They are at County Archives on Highway 26 in Midhurst with Dr William Cruthers Little of Barrie. He is known to most people in Barrie as Dr. Bill. He is possibly the best known person in the area. Dr. Bill served the Barrie area for 52 years and served his country and his church. Bill was born in Churchill on September 14, 1895. His father was Alfred Thomas Little and his mother was Gene Maude Rose Armson. His brother was John Caruthers Little. His wife was Catherine Haas Ford and they married June 1923. His immediate family is Catherine Joyce and William Ford Little. Bills grandfather had the same name as him and came to Canada around 1842 and settled in little's hill and was a conservative member in Ottawa from 1867-1882. The Armson family, his great grandfather William Armson came from England near Nottingham to Canada in the 1820s and settled at Middleton just west of Bradford and became first warden of county from 1845-1852. Bill's grandfather named Stroud from Victoria, Painswick, Holly, and Ryan. Those were named after places near his home in England. His place was called kitesnest. There was a farm on their estate in England so he brought the name with him. Bill's grandfather was a member of parliament. Bill was asked to be a conservative like his grandfather. Jack thought it was more than that but Bill corrects him.

Bill was finishing his 3rd year of medicine when he enlisted in 1915. Bill's military unit was the 26th Battery the Canadian field artillery. He went to France in January 1916 then went to England in 1917 for a commission and returned to France with that commission in 1917 and stayed there until he left France in 1918 to finish his medical course. Besides his participation medals he got a military medal for valor on the Somme. Bill was a charter member of the Royal Canadian Legion in Barrie and is currently the only living charter member. Following along his legion participation he was recognized by the legion award called the Citizen of the Year a few years ago but Bill cannot remember but it is believed it was 1969 after reviewing their records. Bill was the jail physician for about 20 years and took the job when the doctor died, he started in 1927. Bill was a coroner for about 1924 and was fed up with it and resigned about 1960. Bill explains that for being a coroner they got very little for doing the work. Bill explains that he resigned because he was getting called on Sundays and holidays and they did not call other coroners or when they were called they would say call Bill instead.

Bill had an Uncle Edward Little who was an MPP and that was for parts of Simcoe and Dufferin. He was there in the 1890s to 1906 and was appointed registrar of the court and held that until his death in 1934. Bill's dad was a doctor and he graduated in 1886 and started a practice in Churchill and moved to Barrie in 1906. Bill started his practice in 1922. Bill remembers that cars were put away in the fall and put on blocks and for short time used horse and buggy in the mud and
used a car in the snow. His office was on Maple Avenue and boarded his horses in the liberty stable. Bill lived in a part of the office and his father lived across the street. Bill remembers that he used to make a lot of house calls and still makes some but most people do not make them anymore. He explains that it is easier for people to get to the offices now because of cars and snow ploughing. Bill remembers doing intermediate surgery but anything highly specialized required doctors from Toronto. Bill's fees used to be charged directly to the people. Office hours have changed as well, Bill remembers they used to last until about 10pm and on Saturday nights with daylight savings time they would not accept farmers at midnight. Bill's father died in 1938 and he was a medical officer of health in Barrie but Bill did not follow him in that work. They wanted Bill to take it on but he refused. His dad's accomplishments as officer of health was that he put in the first pasteurization by-law in Barrie and put in the recording thermometer and Barrie was the 3rd place in Ontario following Toronto and Ottawa to have serial toxoid* for children. Bill is unable to remember all of his dad's accomplishments but Jack says that his father helped getting underprivileged kids milk. Bill had to assist in two hangings and officiated them and had to pronounce the man as dead. He had offices on 47 Connie street* and then moved over to where the medical expo was built a few years ago. His father lived in a different house on Maple Street and that was purely a living space not an office. Some doctors bill remembers are Doctors Lewis, Simpson, Fred Rose, Hart, Tarble, Oaks, his dad, Reynolds, and Ohe*. Some had an assistant but not all of them did. Bill was his father’s assistant. Bill never went to Camp Borden save for a few times during the last war when he did a few surgeries there on weekends because he was the local DBA representative. Bill says that Barrie had so many doctors because even though it was not a large town there were not a lot of doctors in the surrounding area. The doctors would go into those areas doing house calls.

During World War Two Bill was an examining physician for about 4 years and did so at part of camp Borden. Bill was the chief of staff at the hospital for about 5 or 6 years at the death of doctor Turnbull* and the position is given by being recommended by medical staff and the recommendation goes to the board of directors who then confirms the position. Once elected the doctor normally remains there until retirement. Anybody that comes to Barrie has to present certain credentials as a doctor to the executive committee of the medical staff who looks them over then recommends them to Board of Directors who he believes could turn them down or confirms them temporary admission to the hospital and were under supervision by another member of the staff for a certain number of months and then became a full member. The president of medical staff is different than the chief of staff. The chief of staff is head of organization and can be called in for advice and when there’s controversy they have to solve it. Before Bill's time or during the first time of his life there was some controversy but it had been smooth sailing ever since. Bill can recall that Ms. McLellan was the superintendent of nurses when he came there and there was a Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Smith, Mrs Schieffle, and others but he is unable to remember their names. Mrs. Shannahan was superintendent of nurses later and became the administrator of the hospital for many years. The position as matron or administrator of the hospital, there was still an administrator of the hospital who has subdivided many other positions, there’s now a head of clinical work (superintendent of nurses is what that position is compared to) and another person in charge of the training school. Bill says that there is no longer a resident matron living within the hospital at all times. The MacArthur’s* built a residence for the nurses. Before that they lived on the third floor of the hospital. The big brick building that Andy Carson used to live in was not a nurse’s residence. Bill remembers that there was Davey Thomps from Barrie and that a different man from Oro had a long white beard and the nurses were giving orders to prepare him for the undertaker and had some young nurse shave his beard off. The hospital while of local size people from Midland and

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surrounding areas would come for the specialization such as eye doctors, pathologists, and throat doctors, they had an x-ray service. These doctors also looked after Midland and Collingwood. Bill is asked if he thinks that this is the result of Barrie having people come to Barrie in the past the reason that Barrie has specialists now and Bill agrees that it was probably a contributing factor. It also led to the hospital being the Barrie and district hospital in its name instead of just being called the Barrie hospital.

Bill remembers that when he came back from war he saw diseases that have now been wiped out such as Typhoid fever and how many doctors have never seen it before but there are still cases that appear sporadically across the country. Giving blood transfusions began when he came home. Anemia was fatal when he came home original but they discovered liver to save that. Bill went to high school with the man that created insulin and created it as a cure for diabetes. Tuberculosis was rare and that was partly because it is now easier to diagnose and before they would diagnose it and put them into the sanitarium and there are drugs to treat it now. Bill is asked if he believes there will ever be a cure for cancer based on the advances in medicine he saw and the diseases that were cured during his life. Bill does believe that there will be a cure with all the money being spent on research that it will be cured. Bill is asked about why middle aged people have heart attacks and why young people have cancer and if the pressures of today are living are affecting that. Bill says that the cancer rate of young people is not increased but rather they just have a better way of detecting it now. As far as heart attacks he believes that tension and way of living and how people are now over weight that has affected the increase in heart attacks. People are not getting exercise and that is causing the heart attacks because of the way of living. Methods of diagnosis for heart attacks have also improved significantly. The size of the city of Barrie there is a much larger hospital there. Bill does think that whether or not the hospital will grow depends on the growth of the city but with how the town is projected to grow within the next 20 years Bill does not believe that an addition will be sufficient because the area is not big enough but rather that there will need to be a new and bigger hospital built elsewhere in Barrie. When asked, Bill does believe that the current hospital is adequate for the current size of the town of Barrie. A lot of people go to hospitals when they wouldn't use to go at all and part of that is that OHIP pays for it and now with wives working they can't care for their elderly parents so they put them in the hospital to be cared for. Bill says there are approximately 65 doctors in Barrie now and that when he started there were about 10 doctors in Barrie.

Bill is then asked about his career as a medical student. Bill started in 1912 as a medical student and was a tennis champ and won his weight in boxing. He was the secondary of the medical society in the undergraduate parliament. He was appointed or elected to the alpha omega alpha medical society which was given for academic standing and undergraduate activities. Bill and Jack Boyes* played tennis together and Jack won the northern Ontario boys championship. They played doubles together also. Bill is asked about Doctor Jack Scott and tells that he was a good tennis player as well. Bill is asked about the poor medical standards he saw in the war and if it affected him creating his medical practice. Bill says that he does not think that it did and that when he came home he was appointed to DVA representative and Dr. Fred Ross was before he resigned and Bill had to take care of soldiers that returned. Bill spent a lot of time trying to take care of the veterans that came back. Norbert was a veteran himself and confirms Bill's story and says that it is common knowledge to the veterans in the area that Bill gave a lot of time and did interviews outside the hours of his practice to solve veteran’s problems and help them with pensions. Bill says that when he took over the DVA they returned people that had pensions or had to go to Bill to get their pensions. That was changed after World War Two and they could go to any doctor but still a lot went to Bill
because he had a lot of experience with it. Norbert says that Bill is being too modest about how much he did for veterans on Sunday mornings and outside his normal office hours. Bill says he made it clear to the Legion that he was free on Sunday mornings and it took too much time during his office hours and it made him happy doing it so he did it on Sundays. Norbert says they will be fortunate if they are able to get someone as good as Bill for the DVA. Bill says that most people won't know the system or doctors at hospitals such as the ones at Sunnyvale hospital who trust Bill so it will be difficult for someone to take over. Bill says he will continue doing DVA work for as long as he is able to even if it means doing less work at his practice he will continue to do it. Bill wanted to say that he met his wife when she was a nurse at Moses Taylor Hospital in Scranton and her father was returning from Philadelphia and that he has had a very happy life with her.