FIELD NOTES – J. KENNETH LEE

(compiled January 6, 2016)

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| Interviewee: | John Kenneth Lee |
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| Interviewer: | B. Bernetiae Reed |
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| Interview Date: | 2016-01-05 |
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| Location: | This interview was conducted at the residence of J. Kenneth Lee in Greensboro, North Carolina. |
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THE INTERVIEWEE. Civil rights attorney. Resident of Greensboro, North Carolina. Served in the Navy during World War II. Represented by Thurgood Marshall in a lawsuit to gain entrance to UNC Chapel Hill. Became one of the two first African-Americans to attend this University in 1951 and received a Juris Doctor (JD) degree in 1952. Recipients of KKK actions. Started American Federal Savings & Loan Association (1959) in Greensboro. Active in community re-development.

THE INTERVIEWER. Master of Library and Information Studies (University of North Carolina in Greensboro, 2015). Registered nurse (BSN, University of Wisconsin, 1972). Author and producer. Volunteer in the Southern Oral History Program and the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVIEW. This interview was initiated when the interviewer bumped into the interviewee at the U.S. Post Office on Murrow Blvd in Greensboro just before Christmas, 2015. She assisting him back to his car and upon requesting consent for the interview was told to follow up later. After calling and hearing the answering machine, the interviewer went to the Lee home on Monday, January 4, to set up the interview for the following day. The interviewee requested that a call be given 30 minutes prior to coming. Upon receiving no response by phone, the interviewer arrived at the Lee home around 11 a.m. and found the interviewee ready to start the interview. Mr. Thomas Scott, Emeritus Executive President of the Hayes Taylor YMCA arrived at the same time. He left after the interviewer had set up and returned again sometime in the middle of the interview. He can be heard commenting and asking questions in the background. Later, Mr. Scott took the interviewer on a tour of the Lee home. Video was captured of the spiral stairs in Lee’s home which he purchased and took from a Navy ship upon learning that his former ship was being dismantled. While serving on this ship, he witnessed one of the atomic blasts on Japan! The interviewer also videotaped a tour of the basement in Lee’s house which has access on that lower level through doors in the back. This space is significant for its used by civil rights leaders (Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King, Floyd McKissick, Harvey Beech, etc.) in the 1960s as their place to stay and work in during the Sit-ins and other protests in Greensboro!

NOTE ON RECORDING.

The interview was recorded with a high definition Sony HXR-NX3 NXCAM Professional Camcorder - Video file in MTS format (41.9 GB). It lasted for approximately 4 hours 10 minutes. The audio file was isolated from it in a WAV file (914 MB).