

Uncorrected Transcript of

Interviews

with

LUCILLE PEACE BLALOCK

31 July 1995

and

ALLIE SUE HAYTHE YANCEY

2 August 1995

by

James Eddie McCoy, Jr.

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The Southern Oral History Program
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Original transcription on deposit at
The Southern Historical Collection
Louis Round Wilson Library

Citation of this interview should be as follows:
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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill"

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[START OF SIDE A]

Lucille Peace Blalock
31 July 1995

James Eddie McCoy: We're at 115 Warren Avenue. Today's date is July 31st, 1995.

Where was you living at when you was a kid? Where did your parents were living? In Vance County?

Lucille Blalock: ...Now, you know, when I remember it—

EM: No you don't have to remember, I'm just talking about when they, were they living in Vance County.

LB: They—when I was—I was born in Vance County. When I was a kid—

EM: You gotta talk louder.

LB: When I was a kid, I was born in Vance County.

EM: You was born in Vance County.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: What month and what date is your birthday?

LB: August the 4th, 1926.

EM: And your age.

LB: I'm 68 now.

EM: Ok now what's your address here?

LB: On this street?

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: I'm at Warren Avenue. 115 Warren Avenue.

EM: Now your whole name.

LB: Lucille Peace Blalock.

EM: Your father, when you was old enough to know anything, what was they doing, sharecropping?

LB: Sharecropping.

EM: Ok. When you remember where you were living at, where were you living at and what you remember? You had moved to Granville County.

LB: Yeah. I remember () I was—My best remembers I was five years old. We stayed behind Avalon Church.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: And...

EM: How did—what kind of house were you living in?

LB: In a log house.

EM: Describe a log house to me. Tell me something about it. How many rooms, or what, how was—how many rooms was in the house?

LB: Four rooms.

EM: Four rooms. Any upstairs?

LB: Yeah, one up, one room upstairs.

EM: It was a log cabin.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: Alright, who slept upstairs? Your mother and father or the ch—

LB: No, no, no, no. The children slept upstairs.

EM: Alright, how many kids was it? All of y'all?

LB: Now we moved it was, wait let me count. ...It was two boys...It was two boys and four girls.

EM: Two boys and four girls.

LB: Yeah.

EM: Ok. So that was six.

LB: Well six—But see later on, some more, you know, they added to it.

EM: Uh-huh. Ok. How long, how many years did you stay at that house? What—you went to school.

LB: I went to school there. But we didn't stay there.

EM: Did you go to school at where you all—you stay at the house a whole year?

LB: Not quite a whole year. But—and we moved down the road on the other side of Avalon Cemetery.

EM: Ok. You still in Granville County.

LB: Granville County.

EM: But you went down the road further.

LB: Further.

EM: Ok. Now. Was your father still farming for the same man when he moved down further?

LB: No, no, no, no. He was farming for Tom, this white man Tom Canady.

EM: Tom Canady.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: Ok. Tell me about Tom Canady. Were you old enough about it?

LB: Not too much about him.

EM: Did he have children?

LB: I think he had two, cause one of them used to (). He stayed up in Oxford but I can't think his name. I done forgot his name.

EM: What school was you going to?

LB: Out here we were going to Fairport.

EM: Fairport. How many years did you go to school at Fairport? Well how many grades did it go to?

LB: From the first to the—

EM: Gotta talk louder.

LB: From the first to the seventh. And you—see, that's—when you finished the seventh grade, then you go to eighth grade was going to high school.

EM: Over Mary Potter. Ok now. You didn't have to walk a long ways to school, did you?

LB: Yeah, about a mile.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: About a mile.

EM: Now when you moved to Tom Canady, how many years your father lived there?

LB: ...That's where I started school at.

EM: At Tom Canady.

LB: At Tom Canady. And we stayed there...I don't quite know...

EM: How many sisters or brothers were born at Tom Canady?

LB: I don't believe () ...I'm trying to think. I don't think it was but one born there.

EM: One?

LB: One born there, but we stayed there I think it was two or three years. I can't quite remember how many years that—

EM: Who was the midwife in that area?

LB: ...().

EM: Ok. Did your father—was that—what church do your father belongs to?

LB: Avalon.

EM: Avalon? Ok, was he born in that area?

LB: I really don't know whether he was born in that area, but I think he's been a member of Avalon ever since he was old enough, you know, to join church.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: But I really don't know—

EM: Is he related to the Peaces that live down there?

LB: Yeah, he—well, they tell me—I reckon ().

EM: Tell the truth.

LB: Yeah, he was belonging to the Peaces. I mean he was a related distant kin. It's a lot of Peaces down there but they related to just a distant, you know, kin. And that is through and by—they tell me that the peoples that were bought, the other slavery, (), you know.

EM: So, what you're saying is your father was—name was changed.

LB: That's what they tell me.

EM: All the Peaces name was changed.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: What was his name before they changed it?

LB: I can't think now.

EM: You don't know what they told what his last name was before he—

LB: Uh-uh.

EM: Ok.

LB: I don't. But—

EM: Was it a Peace plantation down there?

LB: Uh-huh.

EM: Where?

LB: Down on the other side of Avalon Church. It's a big house down there. And that's where they call the Old C. Peace place.

EM: Old C. Peace.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: C. Peace. [See Peace?]

LB: Yeah.

EM: Why they call it that?

LB: I don't know.

EM: Did y'all live down there?

LB: No we didn't. That was just a big plantation, you know, that they said slaverys used to stay at that big plantation.

EM: Did your father and them—grandfather—

LB: My grandfather they say stayed there.

EM: Ok your grandfather was a slave on the Peaces' plantation.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: Ok. How far down that road back of the church you go before you get to the plantation?

LB: Well you see, they—you just keep, when you go around Avalon you just keep straight on by the church. You don't have to make a turn, go right on by. And it's about a quarter of a mile. Go around the curve after you leave the church, and down there on the left-hand side—

EM: Do you get to the stop sign?

LB: No, no, no, you get to this before you get to the stop sign.

EM: Ok.

LB: On the left-hand side is a big white house.

EM: I remember that, uh-huh.

LB: Well that's the house. I don't know whether that's the same house was there in slavery. But that's the big white house. That's the place they call the Old C. Peace Place.

EM: Oh, ok. And so that's where your father's...

LB: Father.

EM: Father.

LB: Was born.

EM: Came—uh-huh. What about his mother?

LB: He don't know too much about...the women—I

EM: Which that's your grandmother on your father's side.

LB: My grandmother. He don't know too much about her. I never heard him talk too much.

EM: About his mother?

LB: Not to me now. I ain't gonna say he didn't tell the older—

EM: How many sisters and brothers did he have?

LB: Two, let me see. Three...three brothers, let me see now. ...Three brothers and—I know three sisters. Now I—

EM: So that was six.

LB: Six. I don't know if it was anymore. If he did, I don't know that.

EM: So they grew up on the Peaces' far—plant—your father—

LB: As far as I know they grew up on—

EM: Ok. It was a farm then.

LB: Yeah.

EM: Cause plantation was over when your father.

LB: Yeah, yeah, it was a farm when my grandfather.

EM: Yeah cause your father sharecropped.

LB: Yeah, yeah. He never stayed there. See he wasn't a slave.

EM: I understand. But that's where he—his parents grew up at.

LB: Uh-huh.

EM: Did they ever tell you how many people stayed there on that plantation?

LB: Like I said they—he used to talk a lot to us, but I just can't—I can't think.

EM: Mm-hmm.

LB: That's the reason I was referring you to one of my sisters. She can tell you more about it. But—

EM: Your feet in the cord, baby.

LB: Get out ()—will you be still, baby?

EM: So what—did your mother go to—attend Avalon?

LB: Mm-hmm. All my family was a member of Avalon.

EM: Talk louder.

LB: All my family's a member of Avalon. And my mother—now I don't know exactly where she was raised at. But the home place, later on, is up the road from Avalon Church. My mother's home—

EM: Coming back to where?

LB: Coming back toward Oxford.

EM: Uh-huh. What was she? Her maiden name.

LB: She was a Brandon.

EM: A Brandon.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: Ok what Brandons was she related to? What was her first name?

LB: My mother was Rachel Brandon.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: And...

EM: Tell me something about the Brandons.

LB: The Brandons were just... Well her mother was named Sarah.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: My grandmother's name Sarah, my grandfather's name Osh Brandon.

EM: Did you ever see any of them?

LB: My grandmother. I don't know my grandfather.

EM: How old were you when your grandmother passed? You think you were.

LB: I was about...I was about at Mary Potter then.

EM: So you were about 12 or 13.

LB: Yeah I was going to Mary Potter.

EM: Was she—how old was she? Did you know?

LB: Let me see was she—she was in her 70s.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: But I don't know, I can't-

EM: Was she sick before she passed?

LB: Uh-huh. She had had a stroke. She was sick about...I know two years.

EM: Did you know Mr. Robert Amos?

LB: My grandmother's home—

EM: Talk louder.

LB: My grandmother's home place was right across the road from Robert Amos.

EM: Oh now I know. I know who you talking about now.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: You're talking about Sammy Robertson people.

LB: Yeah. My uncle married—is Sammy Roberston's uncle. He married his mama's sister, Sammy Robertson mama's sister.

EM: Uh-huh. Ok. So they—was the, wasn't that—was Robert Amos related to the Brandons?

LB: No.

EM: Ok. Did you know a lot about Mr. Robert Amos?

LB: Mm-mm.

EM: You didn't?

LB: Not that much.

EM: They hadn't moved down there when you—

LB: Oh he was there, Robert Amos was there.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: But I don't know, I mean, you know, I would see him.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: But then I just don't know that much about him. Nothing but just a good neighbor and something like that.

EM: Uh-huh. And what about his children? Did you go to school with any of his children?

LB: Oh yeah. Yes, I went to school with...() Two, three, four—think I went to school with four of his children.

EM: Who was your teachers at Avalon Church—School?

LB: My first teacher was...I think was Elizabeth...Well now I just went and I wasn't going to school. I started five but I was just going up there. But my first teacher was Estelle Holly over here in Antioch.

EM: Mm-hmm.

LB: And then I finished there under Molly Peace.

EM: Ms. Molly Peace—

LB: Stayed in Antioch.

EM: Ok so she was the last teacher.

LB: Yeah.

EM: So you didn't have but two teachers for that—

LB: I didn't have but two teachers.

EM: That was a one-room school?

LB: Uh-huh. —No it was a two-room school.

EM: About how many children was in that room—at that school?

LB: I don't know.

EM: Thirty?

LB: It probably was. It was a lot of them. See, it was two rooms, or it had one from the first to the eighth.

EM: Mm-hmm.

LB: I don't know, now I can't hardly estimate how many children. But it's probably—it was a school full.

EM: Did you have lights in the school? Electric lights?

LB: No, no, no.

EM: You had electric lights at home?

LB: Mm-mm.

EM: What did you have?

LB: Lamps.

EM: What did you—where you get it—didn't you have oil, or what kind?

LB: Well I mean oil lamps.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: And we used to study by fireplace and oil lamps.

EM: What did you have from the fireplace? How you get light from the fireplace?

LB: See the light—you know how these fireplaces made and you make them find that light? It shine out from the fire, you lay down, I am stretched out on the floor with my book laying up 'cross the fire place.

EM: Mm-hmm.

LB: To study.

EM: Mm-hmm.

LB: I mean we had the—the lamp light was in the room too, but the fire from the fireplace would help give light, too.

EM: Did your mother and father see which one of y'all would get your lessons and even though they didn't know what was going—

LB: We had to figure out all the lesson.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: We had to do that.

EM: Was your mother—could she read and write?

LB: Oh yes, my mother could read and write.

EM: What school did she go to?

LB: I don't know. I really don't.

EM: Do you think it was Avalon?

LB: I'm scared to say, cause I don't know.

EM: What about your father?

LB: He didn't go to school.

EM: He didn't go to school at all.

LB: Uh-uh.

EM: Well if he didn't go to school at all, he came up on the Peaces' plantation, too, but just wasn't a slave.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: How many times did y'all move after you got down to Tom Canady? Where'd you go next?

LB: Let me see. One, two, three times.

EM: Where'd you go after you left Tom Canady?

LB: We went down, let me see now where did we go. I believe we went back, I believe we moved back to Vance County.

EM: You gotta talk louder. Where did you—

LB: I think we moved back in Vance County. And I don't know how many years we stayed there but we didn't stay long. Then we moved—

EM: Who'd you farm with when you moved in Vance County?

LB: Kaypot, back to the Kaypot place.

EM: Kaypot. Now Kaypots, was that back in Granville County?

LB: Uh-uh. That was in Vance County.

EM: In Vance County. How many years you think y'all stayed with him?

LB: I think, let me see.

EM: You was getting older now.

LB: Yeah I know it, but I can't... We didn't stay too long. That's what I was saying.

EM: What do you mean, one year?

LB: It might've been one or two years, something like that. After that we moved back in Granville County.

EM: Did you have tobacco down there with Mr. Kaypot and them?

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: What were you farming on, half or full?

LB: On half.

EM: So your parents didn't have no team or nothing?

LB: No, no. We didn't have one.

EM: And who did you live with when you—who did you go to after you left Kaypot's?

LB: Then we moved on the other side of Fairport. It was called the William place.

EM: Was that white?

LB: Yeah.

EM: Tell me something about that.

LB: Well I can't tell you too much about the man cause he didn't stay—he stayed in Roland, North Carolina, or somewhere down there.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: But we stayed there about...let me see...I reckon we stayed there about four years.

EM: What was his first name?

LB: Robert. And he was from—I think it was Roland, North Carolina.

EM: When he stayed down there who carried on the farm and stuff?

LB: Well he would come up, you know.

EM: How many tenants did he have, just y'all or some more?

LB: Two—let me see. Two families on that farm.

EM: Who was it? Name them.

LB: My father George and his brother Hugh.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: That's the only two was on that farm.

EM: Ok how many was on that Kaypots' farm?

LB: It wasn't but just one tenant on Kaypot. He had a big farm but it was just one tenant house there.

EM: What did you do on the farm? What work did you do?

LB: Growing up then I didn't—when I was small I didn't do anything.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: I didn't start working on the farm—working—until, let me see...I was about...10 or 11 years old, I reckon.

EM: 10 or 11.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: Ok. What year did you get married?

LB: 1946.

EM: 1946 you got married.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: Who did you marry?

LB: Milton Blalock.

EM: How long y'all stay married?

LB: Let me see, about 48 years, cause he died in what, '92? About 48, just about 48 years, believe.

EM: How many year—what year did he die?

LB: Let me think, now he's been dead two years. Just about two years. (). Let me see, ()...19, this is—

'93.

EM: Where was he from? The Blalocks.

LB: Back toward Berea.

EM: Berea.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: Tell me something—how you meet him up—how'd you meet your husband? He come from Berea, you come from—

LB: No, he had moved down this way then. We moved, we were still in Granville County but we moved down Wilton Highway, down 96.

EM: If you keep on moving you gonna be done moved 100 times.

LB: Well—

EM: You told me you moved two, now this is five.

LB: Now I said before I married.

EM: I'm just kidding with you now.

LB: I know, before I married.

EM: This your fifth move now.

LB: Yeah. We moved, well—

EM: You got married.

LB: I got married in '46. We moved down 96.

EM: Why did y'all go down, his parents or what?

LB: They was staying on the same plantation.

EM: Oh my God.

LB: That we were staying on.

EM: But your weren't—you was gone from that plantation.

LB: I'm talking about down 96 now.

EM: Ok, Wilton.

LB: Yeah.

EM: What was the man name down there?

LB: That's what I'm talking about. Then, J. W. Dean. We were staying on that plantation, and they—we moved—they were staying there when we moved there.

EM: Oh ok, so you met him there.

LB: So that's where I met him there.

EM: You were still going to Mary Potter?

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: When you got married.

LB: Mm-mm, I had finished. I finished in '45.

EM: Ok so y'all got married there.

LB: '46.

EM: Now did you move with your parents—did he move with your parents or y'all—you moved with his parents?

LB: I moved with his parents.

EM: OK. Now how long y'all stay down on that plan—on that farm?

LB: Four years.

EM: Four years. So the Blalocks came up on that plantation.

LB: Mm-mm.

EM: Or they moved there from—

LB: They moved there from I don't know. Back up there () somewhere.

EM: Alright, where did you go after you—where'd you move to after that?

LB: We moved back down Camden Mill Road.

EM: Just love to move, don't you.

LB: Yeah, well. Back then—

EM: You moved down to Camden Mill Road?

LB: Yeah.

EM: Who was you with that time?

LB: William Baptist.

EM: William Baptist?

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: He had a farm?

LB: We stayed on his farm about four years.

EM: Ok, tell me how long (). How long you stay there?

LB: About four years.

EM: Were you sharecropping or on fourth or half?

LB: We was fourth.

EM: You was on fourth.

LB: After I married we was fourth.

EM: So you had your own team.

LB: Uh-huh.

EM: And so you was on fourth then.

LB: Uh-huh.

EM: Ok, how long were you married before you had children? How many years?

LB: One year.

EM: So your first child was born on the Dean, J. W. Dean farm?

LB: Uh-huh.

EM: Ok. When you get to Camden Mill, how long—how many years you stay at Mr. Baptist?

LB: We stayed their four years. But they reason we moved from there was the place was sold. He sold the place.

EM: How many children did you have when you was there on that farm? The Baptist.

LB: I'm trying to think now, one...I think...four, five, six...

EM: You didn't stay but four years.

LB: Oh nine.

EM: You musta had twins if you had more than four children on that farm.

LB: Wait now, I didn't say all my children were born down there now. See I stayed at his mother's four years, too. You know, I told you I stayed with his mother four years.

EM: Oh. At the Dean farm.

LB: Mm-hmm. Yeah I stayed with his mother four years.

EM: Ok. So what did you—

LB: But they were—my children were close together.

EM: Alright, now where'd you go after you left the Baptist?

LB: We still moved up the road just a little. See they sold that farm, or they weren't—see they weren't tending that farm.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: The man bought that farm was for planting pine trees.

EM: Ok.

LB: So we had left it. Well most of the places that we moved it was cause the farms were sold.

EM: Now where did you move to then?

LB: Then up the road. We were still on Camden's Mill Road.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: With Claude Brisson.

EM: Which way were you going, toward 96?

LB: Yeah. It was—no, no, we was coming back like to the, what you call, the Fairport Road. I don't know what the name of the road.

EM: Alright, you're coming back near Pettiford Grove Church—School.

LB: We was on this side of Pettiford School.

EM: Down there by Mr. Braswell.

LB: We was up on this side of Mr. Braswell.

EM: Claude—what's that man's—

LB: Claude Brisson.

EM: How many years you stay there?

LB: ...stayed there...I don't know, my years is getting mixed up now.

EM: Just guess!

LB: I'm trying to think now. We stayed there about two or—about three years, might be more.

EM: Now where did you go next?

LB: And see that place was sold.

EM: Name that one.

LB: And so then we moved to Antioch.

EM: Ok.

LB: And we stayed in Antioch...about how many years, about one, two—uh-uh, stop baby. We stayed in Antioch for three years.

EM: Now where did you go next?

LB: Then we moved Carter Cross.

EM: Where?

LB: Up here, you know, up here on a side, right on the other side of Oxford, 'fore you get to Wright's Funeral Home.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: We moved around in that road. We stayed there 23 years.

EM: What plantation was that called?

LB: The Pennys.

EM: That's where they have all the slaves' graveyards, they tell me.

LB: The Pennys, () Penny's (), that was his place.

EM: Now how many—now how old were your children? When y'all got to Penny's, Mr. Penny's farm, how many children y'all had? How many chil—everybody was grown?

LB: No, not everybody was grown. When we moved to Penny's place, I got twins. My babies is twins.

EM: Name them.

LB: Sharon and Karen, they're twins.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: They were two—they was going on three years old when we moved into Penny's farm.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: Where we stayed there 23 years. The next moved I made was right—

EM: Was where?

LB: Right here.

EM: On Warren Avenue.

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: You own this house?

LB: ().

EM: Do you know how many y'all moved, you moved?

LB: No I don't.

EM: You moved 10 times.

LB: I wouldn't doubt it, but a lot—

EM: Ten times you moved.

LB: After I married, most every time we moved, the place would be sold.

EM: But you were losing. You couldn't gain nothing moving 10 times.

LB: No you couldn't, but you couldn't—if you—

EM: I know you didn't have no choice, I understand.

LB: You couldn't stay at that place, so—and it—now, where we stayed at, out there in Hunt—well, when we stayed in Antioch, we tried to buy that place.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: But that white man went over us.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: When we got to Penny's we tried to buy that.

EM: Mm-hmm.

LB: He changed his mind, he didn't want to sell it.

EM: Mm-hmm.

LB: So I told my husband, I said, "Forget it. You done tried, we done tried."

EM: I'm just—

LB: I know. Well all the black people most stayed on farms has moved a lot of times.

EM: You know you were lucky to finish high school.

LB: Well see I did—

EM: Y'all were like gypsies.

LB: I finished before I married, you see. So I didn't have to—

EM: You didn't move enough 'fore you got married.

LB: Well—

EM: You was at William—you was at Mr. Kaypot's.

LB: That's what I'm telling you now. When you didn't have nothing of your own, you had to move around.

EM: I know, we just, I'm just—

LB: I know, I know.

EM: But see how much you lose. You move—like I tell you, y'all move in a house that's too big. You ain't got enough furniture. You stay there for a year and fill out it with furniture people done give you, then you gon' move to a house that's small.

LB: Well—

EM: Then you throw it away.

LB: Yeah well see, after I married, I never moved in a small house. I didn't have to throw away no furniture.

EM: You made sure of that, huh.

LB: Uh-huh. I had enough, you know, cause—

EM: How in the world y'all move or moved this many time, on a wagon?

LB: No. Shucks. Now I don't know when we moved—when I was real young we moved on wagons. But after I grew up some (), and—well after I married we moved, used trucks and things to move. We had wagons, mules and wagons and everything, but we moved on, used trucks.

EM: Y'all was gypsies, wasn't you.

LB: No we weren't quite gypsies.

EM: How many times you think it take—

LB: Well...

EM: Let's go back to the Blalocks out of—

LB: I don't know—

EM: Out of Berea.

LB: I don't know no nothing about the Blalocks. I just tell you the truth, I really don't.

EM: Your husband's... When you moved on the plant—that farm, his people was there and y'all was there—

LB: When I was staying with her.

EM: Yeah.

LB: With his mother.

EM: Yeah, tell me about when you were staying with his mother.

LB: Well...

EM: You stayed there four years.

LB: Yeah, it was just like staying in a house of my own. I had no problem, I had the privilege of whatever I wanted to use.

EM: Mm-hmm. What about the father?

LB: He was nice.

EM: What church did they go to?

LB: Oak Grove. It's the church I'm a member—

EM: Oak Grove?

LB: Oak Grove.

EM: How did they get from Oak Grove to—from Dean's place?

LB: He had a car.

EM: Huh?

LB: He had a car.

EM: Ok. Did his sisters and brothers come to visit their mother and father when you was staying there for the four years?

LB: What.

EM: Mr. Blalock's.

LB: Sisters?

EM: Yeah, your husband's brothers and sisters.

LB: Oh yeah. We—they—

EM: Did any of them finish high school?

LB: No. —Yeah his sisters did. One of his sisters was a nurse. She was in Jersey where she was a nurse.

EM: Where did he go to school at, your husband, when he was going?

LB: ...I don't know where there up near Berea, but he used to go to Grady School in Oxford.

EM: How'd he get there? They walked from way down there to the Grady School?

LB: I don't know how they—

EM: You sure they didn't go to school down Pettiford Grove?

LB: No, he wasn't that close to Pettiford Grove. He was down 96.

EM: What about Black Ground school?

LB: Yeah, he did. I remember. He went to Black Ground, too, but he went to Grady School in Oxford.

EM: It's good I know—

LB: See the buses started running.

EM: It's good I knew Black Ground School, ain't it.

LB: Yeah. Well see I don't know that much about Black Ground School.

EM: How many years did he tell you he went to school at Black Ground?

LB: I don't know. Cause I know he said he started going to Grady School and—well see the bus started running then.

EM: Mm-hmm.

LB: And he started going to Grady School.

EM: Mm-hmm. How old was his parents when they died? Was they real old?

LB: (). Each one was in their 70s.

EM: Was the Blalock, where was they buried at?

LB: Oak Grove.

EM: Oak Grove. Ok so you remember when both of them passed.

LB: Oh yeah, I know when his mother, () mother and father passed.

EM: You did?

LB: Yeah, his mother was staying with me when she died.

EM: You gotta talk louder.

LB: His mother was staying with me when she passed.

EM: And this was on the Penny farm.

LB: No, no, no.

EM: Ok, Camdem Mill? At the Baptist?

LB: Mm-mm. We was—

EM: J.W. Dean?

LB: No. (). Yes I did, I know (). When his mother died—oh, we was staying, we was in Vance County.

EM: Again!

LB: No, we'd been stayed there 12 months in Vance County. I told you where we moved, they sold the places.

EM: Now this 11 times!

LB: Well. It takes 11 times to make a world. It take 11 times and you meet—

EM: You told me you didn't have nothing to tell me. I done learned a lot from you.

LB: I—

EM: You the movingest lady person I ever interviewed.

LB: No, no, you gon' find somebody moved more than I have. You just don't know.

EM: I don't know.

LB: No.

EM: Did any of your sisters and brothers go North? Did any of your brothers and sisters go North?

LB: I had a sister go North.

EM: Where did she go?

LB: New York.

EM: Did she—stayed up there.

LB: 35 years.

EM: Did any of your nieces and nephews go up there to live with her?

LB: Not to live with her. I had a brother to go North, too. He stayed up there about eight years.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: But no, my niece—let me see. My nephew, I had a nephew, he passed now, he went North. He stayed about, before he died, probably about 11 or 12 years.

EM: Were you school six months or nine months when you was down in Avalon?

LB: ()

EM: Did y'all go to school six months or nine months?

LB: Let me see was it...

EM: I think that was a nine-month school.

LB: I believe it was nine months.

EM: Mm-hmm.

LB: I know it was.

EM: You—y'all always got along in every neighborhood you moved in and everything?

LB: Oh yes, yes.

EM: Uh-huh. And what you do on Sunday? You come home and play and they had rules and regulations?

LB: Oh yes, they had rules and—

EM: Could you wash and iron?

LB: No.

EM: Well everybody say that. Why you couldn't wash and iron?

LB: Well—

EM: I remember that, I'm just kidding.

LB: You should remember that.

EM: I remember, you know, my grandmother and them talking about it.

LB: Yeah, yeah.

EM: That you couldn't, they didn't allow you to do that.

LB: No washing and ironing on Sunday.

EM: But what did they use soot for? Let's talk about remedies, when you get hurt.

What was soot good for?

LB: () you know I don't know about them whole lot of them remedies.

EM: Why?

LB: But I think that was good—if you cut your hand, I believe it was. Now I ain't gonna say that's for sure.

EM: Ok.

LB: But I'm thinking that.

EM: That's true. Soot is used for stopping the bleeding.

LB: Stop—I believe that's what it is.

EM: Well I'm telling you everybody knows that.

LB: Yeah.

EM: Soot was used more than anything.

LB: Yeah.

EM: And then onions.

LB: Yeah.

EM: When you had the whooping, you tie a rag around your neck.

LB: Neck, or either had a () or veronica, something like that, you used onions, and you put something across your chest.

EM: Some kind of ().

LB: And onions—they called it a onion holder.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: Put it to you and that draw that fever.

EM: Uh-huh. What the fatback meat was good for?

LB: If you stick a nail in—

EM: (), yeah I had that. It would work. But it will kill you.

LB: Yeah it will. If you stick a nail in your foot and put that fatback meat on it, I tell you, that was the doctor.

EM: Sure was. You would die that night.

LB: I tell you.

EM: But it'll go away.

LB: Oh yeah.

EM: Alright, what else about little girls? What y'all for different things for girls, that you didn't do for boys? You can't tell that, can you?

LB: Well, I don't love to tell that. I just left the ().

EM: But you always had something to eat, your parents always provided for you.

LB: Had food, clothes, never, I never seen a time that I was hungry. Now I have seen times I didn't want to eat what they had.

EM: I understand.

LB: But we had food, we had clothes, we had shelter.

EM: It's no bad life what you call ().

LB: I never had a bad life in my life.

EM: Because—you were right, cause you finished school.

LB: Yeah.

EM: You couldn'ta finished school if you didn't have—and you was pretty smart.

LB: I tried, I—

EM: You worked hard at it.

LB: Yes I did. I tell you—

EM: Why people now don't sacrifice like y'all did?

LB: I don't know.

EM: Huh?

LB: I don't know.

EM: Can you dream of your son or anybody moving over two times now? See I understand what you went through.

LB: I know.

EM: But that was tough, Ms. Blalock. That wasn't easy.

LB: It was a tough life, but you know, I'm gonna say this now cause it's true. The tougher your life is, the better you can live it.

EM: You sacrifice.

LB: Yeah, you make sacrifices. And if you look back over your life and you say, "Now how did I get over?" but you made it over. I know I did.

EM: Did you go to church a lot?

LB: Yes I did.

EM: Supported the church.

LB: I support the church. I even started singing when I was three years old with a missionary. And you know Sammy Junior Broadus?

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: His grandmother started me to going out with missionaries.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: Three years old. I was singing.

EM: Going from house to house.

LB: From church to church.

EM: Singing.

LB: Singing.

EM: At three.

LB: Three years old.

EM: That was good. What—did your mother and them go to bible study in the houses?

LB: Yeah—

EM: Did y'all have them at y'all house sometime?

LB: We have had it there a few times, but most of the time... Well we had where we used to stay at down, I said right down Camden Mill Road—not Camden Mill Road, down around the—

EM: Wilton?

LB: Kaypot place?

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: It was a little house down there, something like a school. It wasn't house but it was a little house.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: Well that's where—the people back down in that neighborhood would have Sunday School on Sundays.

EM: Mm-hmm.

LB: They'd have prayer meetings, you know, and things like that in that house. The neighborhood people down there.

EM: Is that where they had school at, too, through the week?

LB: No, they didn't have school. The children from down there would go called Fallen Rock School.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: And then the children back 'cross over there further would go back to Pettiford Grove School.

EM: Uh-huh. You ever heard of Floyd School?

LB: ...I don't know. I can't think now if I have.

EM: Mm-hmm. Did you know Willy Parker and Nick Parker and them?

LB: Oh yeah, I knew them.

EM: Did you ever see their mother, parents?

LB: Yeah. I knew their mother and father.

EM: You did?

LB: Mm-hmm.

EM: Tell me about them. They came to church? They worked hard?

LB: I don't know, I can't tell you that much about—they used to go to church, alright. But I think, let me see, yeah they used to go to Avalon (). They used to go to Avalon (), but I was kind of young, cause they kind of moved up and around, you know.

EM: Was it ever a tobacco warehouse down in Fairport?

LB: Not that I know of.

EM: It wasn't no factory down there.

LB: Nothing like that. They had a great big old large, a great big lodge haul down there.

EM: Uh-huh. And what was that for?

LB: Masons.

EM: And you had the school and the church, three different buildings.

LB: Uh-huh.

EM: Now why, at Avalon Church, you had a part of the church for black people and a part for white people?

LB: Well, no, it's not that. The black folks' church on this side of the street, and the white—road—and the white folks' church on the other side.

EM: Now explain to these kids listening to this tape, now you talking about light-skinned black people.

LB: Did I—that's what I said?

EM: You—what you're saying is that they're white. They are not white. They are yellow, think they better than black people.

LB: Yeah, well.

EM: Say that now, cause I know, I been to the graveyard.

LB: Uh-huh. Well.

EM: Why was they buried like that?

LB: () the same way—no, I mean, you know, see the—I'm trying—don't get me mixed up here now. But the black church on one side of the road.

EM: Oh I know where the white church 'cross the street.

LB: Yeah—

EM: But I'm talking about your graveyard.

LB: No, the graveyard—

EM: It's separate.

LB: Yes it's separate.

EM: You got light-skinned people in one side, one part of it, and black-skinned people in the other part.

LB: Well I don't know how that run in. Now I'll just tell you, I don't know how that run in.

EM: Well it's there.

LB: I know but I don't know how it's there.

EM: You were old enough to know when it happened.

LB: When I remembered the—just different ones got family plots, you know, family plots. But now how that run in to mix together, because...well I don't know.

EM: Look at me. And tell me the truth.

LB: I'm telling you the truth. Cause I mean...

EM: A man carried me to it. I seen it. And his people—

LB: Down at Avalon?

EM: Yes, his people is buried there.

LB: () the whites? That's what—

EM: No, light-skinned. We talking about black people.

LB: Black people.

EM: Yeah. Light-skinned black people. Think they're better than black people. And the white man told me that was their graveyard.

LB: Well now, wait, I ain't never known nothing like that. I'm telling you the truth.

EM: You didn't know your graveyard was separate.

LB: Well I know the graveyard is a family part, you know, on one side.

EM: What family is that in that side?

LB: It's the Edens and I—the Edens and that's they only—oh, and the Brandon Town. I know what I'm talking about now. But the—called Brandon Town.

EM: Where is Brandon Town at?

LB: It's—well you've been to the cemetery.

EM: Uh-huh.

LB: Well right after you get in the cemetery, down, kinda down a little hill, that's Brandon Town.

EM: What—the graveyard, or the whole, all the land in there?

LB: That's just the graves—

EM: That area—

LB: See it's a spot of graves—

EM: And that's the Brandon Town.

LB: Brandon Town. See that's a family plot.

EM: And they're light-skinned people. You can't bury—

LB: Well you ain't never seen a Brandon where it wasn't light-skinned.

EM: Why?

LB: I don't know.

EM: You said that Sammy Robertson was a Brandon.

LB: His mother...his mother's sister married a Brandon, my uncle.

EM: Ok. Your uncle. And they—

LB: My mother's brother.

EM: Your mother's brother. Your mother was a Brandon.

LB: Yeah.

EM: Oh. Was she light-skinned?

LB: Not really, not light as some of the others.

EM: So y'all can be buried in that graveyard then. In the Brandon Town.

LB: You know I had never thought about it like that.

EM: But you could.

LB: But...

EM: I know you hadn't thought about it.

LB: Well but I—

EM: Don't go dig them up now and take them—

LB: No, no, I ain't gon' do that. But I mean reason I hadn't thought about it cause see my mother and father, they bought the plot early, you know—

EM: But they had land in Brandon—I been to the graveyard. You got about—

LB: But I tell you, it's a—folks seen Brandon Town, cause my grandmother is black.

EM: She probably Indian.

LB: Well she black. And she buried down there, cause we cleaned that grave off this year.

EM: She probably was Indian.

LB: Well.

EM: Your mother wasn't buried in there if she was your complexion.

LB: No, no.

EM: Y'all had all that land and it wasn't even—

LB: She was, well my mother's lighter than I am, though.

EM: I know.

LB: Yeah, you know my mother. But you know I hadn't even thought about—no, well it's—cause you take Sammy Junior's uncle, he's not a real light man either. Uncle Otis.

EM: What would you want people to learn from this interview you and I talked about today? Or what would you like to see black race do, come together?

LB: I would like—

EM: Sacrifice, be more loving, or what. Y'all want—

LB: I would like for the black race to come together.

EM: You would?

LB: Yes I would. I would like if the whole universe, the races.

EM: What made us separate when y'all had us together? When y'all came along you was more together, families and everything.

LB: I don't know. I wish I can answer that, but I don't know. We was. We was more of a family.

EM: Do the blame go around? Cause how many children did you have?

LB: I had 11 children.

EM: How many boys?

LB: Four.

EM: Name them.

LB: Ellis, Ronald, Tommy Lee and Stanley.

EM: Name the girls.

LB: Juanita, Loretta, Vivian, Diane, Patricia, Sharon and Karen.

EM: And you raised your children.

LB: I tried hard.

EM: You worked hard.

LB: Yes I did.

EM: It wasn't because you didn't work at it.

LB: No, I tried.

EM: So, you think people, we have—people gotta work a little bit more, or it's a whole lot of work gotta be done everywhere?

LB: It's a lot of work to be done. But if everybody would try to pull together, they could make things happen.

EM: Mm-hmm.

LB: But instead of pulling together—some pulling together, and some pulling apart. Well if you take a group and it's a few in this group pulling apart and the group still pulling together, you can't get nowhere.

EM: So what would you like to see done when your grandbaby get up and get to be 15 and 16 years old?

LB: I would love to see this world that you not afraid of going out, I'd love to see a world that everybody is somebody, and I would love to see a world that everybody love each other.

EM: Do you think—No one individual like the church or the community got—everybody gonna have to pull in and pull together in this one?

LB: Everybody. It can't be two or three people. It's got to be everybody.