

Ernest Pentz,  
Ethnic Survey

Case History # 9

Irish First Generation  
Woman 63 years old.

1839

"I was born in the old country. I was almost thirteen years old when I came to this country. I haven't much to say except that this country is alright.

"In those days children went to work young. Today they can't go to work until they are eighteen. In Amsterdam, N.Y., fifty years ago, I recall a young Irishwoman of 9 years of age worked in the Sanford Mills from six in the morning to six at night. I heard of her death just a little while ago. Women built up that mill.

"My father was a Union man and he belonged to the Knights of Labor. Before the Union came in, my father worked for \$9 a week and had to do stable work on Sundays. When the Knights of Labor came in there was no Sunday work and the wages were raised to \$15 a week and hours reduced. He was a brewery worker. I haven't heard of any strikes in the breweries until Hoffman's went on a strike.

"My husband is not at home, but he was born here. His parents were born here. He had a couple of uncles who fought in the Civil War.

"All my life I have been hearing about war: the Boer war; the Spanish-American War; the World War; the War today. War is a terrible thing. Any way it has never reached us here in this country.

" I could tell you a lot of things, but I don't feel like it now."