

With savings from peddling he opened a store for ladies wear in downtown Washington. With increasing profits he went into business with Frank White, an architect. They started a building corporation in 1923. They were successful and Howar dissolved the corporation, preferring to have his own personal enterprise, after having learned the trade from his friend.

IV/1

Informant Mrs. Samia Salem Sex F Age 80 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 20
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Bethesda, Maryland Date August 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Informant's husband peddled, before she knew him, in Virginia.

He peddled powders, perfumes, razors, material (yard goods) beads, handkerchiefs.

II/A/2

There were peddlers in small towns around Mineral Wells, Texas. They came to brother-in-law to get merchandise from him "and taking to others".

II/A/3

Husband walked from one farm to another, slept in haystacks many times and if he found a room in a farmer's house, he would sleep there.

He stayed in Virginia from 1902 until 1918.

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Najem Basheer Sex M/F Age 84/64 Interview Schedule Code ✓/1
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17/24
Interviewer Alix Naff City Richmond, Virginia Date Sept. 21, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

II/A/1

Mr. Basheer made good money from peddling but he sent "practically all of it" home. He stopped peddling in 1914 because "he didn't like it" so he went to Cleveland, Ohio.

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Najem Basheer Sex M/F Age 84/64 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17/24
Interviewer Alix Naff City Richmond, Virginia Date Sept. 21, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- II/A/1 He made good money from peddling but he sent "practically all of it" home, but after peddling he sent only small amounts of money home.
- II/B/1 He went to Australia to visit his brothers who had a hotel there in 1935; he stayed there six months and stopped in Lebanon on the way back to the U.S.
- II/B/2 He went to Lebanon in 1938 to get married.

v1/18

v/1

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Najem Basheer Sex M/F Age 84/64 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17/24
Interviewer Alix Naff City Richmond, Virginia Date Sept. 21, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

II/B/2

Mr. Basheer had a hard time communicating since he spoke no English when he came. He communicated with body-language. He said that peddling helped him learn some English.

Mrs. Basheer didn't have difficulties because she knew English.

Informant Mrs. Edna Sears Assalley Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 4, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Informant talked about Salem Mikels who hated to peddle so much he would do any kind of odd job - shine shoes, clean the pool room, pick grape leaves for ladies, etc. He was likeable, funny, and not lazy. He was honest, liked by everyone.

Informant Mrs. Edna Sears Assalley Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code II/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 4, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA1 Father had a grocery store on Main St. in S.V. He gave it up and started a rug and linen selling business in the early 1920's; sold them by car. Syrians at one time had 50% of the businesses on St. Paul (Main) St. They didn't want to work in the coal mines, and none ever did. Hababs had an ice cream store. Three Syrians had ice cream stores on St. Paul St.
- IA1 Informant trained for nursing at age 18 in 1926, graduated in 1929. Used to nurse patients in their homes not in hospitals. She bought a car for this purpose, and her brother taught her to drive.
- A2 Father sold rugs by car as far away as Ft. Dodge, Iowa, and did very well. Never peddled dry goods.
- Her brother George sold fruit by truck. Bought from farms and sold to homes. Didn't care to go to school.

Informant Hasebe Assalley Sex F Age 86 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 10, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Asked why so many Syrians lived in every small town in the area, Amelia, informant's sister, answered that Grand Rapids (informant said Ft. Wayne) used to be the hub of Syrians. She remembered Salim Busa'ada saying there was a man who used to organize them. He's send them on to different places. One of his shoulders was higher than the other from carrying his pack.

I/4

~~I~~/1

Informant Hasebe AssalleySex FAge 86Interview Schedule Code I / 1Religious Sect Melkite CatholicCountry of Origin LebanonImmigrant Age 17Interviewer Alix NaffCity Spring Valley, Ill.Date July 10, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

When she came to S.V. in 1911 most Syrians were in families. Married and singles lived together, 2 to 3 families in one room, in houses surrounding the Orthodox church.

Asked why Syrians came to S.V. she said that peddlers came to S.V. from Ft. Wayne, Ind. Many were from Rachaya. There were dry goods suppliers who catered to peddlers there. They came to Salem Beshara and settled in S.V. People liked to move to where fellow villagers or relatives were. Her brother-in-law Essa Busa'ad and his brother Salem moved from Streator to S.V. because they were the only ones from Rachaya in Streator whereas there were many Rayach ~~me~~ in S.V. Claims there were more from Tripoli than from Rachaya in S.V. pre WWI. Named Sears, Mike Habibe family, Mikels, Fadul. and a few others. These moved to Toledo when the mines closed and business dropped.

Informant Hasebe Assalley

Sex F Age 86

Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Melkite Catholic

Country of Origin Lebanon

Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Spring Valley, Ill.

Date July 10, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____

World War I _____

1920's _____

1930's _____

IA3

Said that her parent's and uncle's stores did not direct peddlers, or help them with housing. Did supply them on credit if a peddler needed it. No need to direct them, they took the interurban street car to nearby towns or further out.

IA3

When she first came her father and uncle gave peddlers a place to sleep. It was a house used by all peddlers when in town. Informant's sister Amelia, present at interview, remembered that the house was where the church is now. Peddlers often two dozen at a time, slept on the floor, both men and women - husbands and wives and single men, and women.

Informant Hasebe Assalley

Sex F Age 86

Interview Schedule Code IV/1

Religious Sect Melkite Catholic

Country of Origin Lebanon

Immigrant Age 17

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Spring Valley, Ill.

Date July 10, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

First trip Father peddled, second trip peddled for 2 - 3 years then opened a dry goods store in Spring Valley.
Spring Valley was a peddling settlement. There were mainly families there when she came. Many of those who came to peddle were young.
Peddlers walked or some had horse and buggy. Would stay away days or sometimes weeks. Most were back in town on weekends.

Informant Rose Canty Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 1
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 13, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Worked as a bookkeeper in a department store before marriage, after marriage she worked while her husband was in the military.

Her husband had a distributing business of beer and liquor, with her brother and a friend. He was a CPA.

Rose worked at age 16 in a men's clothing store for 10 years, until 1930, then she got married.

She went to California during the 1920's for a year and worked in a factory as a bookkeeper. She was engaged to her boss during this time.

IA3

When Rose's father opened a store in Peoria in the late 1920's her mother got a housekeeper and went to work in the store, selling things to "high class" people that she knew personally. She went to Chicago to shop for the store while informant's father did the cooking at home.

IIA2

IIA1

They worked 12 to 14 hours a day during WWI.

The Zahle people peddled, while the Itoo people worked on the railroad.

One or two Itoos had confectionary stores in Peoria.

vi/20/b

vi/11

v/1

Informant Joseph M. Couri Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 15, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Wife's grandfather peddled, then opened a dry goods store and became a supplier in Minnesota. (Arrived in 1880)

Informant's mother peddled. She didn't know English or even about American money. and a woman taught her about the money. This was before she had children.

Peddlers in Peoria took trains when available but they mostly walked long distances.

IB1

Wife's father peddled in Mankato, Minn. then came to Peoria in 1912.

Informant Mr. William Darwish Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox/Baptist Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 7, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

I/B/1

Independence:

Asked if his father came to peddle, he said it was the only trade to get rich fast and it was "customary" for Syrians to come and peddle. "Our people believe if you work for someone, you make nothing. All your life you only make a living, no advancement; work for yourself. They used to work for themselves 2-3 years, make some money, then start a store--fruit, dry goods, general merchandise. "It was something for themselves".

Informant Mr. William Darwish Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Orthodox/Baptist Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 7, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Tiskilwa, Illinois community:

Father of first wife was a peddler who settled in Tiskilwa, Illinois, near Princeton. There was a small group of Syrians in Tiskilwa. Later this man moved his family to Spring Valley, Illinois, year not known, but informant married the daughter in 1917.

$\frac{V}{I}$
 $\frac{VI}{I}$

Informant Mr. William Darwish Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Orthodox/Baptist Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 7, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1	Father of first wife was a peddler who settled in Tiskwilwa, Illinois near Princeton.
I/B/1	Father peddled on arrival in Ft. Wayne; "they all peddled"; at first, they walked.
I/A/2	When he came to Spring Valley, Illinois in 1910 he saw many peddlers; many women also, but no children peddling.

I/2

I/6

Informant Mr. William Darwish Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox/Baptist Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 9
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 7, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- I/B/1 Syrians didn't come to farm even though in homeland they valued land. They came as business people, but some farmed in Oklahoma and Nebraska. His cousin Dqas had 2 600-acre farms. Even before WWI an Assalley family went to western Canada and bought land; they were in butcher business, a wholesale packing house. Later they struck oil on the land.
- I/B/2 Father peddled and bought a store at same time; bought horse and buggy. Then took his brother-in-law (sister's husband) George Assalley as partner.
(Informant)
- I/B/3 Said/he worked for government. Asked to elaborate but he declined to discuss it. Remained in it during his 7 years in military reserves. After left government job, he is not clear about what he did. Said he worked for father, then for State of Illinois Welfare Dept. (became circumspect) "investigating in Welfare Dept.--a political job". In the 1920's he was 2nd from the top in the welfare department." --investigating, but he wouldn't elaborate.
- I/B/3 For 28 years, he was in political jobs--commissioner, supervisor, alderman.

V/2

VI/11

Informant Madeline & Esther Hazar Sex F Age 64 & 66 Interview Schedule Code 2/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

See
Father peddled in Streeter when he first came to U.S. (around 1907). Also peddled in Peoria. Mother never peddled. Father peddled until WW2 carrying a 3 foot suitcase. There was a Druze man who peddled in Peoria and visited their parents, he lived in a hotel. Peddlers slept in barns because they couldn't afford hotels.

IA2

Their father walked peddling around Peoria where he had customers, and usually came home at night. Although he had a car after 1921.

4/1

Informant Madeline & Esther Hazar Sex F Age 64 & 66 Interview Schedule Code IV / 1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

During the Depression their father peddled shirts in Peoria. They rented out one of their two houses.

Informant Mrs. Nellie Khouri Jacobs Sex F Age 71 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 7, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA1 Informant's husband left high school to apprentice as machinist in Peru. Learned mechanical engineering through correspondence course and experience. Worked at Illinois Zinc until laid off during depression. Did odd jobs. Ultimately found work at Star Brewery in Peru.
- IA2 During WW2 his military classification prevented him from getting a permanent job; gov't offered him positions in other parts of U.S. but he rejected them to stay in Spring Valley. Found work at Samson's in S.V. "and that was that."
- IA2 Informant worked at various sales or clerical jobs during and after WW2 for extra money.
- IA2 Her brother-in-law Henry became medical doctor, Tom has gift shop.
- IA3 Father worked on RR in Streator; eventually became foreman (wasn't asked when, but since informant helped him with his records, this must have been during or after WW1). Left RR and went to Milk bottle factory in Streator.
- IA3 Father-in-law peddled when he first came, then he and his brother opened ice cream store on Main St. in S.V. She doesn't know when. Claims her father-in-law gave ice →

cream recipe to foremost ice cream manufacturer in S.V. Also claims "he peddled to the end."

Also he opened all-purpose small shop in his barn selling groceries, lamb, kerosene, miners would leave their lamps there. Barn adjacent to house, later garage. Also baked bread. All for his family.

IA1 Father-in-law's brother peddled rugs.

IB1 Informant's husband, after his father died, went to work in a furniture factory in Grand Rapids, Mich. Sent money home to S.V. Remained there one year. Returned to S.V. worked at machinist.

Informant Mrs. Nellie Khouri Jacobs Sex F Age 71 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 7, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA1 Informant's husband was laid off from Illinois Zinc Co. as mechanical engineer. Did odd jobs. Found work at Star Brewery in Peru.
- IB1 Didn't feel depression, husband worked all through the depression; helped non-Syrians, bought them food and coal, money.
- IB1 Asked if Syrian community was adversely affected by depression, she said no, she didn't think they were. Not that she knows of.
- IB2 Peddlers she claims were not affected by the depression because "everything was cheap,"

Informant Mrs. Nellie Khouri Jacobs Sex F Age 71 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 7, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3 Father was too shy to peddle - wouldn't peddle; took his pack and lay around R.R. tracks and came back without selling anything - claims he was afraid. (Pre-WW1)

IA3 "They all peddled at one time there," (meaning Streator, Ill.) (pre-WW1).

IA3 Thinks her father-in-law peddled when he first came to U.S. and later she said he continued to peddle "to the end". Would walk to Dalzelle - would get supplies from Abraham's.

IB2 She remembers many peddlers in S.V. including women. Some horse and wagon and stayed on road several days.

V/1

V/6

V/7

possibly also V/4

Informant Christine La Hood Sex F Age 85 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 5
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 15, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

Father and her uncle peddled before 1900. They would open their packs in front of church on Sundays to catch people coming out of mass. Also went from house to house. Her uncle used to say "I'm from Jerusalem," and he'd sell things.

IB1

When they first arrived in Peoria in 1900 informant's mother peddled for a short time. She was so sick over the death of her sister that she had to stop peddling. Informant's sister also peddled notions in a basket.

Informant Zbayda Raya Maloof F 82
Charlie Raya Sex M Age 85 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17 & 14
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 12, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Their maternal uncle used to peddle linens in Chicago. Their mother in Zahle would send her brother every two weeks a box of crocheted and tatted linens. Many girls worked for her making them, they'd be paid 15 or 20 cents, making doilies and table cloths, imitating Italian cloths which sold for \$500. to \$1000. Many families did this for their relatives in the U.S. It was a real trade. Mr. Balish had most of Zahle working and supplying his huge store, sending money to pay the workers, like their uncle did. Their father used to go to Beirut and Damascus to buy spools of thread.

Uncle Rasheed and Mr. Mutran from Zahle had supplier stores in Chicago. Peddlers sold watches and rosaries saying they were from Jerusalem when they bought the things in Chicago. The watch cost about 25¢ and was sold for 4 to 5 dollars.

Peddlers traveled as far as Indiana and would write to his uncle in Chicago who would supply them by train. Mr. Balish another supplier had 20 to 30 older women peddling from his store.

V / 1

Informant Mr. Joseph Couri Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Illinois Date July 15, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Wife's grandfather peddled (when and where not stated); then opened a dry goods store and became a supplier in Minnesota.

Informant's mother peddled, but she didn't know English or even American money; one lady taught her about American money. Mother peddled before having children.

I/A/1

Peddlers in Peoria took trains when available but they mostly walked long distances.

I/B/1

Wife's father peddled in Mankato, Minnesota; then came to Peoria in 1912.

Informant Harry & Sadie Unes

Sex M & F Age 83 & 74 Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Maronite

Country of Origin Lebanon & U.S. Immigrant Age 4 & N/A

Interviewer Alixa Naff

City Peoria, Ill.

Date July 14, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

After they lost their farm in S.D. her parents moved to Peoria in 1931 and peddled there

IB1

His father worked as a ditch digger for the city in 1905 to 1913. In 1920 he worked at Keystone steel and wire company as a laborer and was killed at work when he was hit by a train car, in 1925.

Informant returned from Itoo at age 15 in 1912 and worked at a cooper shop making whiskey barrels for 4 or 5 years, made \$1. a day for 10 hours.

In 1920 he started working at Keystone as a millwright for 9 years. In 1929 he worked for Caterpillar for 30 years until he retired.

Conversation with:

Informant Nemer Kaleel

Sex M Age 92 Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alixa Naff

City Earlville, ILL. Date July 6, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Traded farm products for merchandise when peddling. Would put everything in his wagon and when he finished his peddling tour he would sell the farm products in towns.

Conversation with:

Informant Nemer Kaleel Sex M Age 92 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Earlville, ILL. Date July 6, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Had a farm near Earlville but didn't work, peddled instead. Opened a store which his wife ran, while he peddled. Started the store with \$12., put his merchandise on a few tables, which he bought for a dollar apiece. Rented the store. Each of his children now has a store. His son Mitchell has three, Louie has two.

Would buy merchandise for the store from a factory in St. Louis - clothing. Quit peddling in 1945.

Was known as "Mike the Peddler " in Earlville, and surrounding areas.

Informant Miss Budelia Malooley Sex F Age 77* Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age ca. 1 year
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 4, 1980*
* 59 at the time of the August 1962 interview

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

BM
I/A/2

Paternal uncle, Alex, would go away a week at a time and he had a horse and covered wagon.

Faris al-Na^Caf was the first to go out peddling in a car. He sat in it so stiff. This was in the early 1920's. He saved so hard to get it so he could carry more and better merchandise. Products were getting so much better in 1920-25
~~ha-kl;k-~~

Informant Nemer Kaleel (and wife) Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Earlville, Ill. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

*See also
George Zarnal
Mrs Kaleel brother*

His wife, present at interview, told how they met on her father's farm in Deergrove, Ill. Her father was the first Syrian farmer in Illinois. He arrived in the U.S. in the 1800's, when he was very young. He peddled on foot to different states when he first came, then joined his cousin in farming in Illinois, after going broke in a store in Kewanee, Ill. She was 4 years old when her father started working a farm.

v1/13/a

v1/11

v/1

Informant Mr. Slayman Nimee Sex M Age 70* Interview Schedule Code ✓/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
* Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962
deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Informant was stuck in Brazil for 2 months without help. A man from his village would not help him. All informant had was 6 liras, about \$18. Another man, however, helped him, understood his circumstances. He used his 6 liras to buy merchandise and started peddling, but the language was Portuguese, close to French and Spanish and I caught on so I could at least tell customers the prices of things. "I peddled for 2 years, one in suffering and one in comfort. I began to make money. I sold picture frames and mirrors". They carried a stand on which to display the frames and mirrors. They walked from house to house.

Sao Paulo, where they were, was a good town. He used to make \$5 a day. They're all from Rachaya there.

In Brazil they had no factories or foundries. It's country (barrios?).

Informant Mr. Slayman Nimee Sex M Age 70* Interview Schedule Code ✓/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962
* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

"I was a peddler like everyone else. We didn't know anything else".

Informant Mr. Matt Iube Sex M Age 78 Interview Schedule Code ✓ / 1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detorit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

The first work he did was peddling. He didn't stay in Montreal; went to Ft. Wayne, Indiana, arrived there July 2, 1901. Then he went 40 miles west of Ft. Wayne to maternal aunt's husband. He peddled from town to town. "I walked 85 miles the first week from Burton(?) Indiana to Monticello(?), Indiana. This relative sent for us from Montreal.

Informant Mr. Slayman Nimee

Sex M Age 70*

Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Syria

Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Spring Valley, Illinois

Date August 1962

* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

"I stopped (peddling) in 1917 and opened a pool room and my brother who peddled too took it and I opened a candy kitchen".

v/1
vi/11

Informant Mr. Tom Assalley Sex M Age 64-67* Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 22-25*
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962
* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

(Referring to the Syrian peddlers) "We were all dumb and I was like them".
In 1922 a man offered to sell him a car and teach him to drive; it was a Ford coupe. An American woman put his suitcase in the car and they drove it, over a wooden bridge whose staves would go up and down when you drove across them. "I was scared to death". It was a used car worth at least \$150 or more. (He bought the car and) "in a couple of days I was driving hills to Ottawa wondering how I was going to make it; and there were hairpin curves. Then the interviewer's father was next and others followed suit until there were many (car owners); "you could say we advanced a step".
(Slayman Nimie adds:) "Better than cows; they were donkeys and now they became slightly better than cows".

Informant Mr. Tom Assalley Sex M Age 64-67* Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 22-25*
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962
* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

In Spring Valley, informant worked for his maternal uncles in their store-- \$1 a day, \$7 a week. "I had thought I was going to pick me up a couple of shovels of money and go home--I never found them".

Then I worked with my brother in a tailor shop (owned by a Polish man?) for 5-6 months or more. I wanted to make money. Then someone said Fuller Brushes. So I went with Mike ibn Elias Hanni and we both sold them from town to town. After a while we broke up and then I wondered what I could do. Someone said peddling--damn my uncles, damn peddling".

The whole lot of them here were stupid. Hte most stupid peole in the world because Syriasn have no bonds. If they had any sense at all, they would have, for exmample, when I came--no I want to tell her the truth so that others will understand and learn--if they wre united in some way, they would do as the Jews do--they would put him on his feet, teach him, suggest how he could improve himself, what he could do and help him do it and if he turned out to be a shit, turn him away, forget him".

What happened in my case--my uncles were shits and our other relatives were worse. And all the Syrians were stupid and apparently didn't know any better".

$$x / 1 / a$$

$$v / 1$$

$$v' / 11$$

Informant William Abbott

Sex M Age 79

Interview Schedule Code V / 1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin U.S. born

Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Spring Valley, Ill

Date July 9, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Father came to U.S. to peddle. He came to live permanently.

III/2

V/1

Informant William Abbott Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code J/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill Date July 9, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB2:

Never felt the Depression: both parents were peddling. Always ate well and were clothed well. Brother in business, pool hall. No one was working and everyone was hanging around there. "Young fellas - where else did they have to go." Informant worked all through the Depression. Cant remember anyone who was destitute. Syrians always had something to do. Mines worked all through the Depression, rest of the people in S.V. got along. People always had their gardens.

Syrians were tight with their money.

Salem Mikel didn't work, but cleaned up around pool hall, and he got along.

Informant William Abbott Sex M. Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V / 1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 9, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Father came to relative-supplier Alex Mikels in 1895 at Ft. Wayne, Ind. He would go out peddling for a couple of weeks at a time. Would stay at farm houses. Had horse and wagon, could cover about 30 miles in two weeks, back and forth. Had regular customers in Roanoke, Ill, and very good friends among the farmers. They would get eggs, chickens there and bring them back and sell them in restaurants, To get them he'd trade goods.

IA2

Peddlers bought from Mikels and Abraham's stores. Didn't have things shipped to them from outside. Informant never peddled.

Informant William Abbott Sex M. Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 9, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Suppliers never taught peddlers the trade. They just went on their own. "My father just knew what a thing cost.. and what he should sell them for." Suppliers didn't advise on routes. A peddler just went and crossed the river and kept going. He'd go to a farmhouse and they'd tell him where the next one was. He'd make the circle and come home. He'd have certain places where he could stay over night and he'd have a schedule of where he could stay. Never had trouble finding a place to stay.. Customers often became close friends. There were 15 to 20 peddlers which was a lot for a small community, but there was no competition. Each had his own route, and they never did run into each other. Each had his own customers. Alex Malooley had a wagon and went out too. He later took over his brother Nick's fruit store when Nick died. He put groceries in and expanded.

One could make good money peddling.

Informant William Abbott Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill Date July 9, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Father went out peddling with a blind horse who knew the route. Informant would meet him 2 or 3 miles away from home and ride home with him. Father would leave home on Mondays and come back on Fridays, when informant would meet him after school.

V/1

Informant Mr. Abe Kacere Sex M Age 69 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Grant Farr City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 23, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Grandmother and her nephew went to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. They peddled. Each went in a different direction and met in the evening. They walked from house to house.

I/A/2

Informant said that the Lebanese who "came to Cedar Rapids ... started peddling, all of them". Peddlers come home after 2 or 3 weeks peddling, rest for a few days, and go back peddling.

Lebanese peddled for a "little while" then opened stores. There were about 150-200 peddlers in Cedar Rapids. They stayed together in rooms in rented houses.

I/A/3

During the 1920's, peddlers started using the horse and buggy. They left their horses somewhere and came to supplier, shipped their merchandise to where their horses were. He knew a man in Cedar Rapids who spoke every bad English and didn't know how to count, but he always made a lot of money from peddling. He had customers who waited for him to sell them things.

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code V/7
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Most Syrian Arabs used to peddle; didn't know other way to earn a living. One who could read and write would open store and sell to them. He would not recruit them.

Most were bachelors, but also many were married and had homes.

I/B/1

Some peddled on foot; some had horse and buggies. Loneliness a problem but forced him to learn English; he used to read English every opportunity, in RR stations and farm homes, including Sears Roebuck Catalogs; people would try to correct him and he welcomed it; because he only started out knowing only alphabet. Quotes proverb in Arabic: "If a day goes by and I don't gain knowledge, I don't add that day to my life".

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

pins, needles, stockings, garters, socks.

I/B/1

He would stay 3-5 months on the road; would write to his uncle, a supplier who would send him merchandise; there were no other suppliers on his routes he could buy from.

Informant Hasibe & Abe Aossey

Sex F & M Age 74 & 82 Interview Schedule Code IV/1

Religious Sect Muslim Shi'i

Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 21 & 15

Interviewer Alixa Naff

City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

There were Syrian peddlers in Urbana, ^{Iowa} ~~Ill.~~ during 1913 on, who went house to house. They were supplied by Abdullah, her first cousin (also her husband) who also peddled when he was in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

IIA3

Peddling was for poor people, "you look down on those people."

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapid, Iowa Date June 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

I/A/2

Brother Abdu went first to Brazil and started working with a peddler; doesn't know what city brother went to or how brother found the peddler. There were many Arabs where he went and they helped each other irrespective of differences in religion; "Arabs are like that".

I/A/3

Abdu peddled in Cedar Rapids. After being out on road a while, he learned more about business, saved money, made friends, and then bought a general store in Urbana, Iowa.

I/B/1

Brother Yehya sold groceries and dry goods and everything to farmers around Urbana like a general store. Business got very good. Later Yehya bought a truck.

I/B/3

Informant claims he never saw Syrian peddlers in farming areas where he lived in Iowa; peddlers were before his time.

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapid, Iowa Date June 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2 Brother Abdu came to America first, then Sam and David; informant thinks Abdu came in 1907-8 but not sure; thinks he borrowed money to come to Brazil. Informant remembers gold pieces borrowed.

I/A/2 Brother used to travel to Beirut and probably heard about U.S. opportunities there, although Abdu went to Brazil first; stayed there about 2 years. Asked why Abdu went to Brazil, informant said he didn't know if there was a mix-up in the tickets. Doesn't know if brother involved or if brother travelled alone or if he stopped in other ports.

brother
A Peddled on horseback, one (horse) to carry products and another for peddler. Went from town to town. Brother got sick; stayed and was cared for by an Italian family. He saved enough money to come to Cedar Rapids. His peddling partner, Tom Beshara (a Christian) and brother came to Cedar Rapids together.

Informant Lillian Haddy Sam George Haddy Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin she: U.S.born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 29, 1980
he: Lebanon

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Sam's father peddled in Thompson, Iowa, probably got his merchandise from a supplier in Cedar Rapids. Father peddled until 1917 until all his family had come to U.S.

Lillian's father peddled in the Ohio hills for 9 years before coming to C.R. to Tom Beshara, the first Syrian in C.R. Father was related to Tom Beshara who was from the same village - Ain Arab.

Her father was an early supplier in C.R. He sent goods to peddlers in small towns around the area. They wrote to him re: recruiting peddlers, and correspond with the people in their village, and the people from the village would come to where they knew people.

Her father had rooms in back and above the store, where peddlers would sleep. There was also a boarding house in CR. where peddlers were directed to by suppliers. Three families lived above the store. All they needed was a bed and a stove. The Ain Arab knew each other and got along very well. Her father had a barn for their horses and wagons, very few peddled on foot. Peddlers were well acquainted and got together to decide on routes.

IA2

Informant Lillian Haddy Sam George Haddy Sex F M Age 72 74 Interview Schedule Code 7/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin she: U.S.born he: Lebanon Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 29, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA2 Were no more than 15 Syrian families in C.R. Most from Ain Arab or villages nearby like Jdayda. Perhaps 3 to 4 Muslim families - Igrams, Asseys, De Hooks - Mrs. De Hooks was a close friend of her mother.
- IA3 No coffee houses in C.R. - peddlers gathered at her father's house. Syrians congregated on 3rd street - church was on Oak Hill and about 6 families lived there. There were another 6 to 7 families living on 3rd street.
- First physician who came to the house, came to stay and slept on the floor as he was poor too. Remembers a dentist on 3rd St. who had 10 hard wooden chairs and a dentist chair. Office was always full.
- IB2 No Maronites or Melkites lived in CR..

Informant Lillian Haddy Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code IV / 1
Sam George Haddy Sex M Age 74 Country of Origin she: U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Religious Sect Orthodox he: Lebanon
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 29, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

His father peddled from 1904 to 1917, returned to peddling in 1920 when he moved to C.R. and bought goods from Lillian's father's store. Her father peddled for 9 years then opened store in C.R. from money saved. Charlie Kacere, her Uncle, was his partner later and also her grandfather. Had 20 to 25 peddlers.

Informant Sam M. Haddy Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. Born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 19, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA1 Father peddled in C.R. There were about 50 Lebanese who peddled in C.R.
IA2 including his grandfather. His mother and grandmother peddled together with a horse and wagon. Women peddled near to home and came back in the evenings. Men stayed away for days. Older children usually took care of younger children when parents were gone.
- His uncle had a stable in C.R. where peddlers parked their wagons and horses at night. Uncle was Tom Beshara.
- IB2 His father went back to peddling in 1931 in C.R. while he owned a grocery store. (This was during the Depression)

Informant Sam M. Haddy Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V / 1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 19, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA1 Informant had a grocery store for several years (didn't say where or when) before he went into real estate.
- IAL After peddling, informant's father lived on a farm near C.R. for about 4 years, then bought some land and farmed it for a short period. It didn't work out so he traded it for a store in Dumont, Iowa, where the family lived for 2 years. That didn't work out either so they moved back to C.R.
- IB2 Informant worked at age 15 in his father's grocery store
His father went back to peddling in 1931 because he didn't like having the store. Later he rented a store in Watkins and they lived there until 1940.

Informant Mr. Mohamod Habhab Sex M Age 61 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date July 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Peddlers generally carried in 2 suitcases, each weighing 30-40 lbs. Some had a horse and buggy or went by train. Informant's father sold underwear, coffee, soap, etc. and finally acquired a horse and buggy. In the late 1920's he bought a Model-T for peddling trips.

Peddlers sold dry goods, jewelry. Informant's father supplied peddlers and put them up in his house when they returned every 1 or 2 weeks from their routes.

I/A/3

Informant's father covered a radius of 100 miles around Ft. Dodge on peddling trips.

Informant's father stopped peddling in 1933 or 1934 and started shoveling coal; informant did not give a reason for change in occupation.

Informant Abdullah Igram Sex M Age 57 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 23, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Informant's father went from Cedar Rapids to Macey, Nebraska. He could speak a little English then. He opened up a pool hall in Macey. He had a non-Syrian competitor in Macey who had some Indians burn down the pool hall. Informant's father then returned to Cedar Rapids, apparently in 1923.

Before going to Macey his father peddled, walking to Tama, Iowa, about 50 miles. He was peddling when he was 16 or 17.

In 1923 his father opened a small grocery store in Cedar Rapids and later kept enlarging it.

Informant Abdullah Igram

Sex M Age 57

Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Sunni Muslim

Country of Origin U.S. born

Immigrant Age N/A

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Date June 23, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Father peddled 2 to 3 years and also worked for the Gas company - a factory - in Cedar Rapids for \$1.75 a week., before opening a grocery store.

Father probably went to Macey, Nebraska because it is near Sioux City, Iowa, where there are a lot of Lebanese. Probably peddled there. He would go out several months at a time. Slept at farm houses or in the fields.

IB1

In the 1930's when he got out of public school, informant had to work 2 hours a day in his father's store before going to Arabic school. His only time off was from 12 to 4 on Sundays.

IB2

Asked if the Syrians went into farming, he mentioned 3 families outside of Waterloo, Fayeth and Robins, Iowa who had farms. Most Syrians didn't have enough money from peddling to buy land.

Syrians tended to imitate each other in the kinds of businesses they entered. Like grocery stores in Cedar Rapids. They helped out newcomers by putting them into something they themselves knew about, licenses, banking, credit, etc. They were all successful. When Syrians bought farms, they worked them themselves. By the early 60's most who had farms were out of them.

Informant Mr. H. K. Igram Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 18, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

Worked for Ford Motor, Highland Park, Michigan, 7 years. People came from all over. Wages were good; when he quit, he was earning \$8.40 per day.

Never attended trade school; assembly line didn't work you so hard; good place to work; 8 hours a day.

I/B/1

In 1925 returned from Lebanon to Toledo. Many Arabs, knew people, relatives of wife. Joined in confectionary store as partner; made money; didn't have to pay taxes.

I/B/2

After 7 years, moved to Cedar Rapids (ca. 1932) worked for Quaker Oats about 6 months to a year and packing house.

In 1933 opened store--grocery--6th St. S.W.; many Syrians had grocery stores. Made a living; we never missed a meal; worked 12-13 hours a day except Sunday. Wife helped in store. Liked grocery business for 38 years. Same location; taken over by son.

Peddled in 1920's few months; didn't like it; quit.

V/1

V/7

V/11

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/2
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Informant's father didn't peddle. ?
b

*See contradictory info in
green book*

Informant Thelma Wehby Sex F Age 82 Interview Schedule Code IV / 1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 19, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3
IB1

IB2

After peddling, her father opened a store in C.R.
Her mother worked in the store.
Only a few Lebanese in C.R. worked in factories, because they didn't like this work due to their "independency, they didn't want to have a boss."
At one time before WW2 they had about 45 grocery stores in C.R.
Her husband owned a grocery store, after his death she took care of it, with help from her parents.
She worked in Wilson and Co. plant as a saleswoman in their store.
She started working at age 14.

Informant Thelma Webby Sex F Age 82 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 19, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

Her mother peddled.

IB1

Peddlers who lived in Cedar Rapids peddled around the city
Just before WW2 there was another kind of peddler who had cars and sold
oriental rugs. They got merchandise from N.Y. and sometimes loaded their
cars with \$200. value merchandise. "That was the next step from the
dry goods store."

IB2

During WW2 there was a shortage of gas and peddlers were taken into the
military service, and peddling stopped.

Peddling by car started during the Depression.
When asked if people peddled because they couldn't find other jobs, she
replied it could be a contributing factor. Most of these peddlers were
young men and would go out the same way the old time peddlers did.

Informant Mr. Mohamod Habhab Sex M Age 61 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date July 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

I/A/2

Informant's father told him to peddle soap in the late 1920's when informant was a child.

Informant Sam M. Haddy Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V / 1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. Born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 19, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA2 His father probably read about America before he came in 1900.
Father read newspapers and told peddlers about what was happening in the homeland.
IB3 He got Mirat Al Gharb from N.Y. The few educated peddlers in C.R. read the
newspapers for the illiterate ones. Informant read about Lebanon in the papers
during the 1920's.

IV / 1

Informant Mr. Alex G. Haddy Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Grant Farr City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 19, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Father peddled in Iowa with horse and buggy.

He sold clothes to farmers; got supplies from Sam Kacere in Cedar Rapids.

V / 1

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's Occupation, note 2:

I/B/1

Informant's father made enough money; went back to village in 1904
On informant's father's return to the U.S. in 1911, he joined Kacere and
Beshara in supplier store for about 2 years. He bought Beshara out; Beshara
went to California.

I/B/2

Informant's husband peddled for 3 years; then went to work for Arab farmer
for one year; also worked for German farmer; doesn't know why he chose to
work on farm. In 1914 or 1916, he gave up farm work to work for Quaker Oats,
12 hrs./day for \$1.75; work was hard. Lived all day on 5¢ worth of bread
and pint or ½ pint of milk. Then he went to work in a German hat factory
in Danbury, Connecticut because friends told him he could earn better money
there. They got him a job tanning rabbit skins (boiling water). Made better
money but couldn't take it. Went to Detroit in 1917; worked at Studebaker;
better money and steady work; had to work in cold weather outside; left in
less than a year; went to work at Ford in Dearborn; liked it; made foreman
and remained there from 1917-25. Received \$500 as part of 2 million dollar
bonus Ford gave on birth of son Edsel. He then returned to village to marry;
had saved money plus \$500.

V/1

Informant Mr. Abe Kacere Sex M Age 69 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Grant Farr City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 23, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3
I/B/1

During the Depression, some people went back to peddling.
Informant's father was hit very much during the Depression.

Informant Mr. Abe Kacere Sex M Age 69 Interview Schedule Code _____
 Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a
 Interviewer Grant Farr City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 23, 198

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's Occupation, note 1:

I/A/1 Informant taught in Manitoba, Canada for 3 yrs., then taught at the University of Florida for 5 yrs. before he moved to N.Y.

I/A/2 "After they made few dollars" from peddling, father and uncle and another relative "opened up a place", a dry goods store.

After peddling for a "little while", Lebanese opened grocery stores or they settled somewhere. "They tried to get routes where they didn't mix too much". Some of them ended up in Nebraska, Minnesota, Bismarck, N.D.

Father and uncle had a wholesale business. When peddling, they went west and "ran across a family that became close to them, insisted that they come and spend Saturday and Sunday at their place". One family had a schoolteacher daughter.

I/A/3 Father split with uncle in business and opened a general merchandise store in Walker, Iowa; stayed there for 5 yrs. Because of change in fashion in 1922, father was stuck with 3,000 old-fashioned shoes. Father used to buy merchandise by car loads.

IV/1

Informant Mr. Abe Kacere Sex M Age 69 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Grant Farr City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 23, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- I/A/1 Grandmother returned to Lebanon before father emigrated to the U.S. in 1895. She later returned to the U.S. (date not stated).
- I/A/1 Tom Beshara went back to Lebanon in 1905; informant's father then opened a store.
- I/A/2 Grandmother wrote to informant's father and asked him to go back and get married (to informant's mother), but father didn't go back for a long time; each time he wrote to her, he told her he was coming.
- I/B/2 Grandmother went back to Lebanon and stayed until 1928; then uncle and father of informant brought her back to the U.S.

V 11

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

Father has a house next to his shop where Sam Allech and family lived.
But single peddlers lived above store and in the basement; can't say if
this is true also during his first period in the U.S.

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Carl Nassif

Sex M & F Age 73 & 69 Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 9 & 12

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

In 1905 when he returned for the second time to the U.S. he bought a horse and buggy and started peddling from Cedar Rapids to Sioux City, then to Nebraska and South and North Dakota. There were not too many Syrians in N. Dakota but they were all from Ayn Arab and related to them. All were from the Atiyeh family with the exception of perhaps 2 or 3 families.

He peddled to ^{Barnhoff} ~~Barnhoff~~, N. Dakota where he had a relative and stayed there with relatives and took a homestead there, remaining there 3 years.

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

Supplier didn't have trouble with peddler because if peddler didn't pay the supplier, the supplier wouldn't give him goods. At first the supplier would give a peddler very little and if he sells it ~~all~~, the supplier knows he can sell and will increase goods he gives on credit.

I/3

J/1

Informant Lillian Haddy and
Sam George Haddy Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code I / 1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin she: U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
he: Lebanon 8
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 29, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

Lillian's father and her uncle Charlie peddled together by wagon and horse, splitting up and meeting at the end of the day.

Always carried a small Kishie box. In her father's backyard there were always 10 - 15 wagons (of other peddlers.)

They were well received by farmers, who would recommend them to other farmers.

Peddlers made regular routes to customers. Customers would give big orders - overalls, shirts, socks, underwear, blankets, etc.

IA3

Father sold on credit to peddlers from his store in C.R. Many didn't pay - took advantage of him. He would never ask them - they'd give him a hard luck story. He was too proud to ask them, they felt he was well off and didn't need the money.

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3
I/B/1

Informant's father was a supplier; helped to open store by a Muslim, Hasan Hanoun, from Iowa City (homeland origin not known). Father's books record all peddler customers; he sold to them on credit. They would peddle 3 months at a time sometimes, return, pay her father, purchase more and go out again. Her future husband bought from her father and peddled, the first week with his own brother. Informant thinks her father had no less than 30-35 peddler customers; they would peddle for 1 week to 3 months.

Informant claims her father had the first Syrian and only Syrian store in Cedar Rapids; others were Greek or other ethnic group. Brother said there were 2-3 other Syrian stores run by people from ain arab.

Father allowed peddlers (single) to live above store and in the basement; put a family, Sam Allech, in house next to store. If peddlers were bad, he would give them licking". He was ultimate authority. He was their "father"; this is truth; he felt it was his responsibility and they looked to him; he was their anchor; came to him with problems large and small.

In 1903 Abdo Aosse, when he came to Cedar Rapids, was one of her father's peddlers and he sent after William and Zion and they moved to Urbana, Iowa.

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code V/1 *
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's X .

I/B/1

By 1912, men had married and had homes and families so women didn't peddle.

II/A/2

In 1930 some were still peddling but on different scale. Sold imported rugs, made in Italy and Japan in cities and to farmers. (seems to be confused here between WWI and WWII; talks about products coming in from Europe because of Marshall Plan).

In 1930, they used cars and stayed in hotels; some worked on WPA. This was work not begging, gave men \$1/day, living wage.

Maybe 30-40 were peddling in 1930. Rugs and linens were purchased by each peddler directly from N.Y. or Chicago, not from Syrians. In N.Y. it was Cronochey (???) and Chicago Sweeny and Johnson. Would send them express all over, even Texas.

No Arab rug supplier cause couldn't sell as cheaply as big companies; companies depended on all peddlers of all nationalities;

Sold cotton rugs--were pretty. These were cheap in 1930--that's why sold.

. * also V/3 change in supplier, no longer Syrian

V/6

V/1 - check mark 1930's.

VI/11 " " "

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

3 Occupation continued:

Remained in curtain manufacturing until 1930. Partnership failed. Partner and brother cheated him; had \$3400 in bank. (???)

Returned to Cedar Rapids because lost everything in curtain manufacturing in Worcester, Mass. Also C.R. was home to him.

1930 went out peddling with brother--rugs--1st year or two. Then worked in grocery for Nick Baba for 1 or 2 years. Then WWII started. Then got into business for self in 1941 (?); bought store from George Albert who had to go to service.

From 1930 to 1941 peddled and worked for other people; mostly peddled, averaged \$30-50/week. Sometimes went as far as Rio Grande river, Texas.

Sometimes ran into other peddlers; didn't hurt each other. No special routes; used map; tried to develop repeat customers. Now was respectable; 3 months (???) ordered goods COD--Those who travelled alone were more successful than my brother-in-law and I.

continued on 4

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Peddled only in Iowa, got as far as Sioux Falls, S.D about 2-300 miles once.

See IA2 - Got as far as Rio Grande River, Texas.

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18/16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3 Uncle had many peddlers working out of his store, from many villages: Hina, Syria, Ain Arab, Khubat Rh, Janine, etc.

There were 3 suppliers in Cedar Rapids: Tom Beshara, ^{Sam}Koure and Uncle Joseph, Abraham Ri (Joseph George?) All were close together on Third St. and Sixth St. He did not give them routes, they fended for themselves.

IB1 Didn't run into other peddlers on his route, not very often, loneliness was a problem but it helped him learn English.

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code J/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IIA2

Maybe 30 to 40 were peddling in 1930. Rugs and Linens were purchased by each peddler directly from N.Y. or Chicago, not from Syrians. In N.Y. it was Cronochy, and in Chicago it was Sweeney and Johnson. Would send merchandise express all over - even Texas.

No Arab rug supplier could sell as cheaply as big companies. Companies depended on peddlers of all nationalities.

Sold cotton rugs - were pretty. These were cheap in 1930.

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's 1897
16
1913 arrived

IA3 Most Syrian Arabs peddled, didn't know any other way to make a living. One who could read and write would open store and sell to them. He would not recruit them.

Most were bachelors, but many were married *and had homes*. Some peddled on foot, some had horse and buggies. Loneliness a problem but forced him to learn English. He used to read English at every opportunity, in R.R. stations and farm homes, including Sears Roebuck catalogs. People would try to correct him and he welcomed it. He started out knowing only alphabet. Quotes proverb in Arabic, "If a day goes by and I don't gain knowledge, I don't add that day to my life."

IB1 By 1912, men had married and had homes and families so women didn't peddle.

IIA2 In 1930 some were still peddling but on different scale. Sold imported rugs, made in Italy and Japan, in cities and to farmeres. (seems to be confused here between WW1 and WW2 - talks about products coming in from Europe because of Marshall Plan.)

In 1930 they used cars and stayed in hotels. Some worked on WPA - gave men \$1./day a living wage.

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18 1.6
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980
Arrived ca 1913?

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IB1 Informant made about \$400. in first year. Later just barely made a living. Paid everything he owed. Uncle decided he was not made for peddling, so informant went to work at Quaker Oats Co. in Cedar Rapids.
- IA3 Was well received by American customers - were kind to him since he was a young boy of 15. Doesn't feel he did a favor for housewives. In small towns shops were accessible. Sometimes he would sleep at home of customers. Gave them something. Customers would help them speak and read English.
- One day temperatures were 41 below zero. No one would open their doors, so took room in cheap boarding house. Used to spend \$1. a day for food and lodging.

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code #/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age ~~18~~ 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Training simple, learned from each other. Started in one town and then spread out to other towns by train as they gained experience.

Continued to peddle until 1916, used to go from door to door. Hated it.

$\overline{V}/2$

$\overline{V}/1$

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
038-97

The peddlers would open the merchandise, they had been taught a couple of words "Lady, you buy something" The lady would ask how much?" and they would answer with the prices which they knew how to say--to, 25, 50.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I X World War I 1920's 1930's

Side I
126-331

In Texas her father (and presumably her maternal uncle) sold from their suitcases and would ^{have then} ship the merchandise by freight, by train or whatever other way they could.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
038- 97 The immigrant peddlers would walk from town to town, which were not too far ^{apart} from one another.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
038-97

On her father's arrival in Ft. Wayne, as a new immigrant, Mr. Salem Beshara filled his suitcase with items to sell and he began to go out to peddle with the suitcase strapped to his back.

126-331

Her father peddled in and around Ft. Wayne for 5 years. ???

Informant Tafeeda Beshara Sex F Age 65 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

They bought from Salem Beshara on credit in Ft. Wayne. He'd coach them and teach them prices and write them down. When peddlers ran out of stock they'd come back pay Salem and replenish their stocks. He was like their banker, lawyer everthing. He had a big building and downstairs was the store and upstairs were a lot of rooms. Two, three, or four people would stay in a room. He'd charge \$5 or \$10 a month rent.

They all cooked in one room, there was a stove and sink and Salem provided the marble mortars and wooden pestles and would order the ingredients from N.Y. for them. The ladies would help the men to cook. Most peddlers came back on weekends. They all lived very cheaply, saved money and returned to Rachaya several times.

Salem kept a ledger on each of his peddlers - how much he bought, owed him, sold, their profit and how much he was banking for them. Many owed him and never paid. He was very honest. He staked many Syrians. He probably came to the U.S. in 1890. When peddlers married he'd give them a room and godfathered their children. When informant was looking through baptismal records of the Catholic church she was listed as godfather of at least 25 children.

$$\sqrt{3}$$

$$\sqrt{2}$$

$$\sqrt{1}$$

Informant Tafeeda Beshara Sex F Age 65 Interview Schedule Code V / 1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

During WW1 Syrians had left peddling in Detroit and gotten into other things. Syrians were working in factories, as new factories were being built. Many Syrians sold vegetables and fruit from pushcarts, this led to the grocery store. From pushcarts they went to horse and buggy and selling house to house then opened stores. When Ford started paying \$5. a day they rushed there. About 100 Syrians worked for Ford. Syrians flocked to Detroit. They made money during the war and could buy houses and furniture, but they werent too extravagant because they would be saving for a store.

Informant from Sept. 10, 1980 telephone conversation
Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962
telephone conversation July 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Speaking of different peddling communities of Syrians she said that in 1923 she and her husband, who had had a bakery in Spring Valley Illinois moved to Canton, Ohio, after the bakery burned that year. They stayed there for a summer or more. Went there to check it out to see if he could open a business there. He didn't like it.

Asked if there were peddlers in Canton, she said, yes, more than in Spring Valley and that the Syrian community was bigger than in SV. They all were peddlers in Canton. One man had a linen and rug store while the other Syrian, a Mr. Isbir had a dry goods store which supplied peddlers. He used to buy merchandized yard goods by the bolt and cut it up into 2-3 yard pieces which peddlers would take out to sell.

Salem Beshara, the supplier of Fort Wayne, Indiana, had made some arrangement with Mr. Arbeely, the Syrian immigration officer, who when an immigrant would say that he was heading for Ft. Wayne to Salem Beshara, would let them go through without any trouble.

IV/1

Informant Miss Budelia Malooley Sex F Age 77* Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age ca. 1 year
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 4, 1980*
* 59 at the time of the August 1962 interview

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

BM
I/A/1

When we (informant) tried to gather information for our citizenship papers, we learned that he (father) came first to Ft. Wayne, Indiana. For some reason or other people came to Ft. Wayne. Someone there trained people to go out peddling and informant's maternal uncle Faris happened to be there too. From there they wanted to spread out. Informant assumes it was in the late 1800's around 1900.

VI/1

V/1

Informant Mike & Ghandura Haddy

Sex M & F Age 81 & 78 Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon

Immigrant Age 14 & 2

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Los Angeles, Calif.

Date Spring 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

There were two men sent from Ft. Wayne to Bloomington name Jiryous Thiyab and Habib Shaff, who opened stores for Arabs and they took men with them and they would pay 5%. Peddlers bought from them and they would find hotels and teach them the routes, and guide them in other ways. The owners of the stores would give these men 5% of whatever (the newcomers) bought from the storeowners.

The informant's first cousin took him and his older brother out peddling and the world changed and troubles started.

Once he went out for a week with a man named Dhahr al Shaff. Informant was 14 years old and carrying a kishie (notions box) His older brother was carrying a suitcase. Shaff sent him to pick apples from a tree in a farmyard. Informant was chased by a mean goose and ran back frightened and crying. The man sent him back again and told him don't be afraid. This time when he went he saw a peacock which opened its feathers and frightened him even more. After their trainers left them, they peddled alone.

"Oh how we suffered and endured."

Informant Joe David Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V / 1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 21
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

In 1935 went into the business of cleaning Persian rugs. Also peddled, but after 1942 could no longer get the rugs and linens that used to be imported. Used to buy from N.Y. import houses, the salesmen would come to show the samples and then he would order them. Since 1945 he has run a cleaning business. When his sons returned from the war they helped him. They bought machines, land and built a plant, and even expanded it.

Informant Joe David Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 21
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Went into the US. military in 1918. He told them he could speak 6 languages and they made him an interpreter for recruits. He'd convince them in their own language to enlist.

He was discharged from the army for health reasons, but had to take a civilian job in the mines in Butte, Montana instead. He peddled in the day and worked the night shift in the mines.

Informant Elizabeth Beshara Sex F Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date July 1, 1962
Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

In Toledo, Ohio where they first came, she and her ^{step-}mother went peddling together and they stayed there about 6 to 8 months.

✓1/1

✓/6

✓/1

Informant Elizabeth Beshara Sex F Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date July 1, 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Her father and mother didn't like peddling that's why they returned to Hasroun, Syria after 3 or 4 years. She stayed because they married her off at age 13 or 14. She married the brother of Salem Beshara in Springfield, Ohio. He was a supplier there, while Salem was a supplier in Ft. Wayne. Her husband Khalil and his brother Salem would send peddlers to each other.

Informant Elizabeth Beshara Sex F Age 79 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date July 1, 1962.

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

Toledo, Ohio where they arrived in 1892 or 1893 had a few Syrians who all lived in one section and who all peddled.

$v_1 / 1$

$v_1 / 2$

$\checkmark / 1$

Informant Elizabeth Beshara

Sex F

Age 79

Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Roman Catholic

Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria)

Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Date July 1, 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

When her daughter Rose was 6 weeks old they moved to Hartford City, Ind. where her husband opened a small store for her to run and to live in while he peddled. They lived there 11 years until the gas and oil ceased to be important and work got slow. Then they moved back to Ft. Wayne to where her husband's family lived.

v1/11

v1/20/6

v/1

Informant Elizabeth Beshara Sex F Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date July 1, 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

She and her father peddled in Toronto. Informant went out with her aunt, also.

Story: In Toronto there was a girl from Rachaya who peddled, even when the snow was up to her waist. One day she despaired, and threw her suitcases aside. A woman heard her say "Ah, when will I be rid of you - you kishie - when?" The lady asked her several time what's the matter but the girl wouldn't answer until the woman asked her in Arabic "If I find you a husband will you marry him?" The girl answered she would marry anyone to be finished with peddling. The woman married her off to a man and they were happy.

Story: Informant at age 10 was peddling with her aunt at house of a woman who offered the girl apples from her tree, taking her out to the yard. Informant was crying when the woman said to her "I'm sorry," thinking that she was saying in Arabic "Ma andishie masari," (I have no money) and that she was going to take her kishie away.

v/6

v/8

v/1

Informant Widad Naff Frenn Sex F Age 47 Interview Schedule Code J/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6
Interviewer Alixa Naff City North Hollywood, Calif. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's ---

IA2

Her father, 1920's
Bought a car to peddle in. Had regular customers in different towns and would go to a different town each day of the week; 6 days a week. Loaded the car with 5 or 6 suitcases of merchandise.

Informant Widad Naff Frenn Sex F Age 47 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6
Interviewer Alix Naff City North Hollywood, Calif. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

Her father peddled in Spring Valley, Ill. with a couple of suitcases, going from town to town and knocking on doors. He sold to people who didn't go to town stores, but sold mostly in towns not to farms.

In 1923 he bought a car and learned to drive, peddling by car.

He used to identify his customers by their size or color of their house. He called customer "woman of the flies" because her house was full of flies.

He sold on credit and registered this in his book and would collect on the customer's pay days. These were mostly mining towns. He didn't stay out overnight. Before he got married to her mother he used to travel practically across country. Peddlers would travel in a group and separate when they got to a town. Later they would meet. He was in Ft. Wayne at this time. (before WWI) Peddlers would meet later and tell their experiences.

V/3

Informant Mrs. Latify Cory Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Louis Cory City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IV/A/1

Rochester, Pennsylvania community:

There were about 20 Syrian families in Rochester when she came in 1909--all Orthodox except one Muslim who had a store and one Druze who would go out peddling and come back to Rochester. There was no Syrian church there then. Her family did not attend church. Most were peddlers. There were a couple of suppliers. Guesses there were more than 20 peddlers. Also a Syrian owned a fruit market.

Rochester was very small.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney

Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V/3/b

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alixa Naff

City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
126-331

On weekends peddlers would get together, sing, dance (dabki).
They would celebrate in Mr. Beshara's house.

Informant Madeline & Esther Hazar Sex F Age 64 & 66 Interview Schedule Code ✓/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Peddlers in Streeter got together at night and had a good time, singing and dancing and drinking 'arag, and playing cards.

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code V/3
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Supplier would sell them on credit; would provide sleeping places for sleeping.

from Sun News (Burlington, N.C.) article, 1958

Informant John and William Koury Sex M Age 72/65* Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Christian*** Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon** Immigrant Age 19/14**
Interviewer newspaper article City Burlington, N. Carolina Date 1958
* in 1958; ** deduced from information given; *** sect not given

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

After WWI, they returned to peddling in an automobile and expanded their trade. After a few years they opened a store.

In 1935 they bought property, erected a building for ladies' ready-to-wear which they turned over to their sons in 1950 and retired.

from Sun News (Burlington, N.C.) article, 1958
Informant John and William Koury Sex M Age 72/65* Interview Schedule Code ✓/1
Religious Sect Christian*** Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon** Immigrant Age 19/14**
Interviewer newspaper article City Burlington, N. Carolina Date 1958
* in 1958; ** deduced from information given; *** sect not given

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ . 1920's _____ 1930's _____

They peddled--kishie in the countryside, sold on credit, for about 8½ years before WWI.

from Sun News (Burlington, N.C.) article, 1958
Informant John and William Koury Sex M Age 72/65* Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Christian*** Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon** Immigrant Age 19/14**
Interviewer newspaper article City Burlington, N. Carolina Date 1958
* in 1958; ** deduced from information given; *** sect not given

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

John returned to Lebanon in 1906 or 1907. He returned to the U.S. to Burlington, North Carolina with his younger brother William who was 14 years old. They had six other brothers and sisters.

Both peddled; bought a horse and buggy and expanded peddling route to include all of Alamance County (North Carolina).

In 1910, they opened a dry goods store. They bought a house a few years later (just before WWI).

When war broke out, they sold the store and returned to Lebanon to help their country (Lebanon).

Informant Eugene A. Myers Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Washington, D.C. Date Aug. 27, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

Uncles peddled in Waco, Texas. They walked to St. Louis with his father peddling. His father and a friend opened a dry goods store which sold merchandise to peddlers.

Informant heard that some peddlers died on the road.

Informant Alexander K. Malik

Sex M

Age 71*

Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Syria

Immigrant Age 19*

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Grand Rapids, Michigan

Date July 1962

* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
0-820

Mr. Malik was not satisfied as a bookkeeper because of the salary.

He had cousins in Grand Rapids, Michigan, who were very successful in business-- Oriental goods. One of his cousins wanted him to start the same business. And so he traveled with him (peddling ???) for 6 months, but he did not like it.

They used to travel by train and when he would arrive in a city to sell, he would hire a buggy (horse and) and before the end of the day he would go to any educational institution such as college or university to listen or study. And they accepted him. He used to attend classes and he asked them many things. And he wanted to learn their ways. And so they paid him a great respect and gave him good help, enabling/him to study the English language.

giving him a chance

The informant always, had had the desire to go back to school to study more.

1962
71
1891
14
1910 arrived

Informant Alexander K. Malik

Sex M

Age 71*

Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Syria

Immigrant Age 19*

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Grand Rapids, Michigan

Date July 1962

* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
0-820

Mr. Malik peddled only in cities and towns.

Informant Mr. Edward Ellis Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alix Naff City Grand Rapids, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
471-819

Informant peddled for about 3 months when he arrived, but he didn't like it.
It was too much (like) begging.

He didn't have any trouble with the Americans to whom he peddled.
He had a good understanding right from the beginning, although it was hard
to understand the language.

Informant Mr. Edward Ellis Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox? Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Grand Rapids, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
471-819

Informant's half-brothers, who were already in Grand Rapids, were peddlers as were 90% of the Syrian immigrants, when the informant arrived.

They originally (the half-brothers) came to Toledo and then to northern Michigan to peddle, and they picked Grand Rapids as their headquarters, but they peddled mostly up north. He names of the cities in which they peddled: Big Rapids, Manistee, Traverse City.

1962
74
1888
13
1901

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alix Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
121-320

Syrians in Napponnee, Ontario were all peddlers.

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
21-320

Informant "made a living" as a peddler in Windsor.

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
511-588

As peddlers, sometimes they had difficulty finding a place to sleep. People would not give them a place to stay or would let them sleep where their dogs were sleeping.¹ Or sometimes they would not find a place all night and keep walking to find a station so that they could return home. Other times they would sleep in schools, if no one would put them up. In the summer they would sleep outside. In winter, if they didn't find a place, they would continue walking.

¹This happened to Mr. Cory once, the people gave him something to sleep on.

V/1

V/8

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
121-320

In Windsor, the informant began to peddle and did so for 3-4 years. Then he worked for the city for a year (~~or Bay City ???~~) and then in a factory (~~in Bay City ???~~) for a year and then in a Chrysler factory for 5 years.

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alix Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
392-460 When Mr. Cory first started to peddle, they gave him a cigar box and filled it with safety pins, pins, etc.

V/2

V/2

Informant Afif I. Tannous

Sex M Age 75

Revision
Interview Schedule Code V / 1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon

Immigrant Age 33

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Annandale, Virginia

Date September 10, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

Sometimes the village people split when there was a crime, which was a rare occurrence. One group may incline to identify with outside power, Maronites with the French, Orthodox with the Russians or Americans.

The competition was always there within the villagers, for achievement, for prestige, for anything. "Very much like competition in the U.S." but within it there was "good room for mutual aid."

In commenting about the Damascenes in the U.S. who were proud to say that they didn't peddle, informant stated that the reason was that the majority of the farmers in Syria were serfs until the 1960's, when internal revolution took place and land reform was established. The Damascenes were proud of being from the center of power. Being a farmer was embarrassing because farmers were serfs. There was no dissatisfaction among the Lebanese in the villages. They were proud of being farmers because they were independent.

IIA1

II / 3

x/a/1

values - mutual aid

v/1



Conversation with:
Informant Khalil Goushe Sex M Age 44 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin Palestine Immigrant Age 4
Interviewer Alix Naff City Oxen Hill, Md. Date Jan. 26, 1981

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

His father, came in 1920 also for economic reasons. Found work in a factory making home cooking utensils. Worked there for 9 months then decided he would prefer working alone. He joined with 4 other Arabic speaking men, one of whom owned an auto, and together they sold linens and rugs and traveled into 30 states, one of which was Texas. Texas apparently impressed his father because the climate was closely resembling that of Palestine. The five men shared the profits.

The father continued to peddle in this fashion from 1920 to 1929 when he returned to Palestine to marry. While peddling he took out U.S. citizenship and sent money to his family in Jerusalem.

Conversation with:

Informant Khalil Goushe Sex M Age 44 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
 Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin Palestine Immigrant Age 4
 Interviewer Alix Naff City Oxen Hill, Md. Date Jan. 26, 1981

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

His father returned to the U.S. in 1940 after the Depression and went directly to Austin, Texas where he had been peddling and liked the climate.

Informant Mrs. Adeby Coury Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/
Religious Sect Orthodox-R. Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Richard Coury City Cairo, Illinois Date May 24, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

III/A/3 When informant came to Cairo (Illinois) no one was peddling that she knows of. All those people that were in Cairo then did peddle before (1923); they peddled and made enough money to go in business for themselves.

III/A/3 Informant's maternal uncle Najeeb never peddled. Her husband's father had been a peddler.

The peddlers would go a day or two distance from Cairo, walking and come back or probably go another day or two from there. "I think they went on the train some, to far places and other times I guess they walked or road in farmers' wagons".

Conversation with:

Informant Mrs. Sandra Bennett Sex F Age Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n/a
Interviewer Alixa Naff City St. Louis, Mo. Date Jan. 12, 1981

Life in America: Pre-World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

She has ascertained that the first Maronite family to settle in St. Louis was a member of the Webbe family from Hadchite, Lebanon, who arrived about 1893. He was probably a peddler.

The St. Louis community was made up of Maronites, the overwhelming majority from Hadchite, Zahle, and Marjaoun, Lebanon. There were a few Protestant and a few Orthodox families. She didn't know the origins of these two groups and only heard about the Protestant group late in her interviews. There was a conflict between the Protestants and the Maronites, which took place around 1911, but she couldn't find out the cause.

There were quite a few peddlers in the St. Louis community. There were Syrian and Jewish suppliers too.

$v_1/3/e$

$v_1/1$

$v_1/2$

$v/3$

$v/1$

D/1

Informant Mrs. Adeby Coury Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox-R. Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Richard Coury City Cairo, Illinois Date May 24, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

II/B/2

Mr. Moses, an old man when the informant came (1921), who peddled all his life, since he first came, and who peddled in the area around Mounds, Illinois, used to spend the night at a particular farm. He made up his mind that he was going to save enough money to buy that farm, which he finally did. It was a big farm; he was helped by his one son, George, and they became very wealthy, working the land and raising (livestock).

IV/1

Informant Mrs. Mayme Farris Sex F Age 75* Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Episcopalian Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 10, 1979
* in 1979

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

(Regarding peddling) "I feel so all-American that its hard for me to understand that they did, with today's way of life. No matter what your heritage is, if you have money you have the power. (Her implication is that the Syrians were poor because they did not have land.)

II/A/1

(From 2nd interview, March 21, 1980)
Lebanese considered peddling a fact of life. Americans didn't look down on peddlers. There were so many whites who lived far below the standard of Lebanese.

values- money is power

v/1

Informant Mrs. Mayme Farris Sex F Age 75* Interview Schedule Code IV/11
Religious Sect Episcopalian Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 10, 1979
* in 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Informant's father's uncle Tom became a jeweler. His uncle had given her father a satchel to peddle which he did, enjoying the country and having a lot of friends, but he didn't do so good peddling. So uncle Tom took his satchel and returned with a lot of jewelry from swapping other items. His uncle told him he was going to put him in business in a pawn shop in Vicksburg, so he opened one and from the pawnshop, he went into the jewelry business and bought one of the biggest jewelry stores in town.

Tom's brother went into the dry goods store and the informant's father, after people stopped peddling and went into business (closed his store?) and worked in different places and his health got bad and they all grew up and didn't care for him to work. He loved fishing because they used to dive for fish in the Mediterranean. The houses are still standing but the store was gone about 1913 when they moved from there to Grade (?) Street.

I/B/1

A Mike Bodran became a policeman (date not given).

I/A/1

(From 2nd interview, March 21, 1980) Many of the children and grandchildren of old timers are still in business in Vicksburg.

vii / 11

v / 1

Informant Mrs. Mayme Farris Sex F Age 75* Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Episcopalian Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 10, 197
* in 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Most of the peddlers, including the one who sold hair cream, sold to a lot of blacks in the rural district and to the white farms; no one looked down on peddlers, not even when they sold to blacks.

I/A/3

When the men (peddlers) finally made their way, they got a horse and buggy.
(From 2nd interview, March 21, 1980)

II/A/1

Peddlers would buy earrings, pins, perfume, buttons for 10-15¢ and people in the country would pay \$1.00, for then a great deal of profit. Lace was bought for 5¢ a yard and sold for 15¢ a yard, gingham, voile. They would take out 50 yards at a time. Her father was a supplier and he'd buy from salesmen that would come buy. He also men's underwear and work pants.

Some peddlers went into business, opened stores. "E. Abraham had quite a large store and 4-5 peddlers at a time congregated at the back of the store and got what they needed, buying on Saturday to be ready to go out on Monday". She thinks the suppliers sold them at discounts or lower prices than he sold to the general public. "I remember this 1919 and 1920". Customers in the country were very happy to pay peddlers good prices because they couldn't get into town. So they made money and were thrifty, didn't buy better things. Veterans helped newcomers.

Informant Mr. Wadie Nicola Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 12, 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

*Especially here in the South they (the immigrants) all came from these villages (the 7 in al-Kura, Lebanon) because they had kinfolk here. They peddled their way to the South from N.Y. The climate was more moderate and they liked it and stayed--in Louisiana, Mississippi, East Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Virginia, etc., which were thickly populated by Negroes and there were farmers to whom they peddled. There are no intellectuals that came this far so their language didn't matter. The natives (blacks?) spoke broken language. The Syrian intellectual stayed in the Northeast.

10/3

VI/1

V/1

Informant Mr. Wadie Nicola Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 12, 1979

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

The Negroes didn't have land; this was owned by whites at that time. By the time the informant got to Vicksburg, only a few blacks owned their homes and these were only shacks. That's because the white people got tired of fixing them for the blacks and so sold them. Now blacks have their own homestead. It probably cost them \$25 or \$30 and they'd find unused lumber and patch them up.

The black laborer would get money every season and on Christmas and other holidays and money for doctor bills and the owner would have his "commissary for blacks to buy groceries.

As a peddler, they used to go to these plantations, carrying yard goods for them. At first they didn't have much competition but then these plantation owners copied the peddlers and put yard goods in their stores.

$v_1/1$

$v_1/2$

$v/1$

IV/1

Informant Mrs. Mayme Farris Sex F Age 75* Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Episcopalian Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 10, 1979
* in 1979

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

One of the informant's cousins, her Aunt Sarah's son Osma (Qizma) became a Baptist missionary. The other son, among other odd jobs, manufactured hair cream for colored people, in Vicksburg, and peddled it in a suitcase; one day he was found dead on the street; they don't know how he died.

I/A/3

Informant's uncle Simon, her mother's oldest brother, had a grocery store.

v1/11

v/1

Informant Mrs. Mayme Farris Sex F Age 75* Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Episcopalian Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 10, 1979
* in 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____, 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

When the informant was small, her father had a little store between the two houses where they were born. Their cousin, Mr. Ellis Habab from Shreveport (Louisiana), would bring the dry goods to her father's store and every Friday the peddlers would buy their lace, ribbons, buttons and jewelry and get ready to go out peddling. Her father and the other men distributed their goods to them.

Informant's father's uncle had a big store in Hermanville and supplied the farmers, white and colored, throughout the year and when they ginned their cotton and sold their pecans, they'd pay their bills. Her father and his two brothers came straight there and were given stuff to sell in the country.

Informant Mr. Wadie Nicola Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 12, 197

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

Informant's Occupation, note 6:

Most Lebanese first went from peddling to dry goods stores. In one year here (in Vicksburg) over 15 or 20 peddlers quit and opened stores. (He names some; some opened in partnership; another opened a poolroom.) All you had to do is open a store and tell the wholesaler you are a Syrian and you wouldn't have to worry about having capital. Wholesalers would say we won't worry about your accounts because you people pay your bills and if a Lebanese defaulted on his bills, other Lebanese scandalized him saying "what are you trying to do, break our standards?" If anyone had intended to be crooked, his own people deterred it; it was the same in other times.

Informant Mr. Wadie Nicola Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 12, 197

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Informant's Occupation, note 1:

Informant stayed with his brother-in-law, worked in the store for a while; then he peddled for a while, going out in the morning and coming back in the evening. He didn't like peddling.

12/1

Informant	<u>Mrs. Latify Cory</u>	Sex	<u>F</u>	Age	<u>83</u>	Interview Schedule Code	<u></u>
Religious Sect	<u>Orthodox</u>	Country of Origin	<u>Syria</u>	Immigrant Age	<u>12</u>		
Interviewer	<u>Louis Cory</u>	City	<u>Windsor, Ontario, Canada</u>	Date	<u>July 1980</u>		

Life in America: Pre-World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Informant's Occupation, note 1:

I/B/1

Mother peddled in Rochester, ^{PA.} ~~N.Y.~~ She spoke no English; didn't know name of towns she went to or was going to peddle in. She'd go to train station to buy a ticket and said to ticket agent "This (stop) no, this no, this, etc. until the one she wanted--this, yes. She knew the currency and just opened her pack.

I/B/1

Shortly after arrival in Rochester, age 11½, informant started working in a glass factory; she wiped glasses about 1 year. Then went to paternal uncle in Montreal. Mother sent her because ^{the girl} she didn't want ~~her~~ to marry; "a number of men asked for my hand--I was still 11, you'd be surprised".

III/B/3

Informant's brother Assad first peddled, then went to school to become a medical doctor but failed, then went to Montreal and opened a store.

Her sister Naseebie's husband was a peddler; she also peddled when she was a child.

V / 1

Informant Mrs. Samia Salem Sex F Age 80 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 20
Interviewer Alix Naff City Bethesda, Maryland Date August 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Occupation Note 1:

I/A/3

Brother-in-law migrated to Mineral Wells, Texas; opened a ready-to-wear store. She doesn't know what he did before that.

II/A/2

The other two Arabic-speaking families in Mineral Wells, Texas had their own dry-goods stores.

II/A/3

Husband opened a poolhouse (room) in Virginia after peddling and he brought two of his brothers to work with him in the business.

II/A/3

Husband had sweet shop in Dallas, Texas between two cinemas. Merchandise came from a brother-in-law who had candy kitchen and another who had an ice cream factory. The 3 brothers worked together with their different businesses.

V/1

Informant Mr. Nafe Katter Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code _____
 Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 22
 Interviewer Alixa Naff City Saginaw, Michigan Date June 13, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's Occupation, note 1:

I/A/3

An immigrant from informant's village, around 1892, went to Hannibal, Missouri; peddled and bought horse and buggy; then opened a store for a while but "went broke so he went back to peddling to pay his debts. Then he opened a new store and became supplier of peddlers and leader of the Lebanese community in Hannibal. He sent newly arrived Lebanese with experienced peddlers to learn the trade.

Informant's two brothers were helped by this supplier in Hannibal..

I/B/1

Two or three Lebanese people had businesses in Saginaw, when informant emigrated in 1920. Some other Lebanese worked in G.M. and other Saginaw manufacturers. Informant said "everybody was working".

I/B/2

Brother opened a bakery in Saginaw in 1918. Informant started working in brother's bakery the day after he arrived and stayed in the bakery business since then. He became a partner with his brother. "I was very successful". Informant prepared special orders as birthday and party cakes.

There were 2 Lebanese workers in the informant's bakery; one worked 28 yrs., the other about 12 yrs.

V/1

Informant Harry & Sadie Unes Sex M & F Age 83 & 74 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Lebanon & U.S. Immigrant Age 4 & N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 14, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

Her father homesteaded in S. Dakota before she was born in 1906. He and her mother peddled between farming, until they had 5 or 6 children, then gave up peddling. Planted wheat and corn and sold it. Kept the farm until they lost it during the Depression when they moved to Peoria (1932 or 32).

Her uncle also had a farm in S. Dakota.

Informant Sadie worked on the farm along with her sisters and brothers, leaving for Peoria in 1927 as a bride.

v1/11

v/1

Informant Rev. Ellis Khouri Sex M Age 80 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Elaine & Chuck Audy City Grand Rapids, Mich. Date Nov. 30, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

Peddling was well known to Syrians in old country because of majority of Syrians engaged in it. Only means for them to make a living and send money to their families. 90% of immigrants peddled in spite of great difficulties.

Informant Mrs. Watfa Mitchell Sex F Age 86 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 19
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 11, 1979

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

Our life--the Syrians--in this country is like a story. Those who came here first, my husband told me, used to sleep in graveyards many nights. He went to Spartansburg, South Carolina and moved to Natchez, Mississippi. He peddled with his maternal uncles with whom he came, at the age of 13. They travelled in the country.

They had a hard time to learn English; it took a long time. Once her husband was sent to a farmhouse by his uncles to ask for a place to sleep. He was 13 or 14 years old. He asked her and she said "no room" (he heard no rum, meaning orthodox). His uncle told him go back and tell her we're Maronites.

v/8

v/1

From 2nd interview, March 20, 1980

Informant Mr. Abe Abraham Sex M Age 60 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 23, 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

Vicksburg, Mississippi community:

Many Vicksburg Syrians moved out to various communities in different southern states. Informant believes that in Vicksburg, Jackson, Ft. Gibson and surrounding areas there are 3,000--in Vicksburg about 900-1,000. There are a lot of offspring.

In the early 1900 the Syrians came to Jackson, Mississippi and spread out from there (he names families in different Mississippi communities, about 15-17).

There was a railroad line from Jackson to Ft. Gibson and people that peddled followed the railroad line. They took the train to some communities to places like Hermanville. To shorter places in distance they walked and other places they used a horse and buggy.

From 2nd interview, March 20, 1980

Informant Mr. Abe Abraham Sex M Age 60 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 23, 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

His father set up his son-in-law in the grocery business. The only people who were peddling when the informant was old enough to know about peddling (1920's) was John Abraham and Aunt Yamna and Anjou. Peddlers' satchels weighed about 100-150 lbs. They sold to people on farms; every farm had a bunch of people. When they opened store, they lived behind the store.

v¹/12

v/1

From 2nd interview, March 20, 1980

Informant Mr. Abe Abraham Sex M Age 60 Interview Schedule Code J/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 23, 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Informant's father peddled out of Meridian, Mississippi to the west into little towns of Mississippi (names them) and over into Smith county. He had a horse and buggy, which he took with him when he moved to Vicksburg. He told them (his children) about his peddling years.

He peddled dry goods, lotions, razors and straps, belts, socks, pants. He told the informant that wherever he went, he was treated fine and people let him spend nights. He was very successful.

Informant Mr. Abe Abraham Sex M Age 60 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 23, 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Due to his medical condition, informant's father went to work for Anheuser-Busch (beer company) as a bottle rinser; they paid \$7.50 a week plus all of the cheese, pretzels and beer they wanted. He was always standing in water.

He started peddling in East St. Louis to miners; he was very successful. During this period he became a U.S. citizen. Then he went back to Lebanon, in 1904-05, bought property, built a home and married the informant's mother in 1906. He had one daughter and in Dec. 1907 came to the U.S. with informant's mother to Jackson, Mississippi. He left the daughter with his parents. In 1910 he went back to Lebanon, had a son and he and the informant's mother and the informant's brother came back to Meridian, Mississippi in 1912. He left his oldest daughter still with the informant's grandmother in Lebanon. He had made a lot of money and could afford this travel. Informant doesn't know anything about the 4 years he came back alone.

Informant Mr. Abe Abraham Sex M Age 60 Interview Schedule Code II/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 23, 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

When informant's grandmother went back (to Lebanon), her oldest son, the informant's father came to the U.S., in 1897 at the age of 15, although he said he was 17. He came with some kinfolk and entered through New Orleans. Then he went to Jackson, Mississippi. He followed the railroad track, peddling and ended up there.

v/1

v/3

v/1

Informant Mr. Abe Abraham Sex M Age 60 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 23, 1979

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Syrian peddlers would leave Vicksburg with a pack and spend night in farm-houses and barns and stay away 2-3 weeks until they sold their pack of goods and made good money. They came with nly their old country education which was almost nil.

Informant Mr. Johnny Nosser Sex M Age 81 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 22
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 12, 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

"No, I didn't peddle; that was before my days".

1979
81
1898 born
22
1920 arrived

Informant Harry & Sadie Unes

Religious Sect Maronite

Interviewer Alix Naff

Sex M & F Age 83 & 74 Interview Schedule Code ✓/1

Country of Origin Lebanon & U.S. Immigrant Age 4 & N/A

City Peoria, Ill. Date July 14, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

Her parents went to S. Dakota to homestead, but also peddled, carrying their bags and going from place to place. Both her parents peddled between farming the homestead. They walked. Gave up peddling after having 5 or 6 children.

He thinks many peddled in Buffalo, N.Y. but doesn't remember any supplier there.

When her parents peddled they left the children in the care of an old German lady who charged them very little.

They didnt' make much money peddling.

Informant Mrs. Queenie Nassour Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Miss. Date Aug. 11, 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Her father peddled for a while in Meridian, Miss. by horse and buggy then bought a store from a Syrian, Mr. Haj, a relative from Jidayil.

VI/11

V/1

V/1

Informant Mrs. Latify Cory Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Louis Cory City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

Interviewer's
Mother peddled dresses, mercerized thread, table cloth, small costume jewelry; went by train, carried suitcase.

II/A/3

Interviewer's
Father peddled at age 14, about 1892, to lumber jacks in woods near Napanee (Canada); slept on railroad tracks at times but farmers' wives would feel sorry for him, as a child, and put him up nights.

II/B/2

People used to move from Canada to U.S. and back freely; not strict like today. They'd ask you where you were going and let you go; didn't need papers or identification like today.

Informant Mrs. Latify Cory Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Louis Cory City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

Couldn't give ticket agent name of town she was going to peddle in--
would say this (stop) no until the town she wanted--then "this" (yes).

v1/7

v/1

IV/1

Informant Mrs. Latify Cory Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Louis Cory City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IV/A/1

Rochester, Pennsylvania community:

There were about 20 Syrian families in Rochester when she came in 1909--all Orthodox except one Muslim who had a store and one Druze who would go out peddling and come back to Rochester. There was no Syrian church there then. Her family did not attend church. Most were peddlers. There were a couple of suppliers. Guesses there were more than 20 peddlers. Also a Syrian owned a fruit market.

Rochester was very small.

$$v_1/1$$

$$v_1/2$$

$$v/3$$

$$v/1$$

Informant Mike & Ghandura Haddy

Sex M & F Age 81 & 78 Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon

Immigrant Age 14 & 2

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Los Angeles, Calif.

Date Spring 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

2 who - not Mike Haddy or his wife

' Peddled from Los Angeles to San Francisco. Started walking in that direction and asked people along the way, selling to homes in the country. This was in the 1890's .

“ “

Informant Alice Abraham Sex F Age 68 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

Her brother tried peddling when he first came in 1908- 1909. One night he almost froze because no one would give him a place to sleep. Finally he asked someone to let him sleep in the barn, the farmer let him in the house to sleep but walked around with a gun all night. He didn't sleep all night and the next day he returned to Cedar Rapids and said he'd never peddle again after having peddled only two weeks.

Informant Essa Malooley Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Manchester, N.H. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Upon arrival, he had enough money to get started, but spoke no English. Started peddling immediately.

Elias Lebos, his wife's brother, taught him to peddle. He learned to knock on doors and say "Buy sumthin." When he wanted to tell someone a price he had to count on his fingers to make them understand. This was in Montreal, Canada.

They slept at farmer's houses, but many times were turned away because people were afraid or something. Not because he was an Arab. Peddlers looked poor. No one ever asked what he was.

Took the train to Alexandria (Ontario, about 60 min. from Montreal) and then he would walk to all the small towns around it. Would stay away 2 or 3 days. He had relatives and friends in Alexandria, but lived in Montreal. Worked 5 to 6 hours a day. The work was difficult, and they got tired from walking, carrying heavy suitcases and from the cold. Sometimes they'd walk all day and not find a house, or people would turn them away. Sometimes he'd walk until 10 or 11 at night because no one would give him a place to stay. In N.Y. state he would sleep outside but not in Canada.

1890
18
1908

Informant Charles Teebagy Sex M Age 80 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 20
Interviewer Alix Naff City Dorchester, Mass. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Used to peddle about 50 years ago (19-teens) at a summer resort. They opened a store (with who ?) but didn't make much. The young men used to go there.

He retired as a carpenter for a company. He built homes for Syrians and others - about 20 or 30 homes. He used blueprints to build homes.

VI/II

V/I

Informant Nazira Nicola

Sex F Age 71 Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 7

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

1962
71 born
1891 arrived
1898

The informant and her grandmother arrived in St. Paul, Minn. on the 4th of July. Her paternal aunts and uncles lived in St. Paul, but most were out peddling when they arrived.

Informant Charles Teebagy Sex M Age 80 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 20
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Dorchester, Mass. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

His brother peddled in Boston when informant arrived in 1902. He sold linens, tablecloths, doilies, etc. things that were light but expensive. He opened a dry goods store in 1910, and sold oriental rugs - a big store.

Informant Skiyyie Sahha Samaha Sex F Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Dorchester, Mass Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Her husband never peddled, he worked in a factory. He finally opened a restaurant in Manchester. They stayed in Manchester 10 years then moved to Laurence, Mass. and opened a restaurant there, and she helped her husband in the restaurant.

Informant Essa Malooley Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Manchester, N.H. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Came to U.S. because he married young and had no money. Came to make money after he heard about opportunities here from other villagers who had gone. Heard about the kishie before he got here.

Intended to stay only a short time.

Was planning to send for his wife and children from Rachaya but WWI intervened and they all stayed in the U.S. (he and his relatives here) He never went back, but his wife came later.

III / 2

VI / 18

V / 1

Informant Mike & Ghandura Haddy

Sex M & F Age 81 & 78 Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 14 & 26

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Los Angeles, Calif. Date Spring 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IIA1

Mike peddled before his wife came from Lebanon, then opened a dry goods store in Hot Springs, Nebraska. (In 1910)

Informant Nazira Nicola Sex F Age 71 Interview Schedule Code II/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 7
Interviewer Alix Naff City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

While her aunts and uncles were out peddling they heard that land for homesteading was available, so they signed for the land which was in North Dakota. They all stayed in St. Paul, Minn. until her cousin was born then they all moved to Rugby, N. Dakota to homestead.

Syrians would come to St. Paul peddle a while then go to Rugby to homestead. Around Rugby you could travel 35 to 40 miles and find Arabs in every house. They were all farmers. They really didn't know how to farm but their neighbors would teach them. Neighbors were Russians and mostly Germans. They got along - the Syrians had peddled these areas. They would homestead land for awhile then sell it.

V/1

Informant	<u>Mrs. Eva Frenn</u>	Sex	<u>F</u>	Age	<u>56</u>	Interview Schedule Code	
Religious Sect	<u>Melkite</u>	Country of Origin	<u>Lebanon</u>		Immigrant Age	<u>17</u>	
Interviewer	<u>Alix Naff</u>	City	<u>N. Hollywood, California</u>		Date	<u>1962</u>	

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Her husband spoke English fluently. He was born in 1897 and was about 2 years old when his mother brought him here in 1900. His family was in Watertown, Wisconsin and were very successful peddling as they were doing 62 years ago. They got to Wisconsin peddling. His mother had brought him with her to her married daughter's, Mrs. Suzanne Mussallem. At some point Mrs. Musallem said she was tired and wanted to go south, so they came to Muskogee, Oklahoma because they heard Oklahoma was going to become a state and join the union and that there was oil there. So they came and there was no paved sidewalks or streets. It (Muskogee?) was a small depot.

I/A/2

So her husband was already living in Oklahoma when they were married and they went straight there. They lived in Okmogie which had 2500 people with her mother-in-law.

She was accustomed to going to mass every Sunday; her mother-in-law said there was no need to go every Sunday. On her first Sunday, their colored maid took her. When the priest started the sermon with "my friends" she was surprised, "what's he going to say about Mike Frenn; as he repeated it, she was impressed with her husband's importance. Her husband laughed when she told him.

V/1

Informant Essa Malooley Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Manchester, N.H. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Moved to Manchester, N.H. from Montreal in 1914. Went because his sister and her husband were there. Peddled there also. In 1924 he bought a car and peddled by car. Went further, carried more goods and made more money. Continued to peddle this way until 1943.

Quit peddling in 1943 because the merchandise he was selling became unavailable (because of the WW2?) and because hotels were more expensive.

Went to work in a factory in Vermont for 2 years, American Woolen Co. then worked in Anchor Mfg. Co. in Manchester.

IA2

When peddling he bought his merchandise from Essa Samara (his brother in law) who had a dry goods store, and also from N.Y. Essa Samara's brother had one also in Manchester. A Syrian opened a store in Manchester and sold ingredients for Syrian food, ordered these things from N.Y.

There were several coffee houses for Syrians and Greeks in Manchester. The men would drink coffee, smoke arguillies and talk about the old country, why they had come, the history of the Arabs, and how good their homeland was, and about events.

Informant Mrs. Malaki Bhennessy Sex F Age 74* Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15

Interviewer Alix Naff City Los Angeles, California Date 1962

* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

1962
74
1488
15
1903
Syrians in Los Angeles had dry goods and grocery stores and lots of them used to peddle. One of the old timers in Los Angeles was Yusuf Faris.

Peddlers walked, took street cars or had buggies and sold many kinds of things and sold among Mexicans and went out to farms. She didn't know much about them. They did well because they went out of the city to ranches (farms?) and they had no competition. Los Angeles was then only about 300,000. She has seen the city grow.

Informant Mr. George Malooley Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 24
Interviewer Alix Naff City Lexington, Nebraska Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Informant came to the U.S. in 1913; he was 24 years old. He came to America because it was a free country (he begins to adjust his language closer to the classical Arabic and gives studied answers; asked if and what he had heard about America before he came, he said:)

We heard that a worker would make his living and more; that he could live the way the ~~w~~alshy in our country lived.

Informant was married before he came. His brother was in America in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He used to farm in Nebraska. He used to peddle and followed where the trains took him. He got to Nebraska and he didn't like peddling anyway; he went to work for a farmer who treated him very well.

Informant's maternal uncle came to Canada and the informant's brother and mother heard that someone was going to kill him so they followed him to Canada. (Asked why someone wanted to kill him, the informant stopped talking and wouldn't allow the interviewer to pursue the story and she had to change the subject.)

III / 2

III / 1

VI / 13 / a

VI / 11

V / 1

From a telephone conversation with Mr. Malooley's sister-in-law, Budelia Malooley, 11-17-80
Informant Mr. George Malooley Sex M Age 73 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 24
Interviewer Alix Naff City Lexington, Nebraska Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

George's father and my grandfather (his wife's grandfather) were brothers. George got his Damascus accent because his family moved to Qatana, near Damascus and lived there for years. His mother is from the Sa^Cid family in Qatana.

The family caravans transported wheat and other grains and fruits and olives much like our transport trucks do today.

He had 12 children of his own, 8 boys and 4 girls; they lost 2 daughters as infants and also raised 5 children of his brother who had lived and worked with George in Nebraska and died there as did their mother.

He was very active in building the Orthodox church in Kearney, Nebraska. There was a heated controversy among the Syrians there connected with its building--it even involved, rumor has it, a killing. George gave \$5,000 so he could have the upper hand in it.

Quite a few Syrians in Kearney and environs got there by peddling; there were only a few farmers; most had stores.

My father died in 1977 at the age of about 88.

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Darwish Raya

Sex M & F

Age 74 & 72

Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Melkite

Country of Origin Lebanon

Immigrant Age 17 & 22

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Los Angeles, Calif.

Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____

World War I _____

1920's _____

1930's _____

IA3

In Tuscon, Ariz. where informant opened a store in 1912 there were a number of Syrians, most of them from Ablah (near Zahle).

In 1887 one of his relatives, Nick Raya, was in N.Y. and heard about New Mexico. He was a peddler and liked to travel. He just peddled until he got to New Mexico. Then he heard about Arizona and peddled to there and then to Mexico. He peddled back and forth across the line. Then he sent for his sister and the informant's uncles. This is how the Syrian community began in Arizona.

IB1

His wife commented that in Tuscon she had no use for English since she stayed home all the time both in Sonora, Mexico and in Ariz. Her husband did the shopping and their Syrian friends would exchange visits with them. She commented that she never entered a non-Syrian house at that time. It was the same in Calexico.

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Carl Nassif

Sex M & F Age 73 & 69 Interview Schedule Code V / 1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 9 & 12

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

Their destination was Bloomington, Ill. when the informant Carl came with his father in 1898. They then bought a horse and buggy and peddled their way to Sioux City, Iowa.

iv/3

v/1

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Carl Nassif Sex M & F Age 73 & 69 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 9 & 12
Interviewer Alix Naff City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

In Bloomington, Ill. most of the Syrians peddled. They bought a rig and came to Burlington, Iowa, peddled all the way, and went to Otomway, Iowa. His father taught him to carry the kishie, and a few words in English. Carl went to a colored neighborhood to peddle and he was trying to sell as hard as he could, he wanted to make some money. Everyone took something. This was his first time peddling.

From Otomway, Iowa they sold town to town to Sioux City, Iowa, where they had lots of relatives. His father left him at a Catholic school and went out peddling for 2 or 3 months at a time. Carl still had his kishie and would peddle after school. Sometimes he'd make 50¢, \$1. or \$1.50 and his cousin saved it for him. He would save about \$50 or \$100 in 6 months and made his living. Sometimes he sold papers. He had a system of recording how much he made and how much he spent. This was in 1898. One summer he bought himself a horse and buggy and peddled.

from Nov. 18, 1980 telephone conversation

Informant	<u>Mrs. Eva Frenn</u>	Sex	<u>F</u>	Age	<u>56</u>	Interview Schedule Code	<u>V/1</u>
Religious Sect	<u>Melkite</u>	Country of Origin	<u>Lebanon</u>	Immigrant Age	<u>17</u>		
Interviewer	<u>Alix Naff</u>	City	<u>N. Hollywood, California</u>	Date	<u>1963</u>		

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Life and Occupational History of Mrs. Susanne (Sophie) Mussallem; note 1:

Mrs. Mussallem, informant's sister-in-law, was born in 1871 in Zahle, Lebanon (then Syria) and emigrated in 1885 to the U.S. at the age of 14. She never had any formal education--could not read or write Arabic or English. She and her brother and uncles came to the U.S.; got to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where she already had an uncle and fellow townsmen. They all peddled and got to Greenbay and lived in Watertown, Wisconsin. Of her five brothers only one came at the time she came; the others remained with parents.

About 1895 she married Michael Mussallem, also of Zahle, and returned there on a honeymoon. Her husband's family was already established in Chicago in the linen business.

About 1898 or 1900 her mother emigrated with her 3 yr. old son Mike. She came to make money. Three other brothers had already emigrated. They left the youngest son and father in Zahle. They went to live with Susanne in Watertown. After a few years, mother returned to Zahle.

Mrs. Mussallem got tired of peddling in the Wisconsin area with her husband and decided to move to the Oklahoma territory; she and her husband took a train here in 1910 and ended up in Muskogee. Muskogee was just building up and there were many Indians and blacks there. She opened a small dry goods store; her husband worked with her in the store. They accumulated a lot of land in different

V/1

Informant Mrs. Latify Cory Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Louis Cory City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IV/A/1

Asked if it was common for people to accumulate \$5-6,000 as her brother did before he opened store in Montreal, before 1910, she said it took her brother from 6-8 years or more to save this money from peddling. This was common. In no time many peddlers would stop peddling and open store and sell to people coming from old country to peddle.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
126-331

On weekends peddlers would get together, sing, dance (dabki).
They would celebrate in Mr. Beshara's house.

Informant Mrs. Mayme Farris Sex F Age 75* Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Episcopalian Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 10, 1979
* in 1979

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

They (the peddlers) would enjoy their outdoors, like jumping rope and wrestling, barbequeing and would have a wonderful time (when they returned to buy their merchandise).

v/1

v1/16

Informant Elizabeth Beshara Sex F Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/11
Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date July 1, 1962.

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA2 In the evenings she and her parents used to exchange peddling stories of the day and had such fun laughing about them. She was 10 years old.
- IA3 They didn't associate with non Syrians when she first came.

Informant Mr. Assad Shabo Sex M Age Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Country of Origin Syria* Immigrant Age
Interviewer Alix Naff City West Roxbury, Mass. Date August 1962
*Informant is an Assyrian, born in Turkey (Mesopotamia)

Life in America: Pre-World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side II
213-829

After he lost his job, despite Mr. Mdarwi's concern that he couldn't speak English, he decided to peddle and learn English.

At that time Mr. Shabo had a room for \$1.50/month on Neelan St. (???); No heat, no lights, no bed. He never even had underwear for two years.

A man, one winter, saw him shivering, after finding out that he didn't even know about sweaters, opened his shirt and saw he didn't have underwear and told him it was necessary to keep warm to buy underwear. He was sleeping on the floor, he was used to 6-7 ft. of snow in the homeland, near the Russian border; they lived on a mountain-top there. They used to go barefoot in the snow, while seeing the desert down below (as he says "the Arab"). They used to sleep on the floor; the houses were made from rock-stone so the Muslims couldn't break in and kill them. Mr. Shabo says that of 10-15/children born in a family, only 2-3 live, the strongest.

20

So they were tough.

Informant Elizabeth Beshara Sex F Age 79 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date July 1, 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

In Columbus, Ohio there was a house for peddlers, where each one had a room. There was a big kitchen and they all cooked together. Both married and unmarried people. They also lived in flats above store but there weren't many Syrians there.

The colony of Syrians wasn't big enough to have stores for Syrians.

Conversation with:

Informant Hussien Hussien Ayad Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code V/1
 Religious Sect Muslim Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 12
 Interviewer John P. Brennan City Michigan City, IND. Date Unknown (1972)
Public Library, Michigan City

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

There was no need to converse in anything but Arabic since food, clothes, and all need were brought directly to their residences by merchants of our same origin. All were Arabs, except for Mr. Bloom who sold milk from door to door, using a big water pail.

They remained in this condition, for a time, their lives consisting of going to work, returning home; immigrants as well as new arrivals were subjected to this same existence, excepting for those who had learned English.

VI / 7

VI / 1

V / 1

Informant Elizabeth Beshara Sex F Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date July 1, 1962
Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

Salem Beshara was a king among the Syrians. Everybody came to him, he was the head man. He never peddled himself but had a store to supply them. When he and his brother first came they had fruit stands on the street corners. Then Salem bought a building with three stores in it in Ft. Wayne.

Salem first came the the U.S. with his father and 3 brothers. One brother (Tom) went to Buenos Aires and no one ever saw him again. (He ended up in Cedar Rapids in 1897)

Salem would give peddlers their first merchandise on credit. The peddler would sell it and then pay Salem and buy more from him. The peddlers would come back on weekends and have a big evening together, cooking, singing and dancing.

Salem banked for them in his own bank account. Sometimes peddlers would return to the old country and then write for their money and he'd send it to them. He also loaned them money. People took advantage.

Informant Essa Samara Sex M Age 77 Interview Schedule Code 5/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Manchester, N.H. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

In Manchester, N.H. after 1900 when informant arrived:

In the house where the peddlers stayed there were no bathroom s or sinks so they had to use the basement to get water and for their needs. Some windows were broken and snow would come in on their beds while they slept. They slept in their clothing removing only their shoes. There was a stove for cooking only and they would collect wood in the forest. They never got sick because they were healthy.

They were all bachelors, only 2 or 3 had brought their wives.

There were coffee houses but they didnt' want to spend 5¢ on a cup of coffee

v1/1

v1/2

v/1

Informant Essa Samara Sex M Age 77 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Manchester, N.H. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

15 or 16 men lived together in Montreal and would eat together in one house. His sister and Um Yusuf Sraybi were with them and would cook for them. The men were all bachelors.

V/1

Informant from business list-conversation
Miss Budelia Malooley Sex F Age 77* Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age ca. 1 year
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 4, 1980*
* 59 at the time of the August 1962 interview

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

The peddling community--which all Syrians were in Spring Valley--was made up of villagers from Mhaythie and Rachaya al-Wadi and these two factions were jealous of each other. The Abrahams didn't do well and they went broke or very close to it. Mr. Abrahams had to borrow money from the informant's widowed aunt Maggie Malooley. She was a peddler. Abraham's son was a better businessman. He made more money selling dry goods. Many of the peddlers--few as they were then--didn't like to buy from the Abrahams. He went broke also partly because of the competition between the Rachaya people and those from Mhaythie. The Abrahams were from Mhaythie and the majority of Syrians in Spring Valley were from Rachaya. The Rashids, that is, Edna ASalley and her grother were from Jdaydie (Marj^c ayoun?).

V/1

Informant Mr. Slayman Nimee Sex M Age 70* Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962
* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

In the very early days these peddlers would come to Spring Valley, buy merchandise, go out around the local towns, sell and come back to Spring Valley. They used to sleep on floors and boxes, all together. There were no beds, not that they didn't have the money to buy beds. They didn't want to. They didn't buy much food either, not that they went hungry, but they were thrifty. They watched what they spent carefully.

vi / 1

v / 1

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18/16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB3

Went to Lowell, Mass. because father's cousin convinced him. Painted a better picture and wanted him to marry his daughter. A fixed marriage that fizzled out.

There in Lowell he found old friends from school in Aythu al Fakhar. Worked in big "supermarket" Stayed 3½ years. Replaced Arab friend at vegetable counter as manager. Was convinced to buy grocery store and lost money. Then went to Worcester, Mass. Arab he met in Lowell convinced him to go into partnership in curtain manufacturing. The man needed money. Mr. A had about \$2400. Man had 7 machines. Made curtains for homes, by end of year had 30 machines. Mr. A was salesman, now selling like a gentleman, not like in peddling days. Partner started selling while Mr. A. managed factory but was not aggressive - sold ½ day and got disgusted. Then Mr. A sold - was more aggressive and built business up to 30 machines. Connecticut was his territory and also N.Y. Remained until 1930, when partnership failed. Partner and brother cheated him; had \$3400. in bank.

IIA1

Returned to Cedar Rapids because he lost everything in Curtain manufacturing. Also C.R. was home to him.

IIA2

1930 went out peddling with brother - rugs - first year or two. Then worked in grocery for Nick Baba for 1 or 2 years. When WW2 started he got in business for himself in 1941 (?) Bought store from George Albert who had to go into the service. From

1930 to 1941 peddled and worked for other people. Peddling averaged him \$30 to \$50. per week. Sometimes went as far as Rio Grande River, Texas.

Referring to store:

Was pushed out because they wanted to build a post office there, but he stayed there quite a while. Worked 12 hours a day, 6 to 7 or 9 PM, 7 days a week. No vacations. Had that store for 17 or 18 years. Owned by someone else and he didn't have a lease. Post Office put him out in 1962.

Went to work at golf course as starter at \$1.65/hr.. Outdoors better than retiring.

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's Occupation, note 1

I/A/3

Oldest brother Abdu bought general store in Urbana, Iowa about 1910. Brother Yehya sold groceries and dry goods from horse and buggy to farmers in vicinity of Urbana. Store was opened 6 days/week. *

I/B/1

On his arrival in Urbana, 1913, informant worked brother's general store and with Yehya on wagon. Yehya continued to sell from wagon and later from truck until W.W.I. It was like a mobile general store. *

Just before WWI, the brothers used to buy sugar, flour and potatoes by the carload, ordered from wholesale houses which sold by carloads.

Abdu left Urbana for Vinton but when he came back, he went into partnership with Mr. Allbones.

Informant moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, because Abdu "was moving around too much". Abdu sold store in Urbana; bought one in Quasqueton; then sold it, returned to Urbana and bought store in partnership with Mr. Allbones. Stayed in Quasqueton about one year; "didn't like it" (or didn't do well); sold it, returned to Urbana and remained in that store until WWI.

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapid, Iowa Date June 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's Occupation, note 2

- I/B/1 Informant went to Cedar Rapids; knew some "boys there"; got a job with Quaker Oats Co. at 18¢/hr, sweeping and oiling machines; worked night shift; once fell asleep and was fired.
- I/B/1 Went to Detroit in 1918 but in 1922 he "left a good job" to return to Vinton, Iowa to take care of Abdu's store while Abdu returned to village for bride.
- Informant worked for the Ford Motor Co. in 1919 in Dearborn, Michigan.
- Informant went to Detroit because "quite a few people were talking about Ford Motor"; he heard there was lots of money in Detroit; Ford was hiring and it was a good place to work; he applied at Ford in his best suit and was sent home as not being ready to work. "Come back with work clothes on". He did and was hired the next day.
- Ford paid everyone \$5/day.

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 20, 19

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's Occupation, note 3

I/B/1

At Ford, informant was put on a dirty job--called "knock-out job". After he complained and threatened to quit so he was put on an elevator, which was monotonous.

Informant heard about Ford's Trade School; applied and was accepted; trade school was free; worked infactory and attended school "couple of hours every morning; studied for 2 years.

I/B/2

After trade school, he worked in "electrical works": Ford Powerhouse, changed motors, starters, controllers, etc. "Study and work went together".
Worked at Ford 4 years until he returned to Urbana in 1922.

(Informant tried to clarify confusion about ABdu's moves but did not succeed.
In brief, sometime between Abdu's leaving Urbana the first time in 1918-19 and his return in 1921-22, he bought stores in Vinton and Quasqueton, iowa).

(Vinton store seems to have been bought by Abdu about 1921, shortly before informant ran it for him during his trip to homeland for bride.)

The store sold hardware, groceries, suits; "did well"; Yehya continued to sell by wagon.

*

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapid, Iowa Date June 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

Informant's Occupation, note 4

During Depression, informant and brother Yehya (William) rented and worked farms in Fayette county for about a year or so.

I/B/2

Brother Sam, all during WWI and into the 1920's had a rented farm and was working it; William (Yehya) was on truck selling.

About 1928, informant left his brothers and rented his own gas station and grocery and "what ever people wanted". He was "doing all right until I got married and things went into reverse", not the fault of the Depression.

He remained in Vinton 3 years; claims he "never noticed" the Depression and "pulled it through".

I/B/3

Moved to Cedar Rapids in 1931 for a short while and then to Detroit in 1932, worked with Saybagh family. They were distributors of eggs and cheese; located on 9 mile road.

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code Z/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 20, 198

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/3

Informant's Occupation, note 5

Informant was experienced egg handler which Saybaghs needed.

One day owner's wife borrowed and wrecked his car; created friction; he quit.

Bought eggs from country and sold them to neighbors on his own; "didn't work out--it was Depression".

After a couple of years, sought work at Ford, but none available due to Depression. "Could have gotten job if I saw some of the fellas that knew me".

Had to send wife and new baby back to her parents; shortly thereafter followed them.

But he claims he never had to worry about next meal. Depression was not that bad.

When he sold Vinton gas station in 1932, he "got pretty good money for it"--\$1200--but spent it "moving from place to place".

Returned to Cedar Rapids where he stayed and worked with brother William who had opened gas station on West side. After short while informant bought a store on First Ave. --small grocery store, about 1935-36 and also bought and sold eggs in his little truck; built a good route in farm area.

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapid, Iowa Date June 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's Occupation, note 6

I/B/3

Informant sold this store after 2-3 yrs. Then (mistakenly says 1932) bought current grocery store on J.St. in Cedar Rapids.

After WWII, he worked for contractors in different places as electrician-- including 5 yrs for U. of Iowa, Iowa City.

Regarding Syrians and farming in Iowa: For a while, there were about 4-5 families who had about 160 acres each in Fayette County. "That was average back then". Syrian farmers only farmed 2-3 yrs, then sold farms because "got tired of it" and "they opened grocery stores". "To make money, you have to be born to like farming". He and his brother Yehya rented and worked farm for couple of years in 1920's (claimed it was during the Depression, above; 1920's seems more plausible).

They were single; stayed 2-3 yrs., 7 day/wk. job but "you don't kill yourself. Sold products to grain elevators and eggs to grocers where they traded them for groceries; "that's what they used to do". Planted mainly corn.

(At this point in interview) he said he lived in Highland Park, Michigan and worked at Ford but for 2 weeks took a 2nd job at Ford's River Rouge plant.

• Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code ~~II/11~~ II/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapid, Iowa Date June 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/3

Informant's Occupation, note 7

Informant took street car back and forth; reason was he didn't like Highland Park job and wanted to see which one he wanted to keep; he left the Highland Park job.

—various + refinement on
a common theme

illuminating — various
angles

~~Adroitly uses plays~~

—indictment

Informant Essa Samara Sex M Age 77 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Manchester, N.H. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

In 1912 informant had a store for peddlers. He gave them credit and they cheated him plenty. He didn't train anyone to peddle. A new immigrant would go out with a peddler, they'd get to a place and the veteran would tell the newcomer what to say and which streets to sell on, and then they'd arrange where to meet later.

Peddlers didn't compete for routes. If someone was peddling a street and knocked on a house and found another peddler there he would go to another area. No one cut in on each other on purpose, they didn't want to create bad feelings, because they were together all the time.

$$\sqrt{3}$$

$$\sqrt{2}$$

$$\sqrt{1}$$

Informant Elizabeth Beshara Sex F Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date July 1, 1962
Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB2

The Syrians in Ft. Wayne never established a church. An itinerant priest would serve mass in homes. Most of the Syrians were Catholic, with a few Orthodox. The non Catholics went to the Episcopalian or Methodist churches. They used to ordain men from among the peddlers, but only married men. No Orthodox church built because there wasn't enough of them.

Informant Mr. Abe Abraham Sex M Age 60 Interview Schedule Code 5/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 23, 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

When they (informant and brothers and sisters) were children, they were treated as inferiors. In school, kids called us foreign names, dago, wop, Turk. It was rough for us; we had to fight our way physically. We always won. "Right wins over might".

Asked why other immigrants did not experience discrimination, he said: "Well they were adults and peddled and contacted farmers and this calibre of people. they weren't city folks. Farmers were poor and so were our folks and poor people helped poor people and didn't hold prejudices like city folks did.

I/A/2

By grammar school years, we were accepted, fought our way into acceptance; there was none in high school.

Lebanese were barred from country club in Vicksburg in the 1940's because they were too busy making a living and didn't play golf or sports or very few went fishing or hunting. All they knew was work, sleep and church and Lebanese would come to the rescue of the country club during financial crisis of the Depression. Jewish people belonged because they helped them out--changed in the 1950's.

Informant Mr. Bill Aossey Sex M ^{ca.} Agemid 30's Interview Schedule Code ✓/1
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date December 12, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

My father was peddling in the farm area around Urbana, Iowa, and as he often did, he stopped at a farm house and was given lodging. This took place during World War I. It was a Catholic household. My father was invited to dinner and they all sat down. A prayer was said and they all crossed themselves, but he did not. They asked him: Aren't you Christian? He said no. that he was a Muslim. They did not understand what a Muslim was and he proceeded to explain, giving them some historical background and mentioned the Turkish government, etc. At this point, the farmer rose up in anger and said, so you are a Turk, reached for his gun and said I'll kill that Turk -- get out of my house. So the father left.

The farmer considered Turks the enemies of America since the Turkish government fought against the West alongside the Germans. He wasn't discriminating against Arabs or Muslims -- he only hated America's enemy the Turks and wouldn't listen to a further explanation.

Bill Aossey told the following story about his father's experience at the AAUG convention, Nov. 1980. This story was picked up by a speaker on the Arab-American panel and used to illustrate discrimination suffered by Arab-Americans before 1948. I called to confirm this and was told that he did not tell the story as an example of discrimination but to illustrate the ignorance of Americans about Muslims and Islam. It was, he said, one isolated incident during many years of peddling by his father in which he was very well received by the non-Arab community and in which he freely and amicably associated.

Informant Tafeeda Beshara Sex F Age 65 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne , Ind. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Syrians not discriminated against at Ford. They wanted foreigners to work for them, they were better workers. Peddlers weren't discriminated against either. They were needed. Sometimes in barbershops or stores people would say why don't you learn English.

Informant Miss Budelia Malooley ^{from conversation} Sex F Age 77* Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age ca. 1 year
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 4, 1980*
* 59 at the time of the August 1962 interview

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Spring Valley, occupation note:

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham peddled, in addition to their store, well into the 1940's. Their daughter Elizabeth worked.

Mr. Joseph Jacobs, widowed early, 3-4 small children to raise, wife died in giving birth to a son, worked hard, opened a small shop next to his small house, sold everything from meat to kerosene. The family was very poor.

A partnership between George and Louis Assalley and their brother-in-law, a Mr. Darwish, in a peddlers' supply store, was dissolved after George and Louis died. Mrs. Louis Assalley was ousted from the partnership by George's son Nick; (apparently the Assalleys wanted the ownership to remain in their name; they were from Rachaya while Mrs. Assalley was from another village).¹ She then opened a store with her brother and Mr. Darwish also opened a store, making 4 Syrian-owned dry goods stores on Main Street.

¹ (from business list-conversation) Mrs. Assalley wanted to give her share of the store to her brother Hafiz but the new partners didn't get along.

VI/II

V/I

VI/20/b

Informant Essa Samara Sex M Age 77 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Manchester, N.H. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IAL

1962
77
1885
1880
When informant arrived in 1900 he found his brother peddling in Montreal. He wanted to peddle also but the license was \$50. a year so his brother advised him that he might not make that much money in a year and that he should go to work in a factory instead. So he did and made \$3.55 a week and saved \$2.00 out of that.

He was the only factory worker out of a group of 15 or 16 men. He was the youngest.

At the factory the French and the Irish didn't like foreigners and would beat him up every evening when he tried to enter the factory. This went on for 2 weeks, 5 or 6 men would come after him and then others would see them hit him and would stop them. He quit and his brother bought him a peddler's license. He started to peddle.

Informant Mr. Matt Iube Sex M Age 78 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Informant associated with Syrians and they talked about their work and their experiences and about the homeland. "We'd talk about how much we made or walked or difficulties of finding sleep".

He remembers his maternal first cousin preceding him in a horse and buggy while he walked, carrying 150-170 lbs. on his back. Farmers would tell him another peddler had just been there 1-1½ hrs. ago and he thought they were saying 15 or 20 minutes ago and hurried ahead to try to catch him but never did.

He made \$5 the first week and it improved week by week; some weeks they could make \$40-50, from which they could save.

He had borrowed \$100 to come to the U.S. and in 3 months sent his mother \$110 to pay off his debt; he also paid off his debt for merchandise he purchased to sell and still had \$30-40 in cash.

"We endured a lot, mostly from the cold and finding places to sleep but with all that I enjoyed this country--because I was making money".

Informant Mr. Matt IubeSex M Age 78Interview Schedule Code ✓/1Religious Sect MelkiteCountry of Origin SyriaImmigrant Age 17Interviewer Alix NaffCity Detroit, MichiganDate July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

The peddlers would get a special rate, Saturday-Monday, \$1.50 each; ^{night} they'd wash their clothes and bathe; would sneak into the bathroom when they charged extra; sometimes didn't bathe when hotel didn't have a bathroom. They'd sleep two in a bed.

Informant Essa Samara Sex M Age 77 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Manchester, N.H. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____
around 1900

IA1

His brother told him to knock on doors and say "You wanna buy sumthin?" Lots of people felt sorry for him because he was so young. Most customers were French and they would sell them rosaries. The women would usually find something little thing to buy. They paid 5¢ for the rosary and sold it for 25¢. Some good days they'd make \$2. Better than working in a factory. He wouldn't go out of Manchester, only on Saturdays, to Sancook and Nashua, when the laborers got paid. They wanted to be there when they got out of work so they'd peddle from 6 PM to 10 PM and spend the night in a boarding house.

IA2

Many customers would chase them away. Sometimes they'd go to a house and the man would be drunk and hit him. When he got home he'd tell about it and they'd all laugh and he would feel better. Others would also tell their stories.

Peddled for 10 years.

When he got wet in the snow he couldn't change because he had no other clothes.

IV/3

Informant Mrs. Latify Cory Sex F Age 83 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 12
Interviewer Louis Cory City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IV/A/1

Asked if it was common for people to accumulate \$5-6,000 as her brother did before he opened store in Montreal, before 1910, she said it took her brother from 6-8 years or more to save this money from peddling. This was common. In no time many peddlers would stop peddling and open store and sell to people coming from old country to peddle.

v/1

v1/11

v/3

11

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's Occupation, note 3:

I/B/2 Always peddled in Chicago and continued until he left Chicago in 1935.

I/B/3 *See note 1
Shaw's* Peddling business began to become obsolete in 1920's. (informant says about 1930's)
At first, he and brothers sold imported dry goods unavailable elsewhere. Then department stores began to open, selling everything, strong competition; could not longer make money. Customers would go downtown, see same items priced \$5 cheaper and wouldn't buy from peddlers.

It wasn't necessarily lack of public transportation or good roads to get around that made peddlers important to customers. In the case of peddlers of imported goods like himself, it was the product which customers couldn't get elsewhere.

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's Occupation, note 4:

II/A/1

In the 1920's when women became more liberated and got out of their houses more, they could go downtown and have a wider selection of items to buy than peddler could offer, so he couldn't make any money. Previously they had welcomed the peddler. Department stores were enlarged as a result of women's liberation; women would be tempted and would buy more than needed. This made peddling unnecessary; shopping habits changed. Dept. stores advertised on radio.

II/A/3

When informant "moved" to Detroit in 1935, not enough money to open own business so he and 2 cousins, one a tailor, had shop; he went around, soliciting clothes for cleaning, but business was slow--people cleaned pants every 3-4 months because of expense. Cleaning and tailoring business couldn't support them all so he left his cousins and became a junior partner with a Syrian in bleach/blueing, window cleaner business. Also bottled olive oil in small bottles from 5 gallon cans. Sold small bottles wholesale to stores. Made bleach called sno-wash themselves. Mixed chemical and water; partner invented formula. Hired employees to fill bottles and label them. Informant sold product to Syrian grocers, but product was new and they didn't advertise. Company never made money. Sales were slow. Son-in-law had grocery store in Detroit and he carried their bills, always in arrears.

Informant Najem and Bahia Basheer

Sex M & F

Age 84 & 64

Interview Schedule Code V/8

Religious Sect Druze

Country of Origin Lebanon

Immigrant Age 17 & 24

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Richmond, Va.

Date Sept. 21, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IIA1

Story: while peddling near ^{Olwein} Delwein, Iowa in 1914 he couldn't find a place to sleep so he went to a barn and slept with a horse to keep warm.

Story: also near ^{Olwein} Delwein, he was walking long distances from farm to farm and when it got dark a Norwegian woman invited him to spend the night with her and her husband at their farm. He was sleeping in her two sons' room when the sons came home and the mother had to give them their room so he slept in the bed with the farmer and his wife. The farmer slept in the middle.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V/2
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
126-331

Peddlers would buy bologna, cheese, and bread from grocery stores enroute for lunch. The dinner meal would usually be included in the agreement for spending the night in someone's home.

Informant Tafeeda Beshara Sex F Age 65 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6
Interviewer Alix Naff City Pasadena, Calif. Date 1962
Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Men and women peddled - all walked - none had horse or buggy in those days in Hartford City and Ft. Wayne, Ind. They all peddled because 1. they immitated each other and 2. they didn't know English, 3. they wanted to be independent. Their dream was to have a store like Salem Beshara.

Peddlers earned maybe \$~~5~~ or \$6./day, while factory workers earned only \$1.25/day. Some peddlers earned as much as \$10. a day. Peddlers were doing a service to customers and ladies would wait for them to come.

Later they bought horse and buggy to go out further.

Informant Mrs. Watfa Mitchell Sex F Age 86 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 19
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 11, 1979

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

They (the emigrants) came to the U.S. and saw they could make money from peddling and they peddled and did everything and made money and people from Vicksburg now moved all over the U.S. to make better living too; they went to college and made better money.

I/A/3

When she peddled, she made \$15-20-25 a week. That's good money then and the Shikhanis charged her rent for one room (in Meridian) and she ate with them for \$5 a month.

1979
86
1893
19
1912 came

V/1

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
 Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
 Interviewer Alix Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's Occupation, note 1:

I/A/2 In Chicago, informant's oldest brother was in partnership with Syrian who imported from France boxloads of hand made and embroidered handkerchiefs.

I/A/2 Brother's father-in-law used to sell holy pictures of saints to people in bars in Chicago; made lots of money; returned to Damascus where met informant's family and rented from them. Was able to buy fares for his prospective son-in-law, wife, daughter and 3-4 sons. This brother's father-in-law paid about 10¢/picture, sold them for 75¢, would tell them they came from the holy land and were blessed.

I/B/1 Informant's brother peddled; sold silk laces and embroidered goods, house to house in Chicago; knew many suppliers in N.Y. He worked from one room in his house, supplied peddlers from it.

I/B/1 Zahle Syrians who dominated street his brother lived on all had stores in the area; one imported ingredients for Syrian food.

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code IV/4
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

3 Occupation continued:

Remained in curtain manufacturing until 1930. Partnership failed. Partner and brother cheated him; had \$3400 in bank. (???)

II/A/1

Returned to Cedar Rapids because lost everything in curtain manufacturing in Worcester, Mass. Also C.R. was home to him.

II/A/2

1930 went out peddling with brother--rugs--1st year or two. Then worked in grocery for Nick Baba for 1 or 2 years. Then WWII started. Then got into business for self in 1941 (?); bought store from George Albert who had to go to service.

From 1930 to 1941 peddled and worked for other people; mostly peddled, averaged \$30-50/week. Sometimes went as far as Rio Grande river, Texas.

Sometimes ran into other peddlers; didn't hurt each other. No special routes; used map; tried to develop repeat customers. Now was respectable; 3 months (???) ordered goods COD--Those who travelled alone were more successful than my brother-in-law and I.

continued on 4

13

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Informant's brother peddled--laces, embroidered goods. Came to Chicago, where his father-in-law lived. Later had own house in which he had a room where he stored goods and sold wholesale to peddlers; bought goods on trips to N.Y., got to know suppliers there. He supplied women peddlers.

I/B/1

Second brother peddled also; both brothers trained informant; he sold in Chicago; took street car; used to sell in bars (i.e. a store with a bar in front), to Italian workers who slept in back room of bars. Didn't sell to stores or houses. Each brother peddled alone; didn't earn much money but more than in Damascus, so was happy.

There were a number of Zahalni who peddled dry goods and linens in their suitcases rather than notions.

Informant's brother later went beyond Chicago to peddle in Lansing, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Sold dry goods in suitcases; travelled by train.

IV/3

V/1

V/3

V/3

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

~~or~~ his brother

I/B/1

Informant was supplier of laces and embroidered goods to women who peddled--
sold ~~on~~ ⁱⁿ streets and house to house. Street car allowed them to go out further
and further.

I/1

I/3

Informant Mr. Tom Assalley Sex M Age 64-67* Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 22-25*
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962
* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

In the past, after their day's work, they all got together at somebody's house or told stories, making fun of each other and laughing, but mostly card playing.

"We carried it (peddling case) until 1928-29. The last person to do so was Mrs. Salim Busa^cda; that was after Salimi Malooley died in 1946. She peddled till she died. And Mrs. Abraham quit about that time too".

Informant Charles Teebagy Sex M Age 80 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 20
Interviewer Alix Naff City Dorchester, Mass. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

His wife used to work in a factory and travel by streetcar.
She worked in Watertown making rubbers for the feet and some women worked
in Jamaica Plains, and some would peddle.

Most of the Arabs in Boston worked in the shoe factories, altho many peddled.

VI/1

VI/2

VI/11

VI/20/b

IV/1

from July 6, 1980 telephone conversation
Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V 11
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant repaired rugs for her husband (who peddled them) for years. "How do you think my fingers got so bent. It was hard work. I travelled with him on the road for years--from city to city. We didn't have any children so I went along to help. I met his customers and would call on them. It was a good life--we lived well, but it was boring. I wanted to be in my home".

v1/20/b

v/1

Informant Mrs. Selma Bonahoom Sex F Age Interview Schedule Code *VI/1*
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin United States Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side II
106-138

Informant's grandmother was a peddler.

160-280

She was a very clever woman, knew her way around.

The grandmother was married young and had her family before she immigrated.

She came alone. There were others already here who helped her.
The community was quite small at that time (a handful).

The people helped each other, even if they didn't know them, from the old country.

V/1

VI/20/6

II/12

III/1

VI/15

VI/1

V/1

Informant Mr. Mitchell J. Maloof Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Roman Catholic Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Illinois Date July 15, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Informant believes that his parents did not peddle in N.Y., only when they came to Peoria. His mother did all of the peddling; his father worked for an iron company. They had a horse and buggy. His father stayed home; "either he made some material or worked at the factory".

I/A/3

Both of his parents did sewing at night.

His mother peddled in the buggy "by herself" 2-3 days a week; she never spent the night away from home. She peddled until her parents opened a rug cleaning business about 1924-25. His mother did "very well" in the peddling "business".

Informant Zbayda Raya Maloof Sex F Age 82 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Charlie Raya Sex M Age 85 Interview Schedule Code 14
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 12, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

Many women came to U.S. without their husbands to peddle and sent money home. A woman elicits more sympathy than a man, and makes more money. This brought many women to U.S. probably leaving their children at home. Some would return to Lebanon with \$1000 or \$1500. Many left their husbands for good.

2/6
2/1

Informant Victoria Trahd Atalla Sex F Age 68 Interview Schedule Code II/1
Religious ~~Sect~~ Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Mark, Ill. Date June 3, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA1 - Informant's father didn't peddle but his partner Tom Zuraiq did, using a horse and buggy and selling fruit. Her father was too proud to peddle.
- IIA1 Informant's first husband's mother and her sister's husband peddled fine items to the rich, linens imported from Italy. Informant herself peddled after her separation from her husband.
- IA2 Her aunt by marriage also peddled in order to make a living after her husband died. Informant's first husband was also peddling. Women peddlers usually came back the same day. Her mother and aunt crocheted and tatted and sold their productions.

v/5

v/4

v/1

Informant Mr. Oscar Alwan Sex M Age 65 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Illinois Date July 16, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

After coming in 1920, informant's mother peddled clothing--she had 1 or 2 suitcases. She peddled in the immediate area, by train, ordering her merchandise on the train and picking it up at certain stations. She bought most of her merchandise from Buffalo, N.W. which was close to N. Tanawanda, about 10-15 miles apart. She peddled in Lockport, N.Y.

Informant's father peddled a little while and then opened up a shoe store. Then mother stayed at home and helped in the store.

I/A/3

In N. Tanawanda, mother made more money as a peddler than did informant's father as a peddler. She knew how to deal with people, was a good saleswoman.

Mother was a strong woman, smartest woman . . . His parents had foresight informant doesn't see in college graduates. She was never afraid; people loved her, waited for her to arrive; the country wasn't built up at the time. If she ran out of merchandise, she would order some from a certain place. She would peddle for 2 or 3 weeks at a time in the country.

V/1

V/6

Values - respect for mother

Informant Sam M. Haddy Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/3/6
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. Born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 19, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA1 Father peddled in C.R. There were about 50 Lebanese who peddled in C.R.
IA2 including his grandfather. His mother and grandmother peddled together with a horse and wagon. Women peddled near to home and came back in the evenings. Men stayed away for days. Older children usually took care of younger children when parents were gone.
- His uncle had a stable in C.R. where peddlers parked their wagons and horses at night. Uncle was Tom Beshara.
- IB2 His father went back to peddling in 1931 in C.R. while he owned a grocery store. (This was during the Depression)

V/3

Informant Miss Budelia Malooley Sex F Age 77* Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age ca. 1 year
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 4, 1980*
* 59 at the time of the August 1962 interview

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

VA
I/B/2

Families or the supplier would tell women (and men) where to go to peddle.

BM
I/A/3

Mother bought a piece of yard goods or stockings or a simple house dress ordered by customers from the Assalleys'. There were two Assalley stores. She sent the informant to purchase orders sometimes. Mother didn't know the difference between pearl and ivory buttons. She'd ask the informant to buy 5 yards of cotton print and 4 pairs of men's socks, for example, and 2 cards "billow buttons". "I'd say mother "what is that?" She'd say "How do I know--this what was ordered-- just ask for it at Louis or Nick Assalley's store--they'll know".

She'd want them before 10 a.m., the hours when she had to take the interurban streetcar. (The next day mother solved button problem; she went to the store and bought 2 cards of pearl buttons.)

Informant Amelia C. Unes Sex F Age 66 Interview Schedule Code V/3/6
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 16, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3 Father and his cousin started peddling in New Orleans in around 1881.
Father was caught peddling without a license and put in jail with colored people.
They peddled only in New Orleans.

IB1 In Greenbay, Wisc. there were about 6 Lebanese peddlers.

IB1 Her mother peddled in Mankato around the city in 1896. When the family came back
to St. Paul, her mother peddled with the same supplier, Mr. Tubi, in 1903.
When her father went back to Lebanon in the early 1900's with 5 children, her mother
stayed in the U.S. and went peddling with other women. These other women were from
St. Paul. They bought merchandise from Mr. Tubi and took the train west. Her
mother peddled so that she wouldn't feel lonely, and to accumulate some money.

They went to Billings, Montana by train, these women, between 1900 and 1906.
Then informant's mother and her brother and sister in law went to Wyoming and
through Montana and "sold out."

Informant Mr. Wadie Nicola Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code ✓/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 12, 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

When the informant wanted to move from Greenville (Mississippi?) to Vicksburg, he was lonely and was peddling and making good money. He had "a little bitty suitcase" and would come back with it empty at the end of the day and sold \$7-8-12 a day with about \$6 a day. ^{credit} That's more than factory workers made after a longer more back-breaking day; that was good money.

We sold to whites and blacks but mostly to blacks. Peddlers would start peddling in the North and head South with their packs worth from \$100-\$300-- ^{then} as much as a man could carry. You strap your heavy packs on you back and cover it with oil-cloth and the strap had a hook to which you hooked a small notions case--in it were scissors, razors, pins, buttons and it weighs about 30 lbs. in addition to the heavy one on your back. The notions case would hang on your chest and you could rest your hand on it but that makes it heavier. And you walked from one place to another. "I've heard that some walked as far as Baton Rouge, Louisiana from New York". They peddled as they walked. Some stopped in Meridian, Mississippi, others in Alabama or Florida or the Carolinas. But most came to Mississippi because here the farmers had good crops of cotton and lots of blacks--a good population (i.e. a farm economy that had a population which had some money to spend?) and it would buy.

v/1

Informant Nemer Kaleel Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Earlville, ILL. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

In Spring Valley his father and brother taught him a few words in English and how to peddle. They walked at first selling to coal miners in LaSalle, Peru, and Cherry, Ill. Always came home at night when they were walking, but after they got a buggy and horse and went to sell in the country they slept on the farms and would come home after a week or two.

They were never rejected. They were youths.

On his first trip his father dropped ^{him off} in a town and the first house he stopped at the people knew his father. He told them the wrong prices, because he didn't know better. He didn't like the work and went back to Spring Valley by train by himself.

For the first five months he walked carrying a small suitcase and a notions case, then bought a horse and wagon and really started peddling.

They used to come back from peddling and talk about Rachaya and whether they had made much money or not.

Conversation with:
Informant Nemer Kaleel Sex M Age 92 Interview Schedule Code I/34
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Earlville, Ill. Date July 6, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

There were stores in Spring Valley that used to supply peddlers. Took 10 to 25 dollars to fill a suitcase. He used to carry a suitcase 3 to 3½ feet long. Used to go house to house in S.V.

Used to buy from the Assaleys and the Mikels. There were 6 or 7 families from Rachaya, but they all left and went to Toledo to make more money.

His father was in S.V. and together with informant's brother he was in the fruit business, wholesale, before they moved to Youngstown during the Depression.

Informant Zbayda Raya Maloof
Charlie Raya Sex M Age 85 Interview Schedule Code V/3
 Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17 & 14
 Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 12, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

1898
 17
 1905

Their maternal uncle used to peddle linens in Chicago. Their mother in Zahle would send her brother every two weeks a box of crocheted and tatted linens. Many girls worked for her making them, they'd be paid 15 or 20 cents, making doilies and table cloths, imitating Italian cloths which sold for \$500. to \$1000. Many families did this for their relatives in the U.S. It was a real trade. Mr. Balish had most of Zahle working and supplying his huge store, sending money to pay the workers, like their uncle did. Their father used to go to Beirut and Damascus to buy spools of thread.

Uncle Rasheed and Mr. Mutran from Zahle had supplier stores in Chicago. Peddlers sold watches and rosaries saying they were from Jerusalem when they bought the things in Chicago. The watch cost about 25¢ and was sold for 4 to 5 dollars.

Peddlers traveled as far as Indiana and would write to his uncle in Chicago who would supply them by train. Mr. Balish another supplier had 20 to 30 older women peddling from his store.

Informant Tafeeda Beshara Sex F Age 65 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6
Interviewer Alix Naff City Pasadena, Calif. Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Her father immigrated to Ft. Wayne in 1912 when informant was 14. She was going to school in Ft. Wayne then. He had remarried and she moved in with them. Before this informant had been placed by her aunt Mary in the home of a Rachaya man and his American wife. This woman had learned Arabic language and cooking and ways and was accepted by the community. The woman sewed items which Aunt Mary sold, panties and shimees etc. Mary sold them to the girls at her house of prostitution, called a sporting house. Mary was an old hand - she came in 1895 or earlier.

When the house of these foster parents burned they disappeared and she was placed in another home by her aunt, American home. They took all the furniture her aunt bought them and disappeared while Tafeeda was in school. In another home she had to take care of a cancerous woman until she died. Then she was place with Khaleel Beshara, Salem's brother to be raised by his wife with their children. This Khaleel bought Salem's store in 1905 or 6 and replaced him as a supplier. At this time peddlers were buying directly from N.Y. and no longer needed a supplier. They were beginning to peddle by car.

v1/11

v1/12

v1/3

v1/1

Informant Aliya Ogdie Hassan Sex F Age 70 Interview Schedule Code ✓/4
Religious Sect Sunni Muslim Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Grant Farr City Dearborn, Mich. Date June 2, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB3

-
- There were informal networks, but each man would have his own route.

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code II/4
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Grant Farr City Washington, D.C. Date April 24, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/280

He peddled in Tennessee in the Blue Ridge mountains.
Theings were very difficult.
He peddled 1½ years.
Each time he would go out for about a month.
There were ten other peddlers in Fredericksburg.

I/B/424

Territory: they each had an agreed upon territory.
How did they find their way? He had a map.

II/2

II/4

Informant Faris Naff Sex M Age 76 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 19
Interviewer Excerpts from 1952 memoirs City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1952

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Peddled out of Ft. Wayne crossing Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and reached Manchester, N. Hampshire where fellow villagers from Rachaya were. Seven men and a girl rented a house there and peddled in the area.

In 1900 he returned to Ft. Wayne after living in Montreal for a while and then peddled to Spring Valley, and Urbana, Ill. where he and a group of Rachaya friends peddled until 1904.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney

Sex F Age 64

Interview Schedule Code V/3/2.

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Syria

Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Detroit, Michigan

Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
126-331

general practice for suppliers

Mr. Beshara/ would give each peddler a different route, thus preventing competition/conflicts enroute. He would alternate routes/peddlers from week to week.

Informant Miss Budelia Malooley Sex F Age 77* Interview Schedule Code ✓/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age ca. 1 year
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date July 4, 1980*
* 59 at the time of the August 1962 interview

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

BM
I/A/3

Peddlers used to plot their routes together so they would not cross paths in the same town. One would say, well today, I'm going to Oglesby and the other would say, well I'll go to Peru. But they did run into each other's territory and they'd get angry at each other for that--oh yes they did indeed.

Informant Mr. Tom Assalley Sex M Age 64-67* Interview Schedule Code ✓/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 22-25*
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962
* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

"So we carried the suitcases and went peddling to Ladd, to Spring Valley and town to town, struggling and suffering".

(He tells a peddling incident in which there was a car accident involving bartered eggs which broke on passenger's head. They thought his brains were coming through his head. They all laughed. Fortunately the only injury was one broken rib. Some of the peddlers had not peddled that day had been drinking all day.)

I/A/3

They were not organized when they went out together. Each would decide where he or she was going for that day. They'd tell each other. One would get off at the beginning of Peru--10 or 12 blocks later another would get off--and so on; one would go to LaSalle.

I/A/3

I/B/1

They all walked, except for Nimer Kaleel who had a truck and sold in the country and his brother who had a horse and buggy.

V/1

Informant Mr. Slayman Nimee Sex M Age 70* Interview Schedule Code _____
 Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
 Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962
 * deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

"nunwan" = saloon

* → "When we would peddle, we were like gypsies. Women would wear the black scarves on their heads. Up to 15 of them would leave together daily to peddle. You'd see them at the streetcar (interurban) station". (He then mentions the names of some of the peddlers who would leave together, including 5 women and 4 men.)

"A saloon owner used to make fun of them, all packed and dressed funny and going out in groups like gypsies. So I told him one day--These people are going out to make an honest living--not like you--you have a saloon and "Boston (?) House" (meaning house of prostitution) and I cursed him out. The conductor came betw-en us and he said to me--That's all right, I understand". They were gypsies.

1962
70
1892-1962
1901-1962

5 $\sqrt{1}$

viii / 2 / a

Informant Mrs. Watfa Mitchell Sex F Age 86 Interview Schedule Code V/3
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 19
Interviewer * Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 11, 1979

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

Mr. Mibhan had a wholesale dry goods store; all the peddlers used to buy from him on credit and sell and come back and buy. The informant did this when she got to Meridian in 1912 for one year. She got married in 1913.

She sold yard goods, towels, slips, stocking, underwear (mostly women's clothing) and was making a nice living. She couldn't speak English and didn't know which way to come or go; she was told to look for the top of the courthouse so she knew where she was.

People were very kind; no one (customers) looked down on her; they were so nice to her; they said she was smart for peddling without speaking English.

I/A/2

They (Syrians) told her if she bought a dress for \$10, to sell it for \$20 and take \$10 from the customer first before giving the dress and then if she wants credit, give it to her; always get your cost first.

*asked
technique*

Informant Faris Naff Sex M Age 76 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 19
Interviewer Excerpts from 1952 memoirs City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1952

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

He trained 6 Syrians to peddle and collected 6 % commission of the merchandise they bought from Salem Beshara. They were on the road for 6 months before returning to Ft. Wayne for one week, then they went out again. Informant had with him the wife of Yusuf al Teen and her brother and others; his cousin took with him some peddlers and they roamed the area until they reached Bloomington, Ill.

$$\sqrt{3}$$

$$\sqrt{2}$$

$$\sqrt{1}$$

WHY CUSTOMERS WELCOMED

V/3

Informant Mrs. Negebe Sheronick Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

Supplier (or other peddlers) would write English phrases in Arabic in a notebook to teach English necessary for peddling (informant gives examples). Supplier was organized and prepared for peddlers; had a place for them to sleep and cook, new peddlers had instruction and someone to train him on the road--asking for things, directions. Supplier sometimes provided the kishie (small notions case) filled with items he thought the peddler would need and send him out with instructions of what to do incase of problems or trouble. Word traveled to the homeland and new peddlers would come to the same place. Cedar Rapids became full of peddlers.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I X World War I 1920's 1930's

Side I Informant's father once took his female first cousin (he was her paternal first cousin which was the same as her brother) out to peddle with him. A suitcase was prepared for her.

They planned a route (so many towns they were going to sell in) and took a train to the farthest town and then walked back to Ft. Wayne. They would spend a day in each town. By the end of the week they would be back in Ft. Wayne.

Because his cousin's feet were sore with blisters, he wanted to send her back to Ft. Wayne on a train, but since there no trains in the town, he carried her on his back for 5 miles to the next station where the train stopped. He then returned to the first town to retrieve the suitcases.

Informant William Abbott Sex M. Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/3/a
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 9, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

Suppliers never taught peddlers the trade. They just went on their own. "My father just knew what a thing cost.. and what he should sell them for." Suppliers didn't advise on routes. A peddler just went and crossed the river and kept going. He'd go to a farmhouse and they'd tell him where the next one was. He'd make the circle and come home. He'd have certain places where he could stay over night and he'd have a schedule of where he could stay. Never had trouble finding a place to stay.. Customers often became close friends. There were 15 to 20 peddlers which was a lot for a small community, but there was no competition. Each had his own route, and they never did run into each other. Each had his own customers. Alex Malooley had a wagon and went out too. He later took over his brother Nick's fruit store when Nick died. He put groceries in and expanded.

One could make good money peddling.

Informant Mr. Matt Iube Sex M Age 78 Interview Schedule Code V / 1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Six or seven peddlers, including informant, would start out peddling, plan their routes for the week, leave on Monday mornings, go in different directions and plan to meet on Saturday afternoon at the train depot at a given town, the last town on our list. "We'd all walk; none of us got lost". Sometimes he'd hitch a ride in a horse and buggy for a short distance.

Informant Joe David Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 21
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

There were many Syrian peddlers in St. Paul, Minn. They peddled in the country. Informant sold to professional people in the twin cities. Customers would refer him to their friends and relatives. He got back to Ft. Wayne every 6 or 7 months. They sold in the north country in the summers, and in Arizona, Texas N. Mexico, Kansa, Missouri and Oklahoma in the winters. He reached as far as British Columbia, and Edmonton, Alberta and 500 miles beyond. In the summer they'd come back to Minneapolis, North and South Dakota and Colorado. He traveled by himself. After 1919 he peddled by auto in his Buick, his first car. He would fill the car with merchandise. He made good money.

IA3

No matter where he went he found Syrians. They got there by peddling. When they found a place they thought lucrative, they'd open a business and stay. Minnesota is full of Arabs and so is North Dakota.

Informant Joe David Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 21
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

*1962
72
1890 born
21
1911 arrived*

In Ft. Wayne he began to peddle imported rugs and linens and to travel from town to town, first by horse and buggy, then by auto. His brother in law had a store where he sold linens and rugs and supplied the informant. These items were very expensive, imported from Italy, China and Puerto Rico. They were ordered from N.Y. and sold to the well to do, unlike the items sold by the kishie carrying peddlers, which were sold to farmers.

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962
1980 telephone conversation

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Re peddlers who graduated from kishie to "madera" and rugs:

Many peddlers started selling linens and/or rugs several years before WWI; were supplied by importers in New York, specializing in importing goods to supply peddlers, sending salesmen from New York to Syrian communities.

They would go by car or horse and buggy, peddling to the rich in summer resorts and rich neighborhoods, building up a clientele, one customer telling her friends. The peddlers would ask and the customer would call her relatives and friends and send him over, acting as his reference and he would be trusted. Then he might call back on his customers once a week or so. Those who sold rugs would sometimes clean and repair them themselves or have it done. Informant repaired rugs for her husband for years. "How do you think my fingers got so bent?"

The importers had agents they would buy from in Italy, China, France, etc. They got laces from France, Madera from there and Brussels; madera is embroidery work. They got the cutwork from Bologna (Berona?) Italy. "Listen, the Syrians had people make goods for them in China". "No they didn't have factories--they would pay people to make laces and embroidery in their houses--cottage industry and were paid by the Syrians".

Of course, selling linens and laces and rugs took a lot more capital, but the wholesalers sold on consignment. That helped. Her husband bought from several of them, but the one he bought most from was Jabara in New York.

The Syrians began changing from dry goods to linenas and laces and rugs before WWI an there were several, but most went into it after the war--in the 1920's and some during the war. Her husband started in 1916.

v/5

v/3

v/1

Informant Joe David Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code I/3
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 21
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date 1962
Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

1962
72
1890
21
1911

In Ft. Wayne he began to peddle imported rugs and linens and to travel from town to town, first by horse and buggy, then by auto. His brother in law had a store where he sold linens and rugs and supplied the informant. These items were very expensive, imported from Italy, China and Puerto Rico. They were ordered from N.Y. and sold to the well to do, unlike the items sold by the kishie carrying peddlers, which were sold to farmers.

v/1

v/5

v/3

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V 13
 Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
 Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Re peddlers who graduated from kishie to "madera" and rugs:

Many peddlers started selling linens and/or rugs several years before WWI; were supplied by importers in New York, specializing in importing goods to supply peddlers, sending salesmen from New York to Syrian communities.

They would go by car or horse and buggy, peddling to the rich in summer resorts and rich neighborhoods, building up a clientele, one customer telling her friends. The peddlers would ask and the customer would call her relatives and friends and send him over, acting as his reference and he would be trusted. Then he might call back on his customers once a week or so. Those who sold rugs would sometimes clean and repair them themselves or have it done. Informant repaired rugs for her husband for years. "How do you think my

The importers had agents they would buy from in Italy, Chian, France, etc. They got laces from France, Madera from there and Brussels; madera is embroidery work. They got the cutwork from Bologna (Berona?) Italy. "Listen, the Syrians had people make goods for them in China". "No they didn't have factories--they would pay people to make laces and embroidery in their houses--cottage industry and were paid by the Syrians".

Of course, selling linens and laces and rugs took a lot more capital, but the wholesalers sold on consignment. That helped. Her husband bought from several of them, but the one he bought most from was Jabara in New York.

The Syrians began changing from dry goods to linenas and laces and rugs before WWI an there were several, but most went into it after the war--in the 1920's and some during the war. Her husband started in 1916.

Informant Mrs. Mary Abraham* Sex F Age 63 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 23
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

* and Mrs. Anisie Zakem, Mrs. Rasmiya Barakat, Mrs. Khazna Khouri, and Mrs. Minnie Barakat.

The immigrants did not know English when they arrived in America, except to count-- 1,2,3,4.

But those who were already here had learned English, and those who had been here one or two months would teach the newcomers the few words they had already learned-- what to say to sell, to indicate he was hungry (cookies and milk) and when he needed a place to stay for the night.

And there was a man who had studied English/^{well} in the old country before immigrating.

There was a book/pamphlet which related the experiences (peddling) of the Syrian immigrants. Whichever informant had the book, it had been lost.

Side I
000-072

Informant William Abbott Sex M Age 79 Interview Schedule Code V/3/a
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill Date July 9, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA1 Parents kept peddling accounts in their heads, since they couldn't write or read. They always knew who owed how much. They sold on credit. Customers welcomed
- IA2 peddlers, and knew when for example his mother was coming. They had a regular route. His mother was well liked by her customers. Customers were farmers who lived in isolated areas. If they needed a pair of overalls they'd rather buy it from a peddler than go into town.
- Father stopped peddling in 1940. Mother quit about 1935 or a little later, before he went into the army.
- Peddlers didn't buy from Assaley's at that time, he came later. Tom Assaley bought from them too. They would go to Chicago and buy for both of their stores. Tom's wife and daughter still have a store in LaSalle
- Peddlers came to S.V. to settle because other Syrians were there.

Informant Thelma Wehby Sex F Age 82 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 19, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB2

Peddlers went for 4 weeks sometimes, from Cedar Rapids to N. Dakota, S. Dakota, North Carolina and Kansas - especially to N. and S. Dakota where women in farms didn't go to towns shopping.

Informant Mr. Eli Busada Sex M Age 87½ Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 13
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Washington, D.C. Date April 22, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A

Peddlers carried large and small cases. Kishie is small box. Eli made some and sold to peddlers.

Sold notions or anything woman could use in the house.

(Americans, especially in the country, welcomed peddlers in those days; lack of means of transport, customers gave orders and peddlers would deliver.

Peddlers went out 2-3 days or more; women only during days.

V/2

V/5

V/6

Value - resourcefulness

V/8

Informant Amelia C. Unes Sex F Age 66 Interview Schedule Code V/4
Religious Sect Maronite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 16, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3 Father and his cousin started peddling in New Orleans in around 1881.
Father was caught peddling without a license and put in jail with colored people.
They peddled only in New Orleans.

IB1 In Greenbay, Wisc. there were about 6 Lebanese peddlers.

IB1 Her mother peddled in Mankato around the city in 1896. When the family came back to St. Paul, her mother peddled with the same supplier, Mr. Tubi, in 1903.
When her father went back to Lebanon in the early 1900's with 5 children, her mother stayed in the U.S. and went peddling with other women. These other women were from St. Paul. They bought merchandise from Mr. Tubi and took the train west. Her mother peddled so that she wouldn't feel lonely, and to accumulate some money.

They went to Billings, Montana by train, these women, between 1900 and 1906.
Then informant's mother and her brother and sister in law went to Wyoming and through Montana and "sold out."

$$\sqrt{1}$$

$$\sqrt{1/2}$$

$$\sqrt{1/6}$$

$$\sqrt{1/3/6}$$

$$\sqrt{1/4}$$

Informant Joe David Sex M Age 72 Interview Schedule Code IV/4
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 21
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

There were many Syrian peddlers in St. Paul, Minn. They peddled in the country. Informant sold to professional people in the twin cities. Customers would refer him to their friends and relatives. He got back to Ft. Wayne every 6 or 7 months. They sold in the north country in the summers, and in Arizona, Texas N. Mexico, Kansa, Missouri and Oklahoma in the winters. He reached as far as British Columbia, and Edmonton, Alberta and 500 miles beyond. In the summer they'd come back to Minneapolis, North and South Dakota and Colorado. He traveled by himself. After 1919 he peddled by auto in his Buick, his first car. He would fill the car with merchandise. He made good money.

IA3

No matter where he went he found Syrians. They got there by peddling. When they found a place they thought lucrative, they'd open a business and stay. Minnesota is full of Arabs and so is North Dakota.

Informant Faris Naff Sex M Age 76 Interview Schedule Code V/4
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 19
Interviewer Excerpts from 1952 memoirs City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1952

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Peddled out of Ft. Wayne crossing Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and reached Manchester, N. Hampshire where fellow villagers from Rachaya were. Seven men and a girl rented a house there and peddled in the area.

In 1900 he returned to Ft. Wayne after living in Montreal for a while and then peddled to Spring Valley, and Urbana, Ill. where she and a group of Rachaya friends peddled until 1904.

v/1

v/4

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V / 1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I

126-331 Informant's father used to go out to peddle for periods of 6 months. He told informant that, once, he walked from Montreal to Ft. Wayne and then out west to Texas.

all before 1900

Informant Mr. Matt Iube Sex M Age 78 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

After peddling, he worked in a factory in Kewanee, Illinois and a couple of years later he went to Kansas and peddled for about 1 year. From there he went into Indian territory to Muskogee, Oklahoma--before Oklahoma became a state--still peddling. He liked the Indians.

v/1
vi/11

Informant Lillian Haddy Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V/3
Sam George Haddy Sex M Age 74 Country of Origin she: U.S.born Immigrant Age N/A
Religious Sect Orthodox he: Lebanon
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 29, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

His father peddled from 1904 to 1917, returned to peddling in 1920 when he moved to C.R. and bought goods from Lillian's father's store. Her father peddled for 9 years then opened store in C.R. from money saved. Charlie Kacere, her Uncle, was his partner later and also her grandfather. Had 20 to 25 peddlers.

Informant Mr. Matt Iube Sex M Age 78 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Informant never had any need for help from police or courts except once a lady he tried to peddle to had her son take him to a grocery store and bought him something to eat, lunch meat and then took him to the police station and told them to "keep that poor boy all night because he can't find a place to sleep". So he slept on some paper there. The next day the first door he knocked on was the policeman's who took him in and gave him breakfast and told him to go in the direction where he could peddle without a license.

A couple of places stopped him because he didn't have a license; in Pekin, Illinois he was fined \$14.18 and put in jail for a night. He didn't buy licenses--who could buy a license in every town--\$6-7 a day? Police told him many times he needed a license but he would peddle on the outskirts of town, out of the town. The license was more than we earned some days. Businessmen kept it high. They always peddled in the country. The peddlers who sold fancy stuff in horse and buggy and had money bought licenses. You had to have a different license for every town. When he was fined in Pekin, the police were nice to him; one of the councilmen's wives had called them, but her husband came and defended him. "I was never afraid of the police here. In the old country, the police are quick to hit you".

v1/a

v/1

Informant Elizabeth Beshara

Sex F Age 79

Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Roman Catholic

Country of Origin Lebanon (Syria) Immigrant Age 10

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Ft. Wayne, Ind. Date July 1, 1962.

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA2

Her father took her peddling with him. When farmers saw a little girl they would offer them a place to spend the night.

IA3

Her father had hard times, but she didn't because she was a child and was well cared for. Sometimes they'd walk only 3 or 4 miles a day, sometimes more. They'd stay away all week.

C

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code V/3
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Grant Farr City Washington, D.C. Date April 24, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

II/A/90

How he got mail order items from New York.

He tells about this older man that organized the peddlers. He didn't recruit people from the old country, but he organized peddlers who were already here. Age differences.

V/3

V/5

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code V/3
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

pins, needles, stockings, garters, socks.

I/B/1

He would stay 3-5 months on the road; would write to his uncle, a supplier who would send him merchandise; there were no other suppliers on his routes he could buy from.

V/2

V/3

V/5

V/3

Informant Mr. Abe Kacere Sex M Age 69 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Grant Farr City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 23, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Lebanese suppliers gave new immigrants in Cedar Rapids merchandise to start peddling. Peddlers "wired" store owner when they needed supplies. Informant's father and uncle supplied peddlers.

I/A/2

When new immigrants from ^Cain ^Carab or nearby towns arrived in N.Y. from the homeland, they would let some people, especially supplier, know about their arrival. The informant's father, a supplier, took train to N.Y., sometimes met one or two dozen people, brought them to Cedar Rapids to start peddling; sold to them on credit.

Father sometimes received letters from Lebanon concerning arrival of new immigrants.

Father used to go to Mexico to meet people immigrating from ^Cain ^Carab or other towns and brought them to the U.S. The new immigrants wrote father from Mexico after their arrival. Father "got hundreds of them over a period of several years".

Peddlers kept money with supplier (informant's father) in Cedar Rapids.

Informant Rose Canty Sex F Age 74 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 1
Interviewer Alix Naff City Peoria, Ill. Date July 13, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3

IIB1

Her father peddled in Peoria for quite a few years. Many Lebanese peddlers in Peoria lived close to each other in a "Syrian colony." When people needed merchandise they called her father who shopped for them. He bought the merchandise from a department store in Peoria when he was peddling, for a "good price" because they knew he had customers waiting to buy from him.

In the late 1920's he opened a store in Peoria.

"Father didn't cover high class territory, just ordinary people," while peddling in Peoria.

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age ~~18~~ 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3 Merchandise: pins, needles, stockings, garters, socks.

IB1 He would stay 3 to 5 months on the road, would write to his uncle, a supplier, to send him merchandise. There were no other suppliers on his routes to supply him.

Informant Mike & Ghandura Haddy

Sex M & F Age 81 & 78 Interview Schedule Code V/3

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon

Immigrant Age 14 & 2

Interviewer Alixa Naff

City Los Angeles, Calif.

Date Spring 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

There were two men sent from Ft. Wayne to Bloomington name Jiryous Thiyab and Habib Shaff, who opened stores for Arabs and they took men with them and they would pay 5%. Peddlers bought from them and they would find hotels and teach them the routes, and guide them in other ways. The owners of the stores would give these men 5% of whatever (the newcomers) bought from the storeowners.

The informant's first cousin took him and his older brother out peddling and the world changed and troubles started.

Once he went out for a week with a man named Dhahr al S~~K~~aff. Informant was 14 years old and carrying a kishie (notions box) His older brother was carrying a suitcase. S~~K~~aff sent him to pick apples from a tree in a farmyard. Informant was chased by a mean goose and ran back frightened and crying. The man sent him back again and told him don't be afraid. This time when he went he saw a peacock which opened its feathers and frightened him even more. After their trainers left them, they peddled alone.

"Oh how we suffered and endured."

Informant Faris Naff Sex M Age 76 Interview Schedule Code V/3
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 19
Interviewer Excerpts from 1952 memoirs City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1952

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

He trained 6 Syrians to peddle and collected 6 % commission of the merchandise they bought from Salem Beshara. They were on the road for 6 months before returning to Ft. Wayne for one week, then they went out again. Informant had with him the wife of Yusuf al Teen and her brother and others; his cousin took with him some peddlers and they roamed the area until they reached Bloomington, Ill.

Informant Mr. Matt Iube Sex M Age 78 Interview Schedule Code ✓/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/1

His worst difficulty peddling was finding a place to sleep. Many nights he had to sleep outdoors or in schoolhouses. Snow in those days was heavy and you'd walk 15-20 miles a day in rubber boots.

"I didn't like peddling but I didn't have anything else to do, couldn't find another job". "I learned English by just picking it up from the people. Other peddlers told me what to say for peddling. I had no difficulty with food; ate in hotels and restaurant".

Informant Mrs. Mayme Farris Sex F Age 75* Interview Schedule Code V/3
Religious Sect Episcopalian Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 10, 1979
* in 1979

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Most of the peddlers, including the one who sold hair cream, sold to a lot of blacks in the rural district and to the white farms; no one looked down on peddlers, not even when they sold to blacks.

I/A/3

When the men (peddlers) finally made their way, they got a horse and buggy.

(From 2nd interview, March 21, 1980)

II/A/1

Peddlers would buy earrings, pins, perfume, buttons for 10-15¢ and people in the country would pay \$1.00, for then a great deal of profit. Lace was bought for 5¢ a ~~year~~ and sold for 15¢ a yard, gingham, voile. They would take out 50 yards at a time. Her father was a supplier and he'd buy from salesmen that would come buy. He also men's underwear and work pants.

Some peddlers went into business, opened stores. "E. Abraham had quite a large store and 4-5 peddlers at a time congregated at the back of the store and got what they needed, buying on Saturday to be ready to go out on Monday". She thinks the suppliers sold them at discounts or lower prices than he sold to the general public. "I remember this 1919 and 1920". Customers in the country were very happy to pay peddlers good prices because they couldn't get into town. So they made money and were thrifty, didn't buy better things. Veterans helped newcomers.

$$v/5$$

$$v/1$$

$$v/3$$

V/13

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alixa Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

Chicago

Palestinians, Christians and Muslims, who were in neighborhood about 8-10 blocks from informant's, peddled cloth pictures which they slung over their shoulders. Some sold linens purchased from his brother.

W/2

V/1

V/3

daughter

Informant Mrs. Edna Sears Assalley Sex F Age 72 Interview Schedule Code V / 1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 6
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 4, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

(Tom Assalley)

IB1

Informant spoke of a Spring Valley man who started as a peddler and later had a lucrative dry goods store. He went to sell to miners and factory workers and then bought a car and went further away to sell. He was shrewd and aggressive. As a kid he used to fight everyone on the block (Minnesota St.) he abused both Syrian and American neighbors. He came to this country poor and said he had to make his way. Others who made money weren't this aggressive, but he did it his way. When he died he left his money and business to his wife and daughter, disinheriting his sons. This created a rift in the family. His oldest son is a pharmacist, the other is an M.D. with offices side by side in their father's building.

IB2

The daughter of this man went to work in her father's store at an early age, and learned his ways, "push, push, push." She catered to her customers, ordered what they wanted, delivered it, and charged double. She is now in her late forties and is happiest when she is managing and selling in her store. She is unmarried and lives with her mother, who she doesn't like but is very close to. They are never separated either at home or at the store. Informant claims she is a psychologically disturbed person.

Informant Nemer Kaleel

Sex M

Age 75

Interview Schedule Code V/1

Religious Sect Orthodox

Country of Origin Lebanon

Immigrant Age 18

Interviewer Alix Naff

City Earlville, Ill.

Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

In 1939 they moved to Earlville, and he and his wife opened a small store. He had continued to peddle until this time. They did well in the store and enlarged it and the children grew up and helped them. When they first opened the store it was difficult and he continued to peddle to make more money and save to enlarge the store. They used to barter. He would exchange a dress for chicken and eggs with farmers' wives, and then sell the chicken to the Italians.

vi/11

✓/1

Informant Selma Dimyanus Ni'mi Sex F Age 75 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

When peddling Selma kept track of her customers by marking them down by characteristics, example one lady's table was always full of flies. She used to cringe when she went to her house.

Informant Maggie Malooly Sex F Age 70 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 20
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, ILL. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1

*1962
20 born
1892
20 arrived*

There was so much filth in some of the homes she peddled to. One Polish home made her so sick she just left and didn't go back.

Informant Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code V/3/a
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 18
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA3 Supplier would sell to them on credit. Would provide them with sleeping place.
- iB3 Other Arabs didn't look down on peddlers, but it was better to have a store. Mrs. A thought they didn't begin to open stores until after WWI. Americans looked down on peddlers, used to refer to them disparagingly.
- Arabs emulated each other: if one opened a store and succeeded, others copied. They first started opening grocery stores, then taverns and now its restaurants. There is more self respect in working for yourself than in being employed. Altho many worked in packing houses and Quaker Oats. Just like Jews - he never works for others, not even for other Jews. He sees how much his fellow Jew is making and says "Why should I work and make money for him."
- IB3 Didn't like peddling from house to house, felt like a beggar. Not dignified, not respectable.
- IIA2 Arab grocers in town didn't necessarily compete, but maybe a little. All made money and raised families.

Informant Mrs. Nellie Khouri Jacobs Sex F Age 71 Interview Schedule Code V/3
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 7, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA3	Father was too shy to peddle - wouldn't peddle; took his pack and lay around R.R. tracks and came back without selling anything - claims he was afraid. (Pre- WW1)
IA3	"They all peddled at one time there," (meaning Streator, Ill.) (pre-WW1).
IA3	Thinks her father-in-law peddled when he first came to U.S. and later she said he continued to peddle "to the end" . Would walk to Dalzelle - would get supplies from Abraham's.
IB2	
IB2	She remembers many peddlers in S.V. including women. Some horse and wagon and stayed on road several days.

Informant Mr. H. K. Igram Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code V/3
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 18, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

Peddled several months in 1920's; quit; didn't like it because have to knock on doors and sometimes people put you in barn to sleep--out in country--many peddling in 1921 or 1923.

Hsein Shronick was supplier in those days. Went from farm to farm walking. Had satchel on back and one in hand; walked sometimes 20 miles a day; got to Iowa City. Some with horses went further.

Didn't make much money; stopped cause job no good. Embarrassed him plenty. Couldn't talk English very well. Some nice people let you in; some thought they were begging; said "why don't you go home to work?" It was fun but no money.

1896
17
1903

V/1

Informant Mr. Louis Faris Lutfy Sex M Age 88 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City East Detroit, Michigan Date May 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Informant's Occupation, note 2:

I/B/1

Informant worked ½ block from his residence on State and Polk sts. in Chicago in a place which made telephone books. Before that he peddled for a couple of yrs; didn't like it, so went to telephone book factory. Mde \$4/week clear, better money; worked from 7:30 to 5:30. Sometimes in peddling you can go all day and no one opened a door to you.

Informant left that to work in a place called Grand Novelty which made picture frames from brass, and metal lamp shades with colored pictures of houses, trees, flowers in different sections which informant made. Informant inhaled acid, lost much weight, became "thin as a pencil". Worked there 2-3 yrs.

Went back to peddling linens with his brother; then alone. Now went to rich neighborhoods, made customers who referred him to friends. Had regular clientele; sold on credit; even with rich, there was a limit to how much linen they could buy--sold table cloths, bedspreads, linen scarfs, luncheon sets, doilies. Made good profit. Now could save money.

All brothers peddled. Older brother didn't peddle, continued to handle wholesaling of linen from home. made \$2-3/dav.

V/1
VI/11

V/1

Informant Mr. Slayman Nimee Sex M Age 70* Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer * Alixa Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962
* deduced from information given

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/1

"I spoke not a word of English. We'd go from house to house peddling and say "Buy somethin ya Laydie". If someone said an English word, I wrote in in Arabic. In about a week I began to catch on a little bit.

v1/7

v/1

Informant Mike & Ghandura Haddy Sex M & F Age 81 & 78 Interview Schedule Code I/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 14 & 26
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Los Angeles, Calif. Date Spring 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

Mike Haddy
After about 6 weeks of peddling the informant learned English. Any new word that he encountered he'd write it down so he would know it.

Informant Mrs. Mary Schervish Sex F Age 88 Interview Schedule Code V/8
Religious Sect Maronite* Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Grosspointe Park, Michigan Date May 14, 1980
* Maronite mother, Orthodox father; attends Roman Catholic church

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

Can't remember any stories. Would sleep in empty places, depots or in farm homes. Many Americans feared peddlers; many peddlers were robbed. Some were killed by Americans--robbery--not shot because they were foreigners but because someone was robbing peddler. Peddlers feared colored people in the South.

Informant Alice Abraham Sex F Age 68 Interview Schedule Code V/8
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Alix Naff City Los Angeles, Calif. Date 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IB1

Her brother tried peddling when he first came in 1908- 1909. One night he almost froze because no one would give him a place to sleep. Finally he asked someone to let him sleep in the barn, the farmer let him in the house to sleep but walked around with a gun all night. He didn't sleep all night and the next day he returned to Cedar Rapids and said he'd never peddle again after having peddled only two weeks.

V / 1

V / 8

Informant Mrs. Nazha Haney Sex F Age 64 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 10
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Detroit, Michigan Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side I
126-331

Peddlers would ask Lady "Sleep" to find a room for the night and then show and give her some merchandise.
Sometimes they would sleep in haylofts, in barns and schoolhouses.

Informant George F. Addes Sex M Age 70 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff & Grant Farr City St. Claire Shores, Michigan Date June 14, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

IA1 Father peddled in countryside, in Wisconsin, carrying two heavy suitcases "loaded with merchandise."

IA1 Story: During wintertime Father was peddling in a predominantly French area in Wisconsin. One day as it was getting dark, he was selling some things to French people in their farm house. To communicate he had to speak French. It was cold and he wished they would ask him to spend the night in their house, but they didn't. So he asked them if they had a place to sleep, but they didn't. Since it was getting dark and the next farmhouse was a few miles away, he went to a straw stack and slept with pigs to keep him warm during the night.

Informant Mrs. Amelia Malooley Sex F Age 49 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect Melkite Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Illinois Date August 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

AM
I/A/1

Father peddled, later opened a store.

Illinois
Father's brother, Khalil, took ~~his~~ *peddling* wife. They used to pair off--2 or 3 go together--and informant's uncle had a horse and buggy and they went across the river to sell at farm houses and at night no one would let them in to sleep, so they made a mat of straw and slept on it in the buggy and almost froze to death.

Informant Mr. Johnny Nosser Sex M Age 81 Interview Schedule Code IV/1
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 22
Interviewer Elaine Hughes City Vicksburg, Mississippi Date August 12, 19

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ . 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/2

Informant's father was robbed and killed in woods in Shreveport (Louisiana) about one year after he got here, so they (in Lebanon) didn't get any money from him. His father lived in Shreveport because a bunch of Lebanese lived there, all peddlers just like in Vicksburg. Someone told him to come to Shreveport to peddle; it was good; he was here with his brother Tom. Uncle Tom wrote and told them what happened. His mother never remarried. His father's name was Mike.

Conversation with;
Informant George Farral Sex M Age 59 Interview Schedule Code V/1
Religious Sect _____ Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City Erie, Illinois Date July 6, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Clinton, Iowa was a town of peddlers for Syrians. Maybe 15 or 20 women peddled too. His father peddled out of Clinton. The Mississippi River would freeze during the winter, he remembers being told, and men and women would walk across to Illinois to peddle to save the five cent ferry fare. They came from Ain Ata.

During peddling days, his father (who George believes came before the turn of the century probably around 1885) graduated from walking to a horse and buggy and covered several states west of Iowa and into the Dakotas. He was small but strong and feared no one. He used to carry two guns for protection. Took on anyone. Had a fight every day. Robbers would lay for peddlers. Because he was a scrapper he became known as crazy Joe. No one dared take him on. In the west he became a bronco buster and wrangler. Took to this naturally - rode horses in the village in his homeland. Married George's mother in 1903.

*See also "fuchion"
p. 2 bottom*

Peddling had negative effects of
health and physical being -
Prolonged exposure to inclement weather,
haphaz and eating
This was the reality - but with
a different form + here -

or was

Peddling
in groups

"We're used to hard work - struggling and surviving
under any conditions"

~~They did not bend to human limitations~~

In their drive for the goals they had set for themselves,
they created their own reality + faced it with determination
if not always confidence. Those who lacked one or both drew
on those of their friends + associates, with limited success

N A T I O N A L C O N G R E S S O F
N E I G H B O R H O O D W O M E N

Women's Project of

The National Center for
Urban Ethnic Affairs
4408 Eighth Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017
(202) 529-5400

V/1

Informant Mr. Abe Kacere Sex M Age 69 Interview Schedule Code _____
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Grant Farr City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 23, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Maternal grandfather^d peddled with horse and buggy in Joyce, Iowa, Mason City (Iowa). He slept in the wagon and the horse knew exactly what house to stop at. It took him about a week and a half from Cedar Rapids to arrive in Joyce (about 200 miles).

One snowy day, grandfather was sleeping in the wagon when the horse crossed a railroad; train crashed him.

Informant Mr. & Mrs. Najem Basheer Sex M/F Age 84/64 Interview Schedule Code ✓/8
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17/24
Interviewer Alix Naff City Richmond, Virginia Date Sept. 21, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

II/A/1

Mr. Basheer tells two peddling stories, one about sleeping close to a horse to get warm when he couldn't find a place to sleep and another about sleeping in the same bed with a Norwegian couple, next to the husband, whose wife invited him to stay with them.

Informant Mrs. Tom Assaley Sex F Age 73 Interview Schedule Code V/8
Religious Sect _____ Country of Origin U.S. born Immigrant Age N/A
Interviewer Alix Naff City LaSalle, Ill. Date July 6, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

When she was growing up in Streator, Ill there were about 15 to 20 families there, it was a town of peddlers. Before WW2 most peddlers moved to Spring Valley because it had two or three suppliers. Streator had none.

Her aunt and her mother peddled. Story: Once her aunt, peddling in the dead of Illinois' severed winter, got the cramps from menstruating. Half frozen, she stopped at a farm house. She explained to the farmer's wife, who made a drink of ginger, sugar and hot hot water, which helped her. She spent the night. Her aunt, mother and then she continued to use this recipe until the present. Sometimes they added whiskey.

Her mother was widowed while she was in her 20's. She had to raise her son and daughter by washing floors in factories and doing a number of other odd jobs during WW1. Then she went peddling and left her son and daughter in an orphanage in Springfield Ill where the father had died. Finally when Mrs. Assalley was still quite young, they moved to Peoria where she had relatives. She added that her aunt had also left a daughter at the orphanage while she peddled. Daughter is now in her 90's living with 3 unmarried daughters in Peoria.

Over

*Story? - farmer sending child to
Peddler to medical school*

Mrs. Assaley's mother-in-law peddled from Spring Valley to Tonia, Ill about 15 miles away. She had left her children with her sister-in-law and came to the U.S. for 2 years to make money and return. She came to stay with her two brothers in Spring Valley.

Mrs. Assaley had an uncle who was very young when he peddled out of Streater. One night 1910 or 1912 he asked a farmer for a place to sleep. Farmer sent him to the stable to sleep in the hay. Later the farmer came to check on him and found him sobbing. "Look what I have come to, I must sleep in a stable." He felt demeaned. The Farmer took pity on him, took him inside. Then advised him to go to medical school. Sent him and paid for his schooling in St. Louis. The uncle then practiced in Bloomington, Ill. Later uncle went to Lebanon to find a bride. WWI intervened, uncle couldn't get back. Somehow ended up in Brazil. This uncle was so lonesome and nostalgic he would compose songs in Arabic (ataha) about his homeland.

Informant Hasebe Assalley Sex F Age 86 Interview Schedule Code 2/8
Religious Sect Melkite Catholic Country of Origin Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alix Naff City Spring Valley, Ill. Date July 10, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

- IA3 Men would take women peddling with them, often relatives. If a man had a horse and buggy they'd give women rides. But most walked. Informant's older sister peddled with her husband first and later with her cousin Ibrahim. She hated it.
- IA3 NO, people didn't look down on peddlers or peddling. Customers gave them lodging and food, befriended them. Peddlers earned lots of money, in those days, a dollar went a long way.
- IB1 Peddlers used to get around, they felt they knew the U.S.
- Her older sister peddled at age 10.
- IA 3 Children commonly peddled.

V/6

V/7

V/8

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code V/8
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alix Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
511-588

They would go to the Protestant church with those Protestants who put them up for the night and to the Catholic church with those who were Catholic.

It didn't matter to Mr. Cory to attend the Catholic church; the people there welcomed him.

Mr. Cory

In Napponnee they/went to the English church all the time.

For special functions, baptisms, marriages, they would get an Orthodox priest from Montreal.

Each year a priest who would come to them, making a tour for those who were getting married, were to be baptized.

Marriage ceremony/^{and baptism}was exactly like in the old country (zalagheet, carrying the bridegroom on their shoulders and sing a certain song

Informant Mr. Mahmoud Sadak Sex M Age 82 Interview Schedule Code V/8
Religious Sect Druze Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 15
Interviewer Grant Farr City Washington, D.C. Date April 24, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/519	A story about peddling.
	A woman got her husband. (?)
	No prejudice: he feels that because Americans were new they also liked other immigrants.
I/B/550	A story about how he was embarrassed when they sang a song about love.
I/B/580	A scary story about when he crossed the Mississippi and later stayed with an old man. He was carrying a gun and he was afraid because he had heard that a peddler had been killed in this town. He saw something in the night that turned out to be a cow.
II/A/5	Continues the story above.

Informant Mr. Thomas (Tannous) Cory Sex M Age 74 Interview Schedule Code V/8
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 14
Interviewer Alix Naff City Windsor, Ontario, Canada Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

Side II
511-588

As peddlers, sometimes they had difficulty finding a place to sleep. People would not give them a place to stay or would let them sleep where their dogs were sleeping.¹ Or sometimes they would not find a place all night and keep walking to find a station so that they could return home. Other times they would sleep in schools, if no one would put them up. In the summer they would sleep outside. In winter, if they didn't find a place, they would continue walking.

¹This happened to Mr. Cory once, the people gave him something to sleep on.

Informant Mrs. Selma Bonahoom Sex F Age Interview Schedule Code V/8
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin United States Immigrant Age n.a.
Interviewer Alix Naff City Ft. Wayne, Indiana Date July 1962

Life in America: Pre World War I World War I 1920's 1930's

Side II
103-138

After informant's grandmother was established in the U.S. she sent for the informant's father.

She taught her son how to sell. They would travel peddling in the country.

Informant relates a story connected with peddlers' need to be inventive, resourceful in order to find food and lodging for the night. Her grandmother told one lady that the informant's father was a fortune-teller. He at first didn't know what to say, but then told her her son was a fine boy and would be a streetcar conductor, which at the time was the greatest thing you could do. The woman was very pleased. He continued to tell her they would make a lot of money. They were able to stay at the lady's house. The informant says the woman was gullible and that the Syrians knew the Americans were gullible and liked to hear this sort of thing. *woman*

Informant does not think belief in fortune telling is prevalent in the old country, more so in the U.S.

III/1

III/2

V/2

X/2/6

V/8

Informant Mr. Mike Aossey Sex M Age 75 Interview Schedule Code V/8
Religious Sect Shi'i Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 8
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapid, Iowa Date June 20, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Recalls peddler who would bury himself in a straw sack and newspaper to insulate himself against cold at night when no one would give them lodging.

Informant Mr. H. K. Igram Sex M Age 84 Interview Schedule Code V/8
Religious Sect Sunni Country of Origin Mt. Lebanon Immigrant Age 17
Interviewer Alixa Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 18, 1980

Life in America: Pre-World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/B/2

Peddled several months in 1920's; quit; didn't like it because have to knock on doors and sometimes people put you in barn to sleep--out in country--many peddling in 1921 or 1923.

Hsein Shronick was supplier in those days. Went from farm to farm walking. Had satchel on back and one in hand; walked sometimes 20 miles a day; got to Iowa City. Some with horses went further.

Didn't make much money; stopped cause job no good. Embarrassed him plenty. Couldn't talk English very well. Some nice people let you in; some thought they were begging; said "why don't you go home to work?" It was fun but no money.

Informant Mr. Frank Abodeely Sex M Age 83½ Interview Schedule Code I/R
Religious Sect Orthodox Country of Origin Syria Immigrant Age 16
Interviewer Alix Naff City Cedar Rapids, Iowa Date June 17, 1980

Life in America: Pre World War I _____ World War I _____ 1920's _____ 1930's _____

I/A/3

Was well received by American customers--were kind to him since he was a young boy of 15.

Doesn't feel he did favor for housewives. In small towns, shops were accessible. Sometimes would sleep at home of customers, gave them something; customers would help them speak and read English. Once was almost hit by train as he crossed tracks. One day temperature was 41 below zero--so cold no one would let him in, too cold to open doors, didn't get into any house, looked for cheap boarding houses, used to spend \$1/day for food and lodging. He didn't feel cold, got room, when he washed his nose came off in his hand; 3 years nose was like a plum in face, grew back, never went hungry because couldn't find place to eat.

V/8

VI/3/f