

Uncorrected Transcript of

Interview

with

**ETHEL CARRINGTON CLARK**

**25 September 1995**

by James Eddie McCoy, Jr.

Transcribed by Hester Kast

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

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[START OF SIDE A]

ETHEL CARRINGTON CLARK  
25 September 1995

JAMES EDDIE McCOY: ..Today's date is September 25, 1995. I will be visiting with Mrs. Ethel Rivers Carrington Clark. Birthdate July 25, 1915. Age 80. Mrs. Clark, what area did you grow up in when you was a kid?

ETHEL CARRINGTON CLARK: Northern Granville.

EM: Just talk a little louder.

EC: North Granville County.

EM: Did your mother and father come from here:?

EC: Yes.

EM: Both of them from in this area?

EC: Yes.

EM: How far different areas did they come from? A mile apart or were they adjoining farms or what?

EC: About 10 miles. My father is from Johnson Creek area.

EM: Uh-huh. And your mother is from where?

EC: ????????

EM: Are you related to the Clarks in Oxford that came from up at Johnson Creek?

EC: My husband is.

EM: What relative is he?

EC: Cousin.

EM: How old was your husband when he was living up that way?

EC: My husband?

EM: You say your father came from Johnson Creek.

EC: Yes.

EM: Was he related to the Clark family?

EC: No. See, he was Carrington.

EM: Oh, he was a Carrington.

EC: Yes.

EM: OK, you married the Clark.

EC: I married a Clark.

EM: OK. Did your father have other brothers and sisters?

EC: Oh, yeah.

EM: If you don't want to name them, you can give me the numbers.

EC: He had five brothers and I had six aunts that we know, but don't ask me who were the fathers and the mothers because they were married twice and ...

EM: Your father was married twice.

EC: No, I'm talking about my grandfather and grandmother on that side.

EM: On your father's side.

EC: Uh-huh. See, I don't remember them.

EM: How many children did he have?

EC: I think it was eleven.

EM: Two different wives he had kids for.

EC: That's my grandfather now.

EM: Yeah.

EC: I'm not talking about my father.

EM: That's your father's daddy.

EC: Yeah.

EM: What set of children did your father come out of—the first or the second set?

EC: The first set.

EM: The first set. OK, did he take care of all of the children or they went with the other families?

EC: What?

EM: I know you don't remember. If your father was born in the first set of children, what happened to the second set of children.

EC: What do you mean?

EM: Did your father go with his father...?

EC: I don't know. I guess when his daddy married the second time he was gone.

EM: Oh, okay.

EC: I imagine. I don't know. I couldn't tell you that.

EM: What kind of work did your grandfather do on your daddy's side? Was it sharecropping?

EC: Yes.

EM: Where about?

EC: I don't know that either.

EM: How many times did he move around, they'd say?

EC: I don't know that either.

EM: Your father didn't say nothing about...He don't ...

EC: See now, I was two and a half years old when my father died. He couldn't tell me

EM: I understand. What did your mother say?

EC: I never asked her what they did. I know what they did though because it's ???????

EM: But you don't know where.

EC: Back down there somewhere.

EM: Down where?

EC: Down from Johnson Creek around in there somewhere or another. That's where they lived. So he had to farm and didn't go over nowhere then at that time. Wherever they was they just moved around if they left but see I couldn't tell...

EM: OK. Carringtons. I haven't ran into any. Where would I run into the Carringtons at?

EC: Well, there ain't none that live here now. No Carringtons in that generation. I lost my last aunt three years ago and she lived in Stovall.

EM: What was her name?

EC: Jenny Harris.

EM: Jenny Harris. That was your aunt.

EC: Yeah that was my aunt.

EM: And she was a Carrington.

EC: Yeah.

EM: OK so the Carrington family is gone because you are the Carrington and you married a Clark and so there's no more Carringtons.

EC: Not going by the name of Carrington.

EM: That's what I mean. If it's any more they don't live in Granville County.

EC: I don't know...

EM: You don't know no offspring kids?

EC: Oh yeah, there's plenty of them offspring from the county but they ain't no Carrington.

EM: OK. That's what I meant.

EC: Yeah ?????? the Carringtons and things.

EM: That's what I meant that that was it for the Carringtons.

EC: It probably won't ever be...

EM: Do they have any young boys that live in this area in Granville County that's a Carrington?

EC: No.

EM: OK. How far did your father go in school? Could he read and write?

EC: I don't know that he read...My mama and he was in West Virginia before they got married.

EM: I'd like for you to Xerox and give me a copy of it.

EC: I don't know if I could do it or not because it's so old.

EM: You'll let me see it and I'll let you know if it can be Xeroxed. I know the paper, it was in the wrong place.

EC: ?????????????

EM: That's probably why it didn't get no air.

EC: He was telling ...he was coming home.

EM: You got to talk louder.

EC: You taping that?

EM: Yeah I came to record you.

EC: You taping that I'm talking.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: Well that's what I didn't know. You have to not tape me until I get this stuff together. Then I can tell you. This is crazy talking. (Laughs) I was thinking while I'm talking, about what you asked me. So...what is it that you asked me last?

EM: Tell me how far your father went in school and where did he go to school at? What school did he go to?

EC: Now I can't tell you...

EM: Nobody ever said it?

EC: I don't know the name of no school that he went to but he could read and write.

EM: OK.

EC: He had good handwriting for a man, better than some women.

EM: Did they say his daddy could read and write?

EC: I don't know.

EM: You don't know where he got the reading and writing from?

EC: I don't know.

EM: How many brothers and sisters did he have?

EC: I told you I think it was five brothers...?????? their uncle on that side living. That's the only person living and he lived in...

EM: What's his name?

EC: He lived in...I can't think of it right now. That'll give him some ??????. Virginia. His name is Henry Carrington. ...his brother.

EM: Which one?

EC: Right there.

EM: This your father's baby brother?

EC: Mm-hmm.

EM: Where do he live, down south here you say?

EC: ????????

EM: Do you go see him often?

EC: I haven't seen him in a long time.

EM: About how old is he now?

EC: I don't know, a hundred maybe.

EM: A hundred!

EC: This is my aunt that died, last aunt I had that died ??????????????

EM: Uh-uh.

EC: Well ??????????????

EM: What's her daughter's name?

EC: Her granddaughter. Her daughter's dead.

EM: What's her granddaughter's name?

EC: [Name].

EM: [Name]? OK. Let me look at this for a minute. Can you tell me...

EC: And this is ?????? and [name]. That's my big brother. He's dead though.

EM: And they came from Johnson Creek

EC: Yeah. Around in that area. I don't know where at though

EM: Where did your mother's family come from?

EC: Person County.

EM: Person County. How far from here?

EC: Do you know where Prospect Church is in Person County? [?????] Grove? Well that's about ten miles from here, too.

EM: Was your family ever related to [?????] cousin? A new [?????] cousin family?

EC: I don't know.

EM: Huh?

EC: I don't know.

EM: Could your mother read and write?

EC: Oh yeah, my mother was what you would call now a school teacher.

EM: She was?

EC: She was an elementary school teacher. In this day.

EM: Well did she teach school then?

EC: No.

EM: Why?

EC: I don't know why, but she did teach...well they called it Scription School. Like you finish school and then you go to another school and they called it Scription School. Now don't ask me what that meant because I don't know.

EM: I can look it up. I'll ask somebody. Scription school.

EC: Mm-hmm. And she lived in Person County too.

EM: It wasn't Norm school?

EC: Huh?

EM: It wasn't Norm?

EC: Normal?

EM: Norm. That's the kind of school they usually send you to. But you said scription might be—

EC: Well that's what they called script. That's all I know what they said- she went to scription school.

EM: Do that mean she finished the eighth grade?

EC: I don't know what it meant. I know she finished the regular school that they had at that time.

EM: Where was that school at?

EC: I don't know.

EM: She never told you—you never knew what school your mother went to?

EC: No I don't know which school she—it wasn't any existing when I came?

EM: It wasn't any existing?

EC: That I know.

EM: Well you could have told...

EC: I know it was in Person County. And I don't know the name of it either.

EM: You don't? Did you know her brothers and sisters?

EC: She didn't have any.

EC: She had half sisters, though.

EM: On whose side? Half sisters by the mother or the father?

EC: Father. My grandpa was married twice.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: And my grandmama was his last wife. And he had one daughter by her which was my mother.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: And before then he was married and he had...about eight.

EM: Did your mother go with him to the other step mom?

EC: Hmm? She was dead.

EM: Oh your mother passed and he—

EC: No! His wife passed and he married my grandmama and my grandmama had my mother by him.

EM: All right. You never found out why your mother and father could read? You never found out where they got it from? Or what school they went to?

EC: I don't know.

EM: Nobody never told you?

EC: May have told me but I... I don't remember.

EM: OK. Did your granddaddy on your mother's side... What did he do?

EC: He was the man come up carrying the mail.

EM: Carried the mail from where? You have to explain it to me.

EC: Right down there. They, they call it the southern hall now which was called Rocar City in the beginning.

EM: They were called what?

EC: Rocar City.

EM: How you spell it.

EC: I don't know. R-a-c-o-r. Ro-car, or rec-ar. R-a-c-o-r, I reckon.

EM: City.

EC: Yeah

EM: Why'd they call it city?

EC: I don't know.

EM: Have you ever asked Mr. Cunningham or told...

EC: Mr. Cunningham don't know.

EM: But they have heard...

EC: You talking about old ????????

EM: No I'm talking about the Junior.

EC: What does Junior know? I'm ten...I'm nine years older than Junior. I took care of him. I was his babysitter.

EM: Oh yeah?

EC: Junior Cunningham. ??????????

EM: What did he –

EC: And he's seventy-one years old.

EM: You said the city was...

EC: It was called Racor City, right down there where that hall is.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: ???????? Hall. And it had a store in there, and a post office.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: And I was told that now, because I wasn't here at the time. My grandma told me. And he carried mail from there on horseback. And...he worked for...the people who house used to be right around the corner there. A white man named Cornelius Tuck. And he wasn't a ...

EM: Cornelius Tuck.

EC: Yeah he a white man. He run a public steal house.

EM: Run a public steal...?

EC: Yes, ????????

EM: What is a public steal house?

EC: Go up there and steal all you want and nobody... (Laughs) ...do nothing about it.

EM: Steal?

EC: Making liquor.

EM: Oh, OK. Oh he had a liquor still. That was his business, he's a liquor business.

EC: That's...white man.

EM: Mr. Tuck.

EC: Cornelius Tuck.

EM: And the law didn't bother with it.

EC: No. And my grandpa worked for him.

EM: He made the liquor?

EC: I guess.

EM: For the white man.

EC: He ????? I guess. No he delivered—I know they called it “carrying wagons.” And he used to drive the wagons.

EM: To the bootlegger houses.

EC: To wherever.

EM: And drop it off.

EC: I guess so.

EM: How many years...?

EC: I don't know.

EM: He had a good business, didn't he? He had to have made some money.

EC: I don't know.

EM: After he finished carrying mail he just decided to go into the liquor business?

EC: No, he carried mail too, and he drove the wagon for this man. And all of this land from here all the way down to ?????? the man owned. I can tell you where the steal house was now.

EM: OK. I want to see that.

EC: Huh?

EM: I want to go one day.

EC: (Laughing) I ain't going because it's over there in the woods. It's grown up over there now. And my grandma used to plant a garden over there.

EM: Your grandmother?

EC: Mm-hmm. When I was a little girl. Used to plant a garden way over across that hill over there. And that was the stealing spot place.

EM: Is it any old graveyards over there?

EC: Not down where the steal was-- some old graveyards from there. It's a man named Pin Tuck

EM: Is he still living?

EC: No.

EM: I guess he's white, too. All these the Tucks.

EC: :Yeah he's white, too. But he isn't any relation to this man. This man came from Person County, too, this white man I'm talking about. But I don't know where in Person County but he came from Person County and he bought all this land here.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: ?????????????????????????????????????

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: And the white lady, [name], owned the rest of the land all the way down and the cut this land up and sold it to Negroes in the later years. That's how my grandfather got this, and grandma, then mother.

EM: How many acres you got in this tract?

EC: Ain't but three.

EM: Did you have more than this?

EC: I don't know whether they did or not. And you would be surprised how big...this three acres, I had to survey it when I moved here...

EM: From where?

EC: ????????

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: We were farming then. Wasn't no lane here, just farms.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: And when I was married, My husband and I farmed.

EM: Where'd y'all farm at?

EC: Well we farmed in two three different places.

EM: Y'all were sharecroppers?

EC: Mm-hmm.

EM: How many children did you have?

EC: Five. Well I had six but I lost one.

EM: Do any of your kids live near you?

EC: One live right around the curve there.

EM: OK. Name them, any way you want to name your kids.

EC: I can show you. ...They gave me a birthday celebration the twenty-second of July. So you want to know about my family. ...

EM: Where'd he give you the celebration at? Birthday.

EC: ???? Wing Church.

EM: ???? Wing Church. When? On a Sunday?

EC: Saturday.

EM: On a Saturday.....[Looking at pictures]....Ok. So name the girl first or the boys.

EC: ?????????

EM: Yeah. I want you to name them.

EC: Vanessa. Or Verneesa. I named her Verneesa but we called her Vanessa.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: I didn't put that "a" in there. I named her Verneesa only she named her ??????.  
Verneesa George Clark.

EM: Ok, what's the other one?

EC: The next one is Leo Delbert Clark.

EM: Leo. L-e-o?

EC: Mm-hmm. And the next one is Emmajen.

EM: Emmajen?

EC: Not Emma Jean but Emmajen and everybody called her Emma Jean.

EM: Where'd you get that name from?

EC: Oh, I don't know where I picked it up.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: Oh, yes I do. I named her after a little white girl that I used to mess with.

EM: That who—You used to work with?

EC: No. I never worked for a white person. ??????....Well I mean domestic work doing your house work and cooking and doing for them and cleaning. I never done that.

EM: You never did any of that? So...

EC: And the next one is Annette Thelma. Emma's in the middle and ??????... You got the page?

EM: Yeah, second page.

EC: Mm-hmm.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: And Elma Merdene. You never heard talk of either of their names.

EM: Uh-uh.

EC: Elma is my husband's aunt and my aunt. Name Elma. And Merdene is a new kind of washing power they brought in here.

EM: What kind?

EC: New kind of washing power.

EM: And what was the name of it?

EC: Merdene.

EM: Merdene. (Laughs). Never heard that word, washing power. That washing power—

EC: It had a whole lot of bubbles in the blue box with a lot of bubbles in them.

EM: It was? It didn't stay on the market long did it?

EC: I don't know. It ain't on there now. There's so many names but this was the kind. Those are my kids. And my first child died at two days old. What you call them now, crib deaths?

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: And...so I had six and raised five.

EM: Ok. How many farms did y'all move around on when you was sharecropping?

EC: When we first married we lived with his father.

EM: With his father?

EC: We farmed.

EM: What was his father's name?

EC: Arthur Clark.

EM: Arthur Clark. Ok. How long y'all stay with him, just guessing?

EC: Just over a year.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: Then we still lived in a house on the same farm for another year. We lived two years around there.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: Then we moved from there...you know where a little before you get to thirteen thirty-two down in that barn there's a house sitting down there? A little house sitting up on the hill.

EM: By ???????

EC: The other wood. Before you get in the road that turns to come in here.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: There's a house right in the little pines right there. It hadn't been there that long. There's another one up on the grove...oak tree.

EM: I know what you're talking about.

EC: Well the house down in the bottom from there, that's where we lived at. When we first moved from his father's house.

EM: How many year's y'all farm with that man?

EC: Two.

EM: What was his name?

EC: Charlie Poole.

EM: Charlie Poole.

EC: Yeah, white man from ??????? in Raleigh.

EM: How was he? Was he fair?

EC: Hmm?

EM: Was he fair? I mean did he treat you fair?

EC: Oh, yeah!. He was marvelous.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: And we moved from there to...man named Marvin Goo ??????.

EM: Marvin Goo.

EC: Uh-huh. ?????? And when you turn to come in here, thirteen thirty-two, and the first little road on the right...on the left before you get to [name]'s house, that take you around to where we lived at. We lived there eight years.

EM: That's the fourth time you moved.

EC: No. Let's see...We moved from his father's...down there to Charlie Poole. We moved from Charlie Poole—no I'm wrong about the next place we lived. We lived right here where you turn off, from in here on this side the road. You see a house sitting up on the hill? We lived right behind that house. Right over behind that house. That's where ????

EM: Behind Mrs. Cunningham's house?

EC: No. ????? I'm saying when you come up ninety-six and you turn off thirteen thirty-two. Well if you look on that side of the road you'll a house sitting up in the grove up there. That's the second place we lived, right behind that house.

EM: What was his name?

EC: Wilkins.

EM: Wilkins what?

EC: What was that man name?...

EM: That's ok. That's the second—you were staying—

EC: He owned the ??????????

EM: Your father-in-law was the first for you? And then Poole was the second for you. And then Walkins was the third for you...

EC: Not Walkins, Wilkins.

EM: Huh? Walkin Wilkinson?

EC: No, Wilkins. Just Wilkins.

EM: Ok. Then you got—

EC: Then we went back—

EM: Morrison.

EC: Goo. Marvin Goo.

EM: Marvin Goo.

EC: That's when we sold Poole place right back here.

EM: Ok. So that's three times.

EC: That's four times.

EM: That's what I got. Now, did any of your children lose any time when they were moving around? Couldn't go to school? Or they remained going to the same school all the time?

EC: All the time.

EM: They went to [name].

EC: They went to Blue Wing School, right down there from Burlington. That's where the school was. I went there too.

EM: Now, while we're on Blue Wing School, how many Blue Wings was it? It wasn't in the same place.

EC: Well they moved the school one time. When I went to school, when you turn off from thirteen thirty-two and come up there to the--

EM: ?????

EC: Before you get to ??????, or even that bottom there where that house is sitting there now.

EM: Before you get to her.

EC: Yeah.

EM: So after you pass that dirt road on the left-hand side.

EC: No, no, no. Before you get to it, when you coming that way.

EM: Before you get to the dirt road?

EC: Mm-hmm. ???????? the bottom right down there and the house sitting right there on the hill, the preacher's two houses and that one ain't painted at all there? Well right in front of that house that's where the school sits that I went to. My mama went to that school.

EM: Was that Mrs. [name]'s property?

EC: No.

EM: Whose property was it on?

EC: I don't know. It could have belonged to the state, property.

EM: What was the name of the school then?

EC: Blue Wing. It's always been Blue Wing. Never changed. And then it moved from there right up here in front of this large house up on that hill right there where another house is sitting there now. ??? Smith.

EM: Did this Blue Wing that your mother went to, and you went to—

EC: I went to, my—

EM: Did it catch on fire?

EC: It burnt one time.

EM: What year?

EC: I don't know.

EM: Where were you at when it burned down?

EC: I don't remember, but they built it the second time right here on the hill from the church going that way.

EM: Ok. Let's do this now. When your mother went to Blue Wing School, can you tell me anything about it? What child, what little sister or brother, or did a niece or uncle or cousin go with her to school when she was going? Well how did she go to Blue Wing School with no family, but just them living right in that area?

EC: What you mean?

EM: Your mother.

EC: How did she go to school and what?

EM: You said she didn't have no brothers and sisters.

EC: Uh-uh.

EM: She had some playmates or somebody went to that school.

EC: Oh, playing folks! Irene Burden, Daisy Royster, oh and all them old folks that dead...

EM: Well let's bring them back. Name them and bring them back to life today. Let's dig them up.

EC: Oh, I can't name all them folks...

EM: Well the Toles? Any of them go there?

EC: Oh, no. Royster. Most of them was Roysters.

EM: Gregorys?

EC: No Gregorys in this community. All Roysters, everybody in this community is kin to [name] Royster or either a Downey.

EM: Roysters and Downeys.

EC: That's all what's in this community.

EM: In the early nineteen hundreds.

EC: And my grandparents which was Beards, and they going to come—

EM: Your grandparents were who?

EC: Beards. What I'm talking about the man that carried the mail, that's my granddaddy, great-granddaddy.

EM: What was his name?

EC: Beard.

EM: How you spell it?

EC: B-E-A-R-D. His name was Charles Beard.

EM: Ok. What did they say about Charles Beard? He carried mail and he sold liquor. Or he delivered liquor for the white man.

EC: Yeah.

EM: Did he go to Blue Wing School?

EC: I don't know--No, he came from Person County, so I don't know what school he went to.

EM: Your mother went to Blue Wing School.

EC: My mother went to Blue Wing School.

EM: And it was Downeys and Roysters.

EC: Yes.

EM: That's all was in this area then.

EC: Yes, Downeys and Roysters and—

EM: Do you have an idea—

EC: May have been some Chandlers.

EM: Do you have an idea or have you heard what year your mother was born?

EC: ???

EM: Ok, let's do this now. Now, you went to that school before it caught on fire.

EC: I went to that school until I ?????--no I didn't. I went to that school til I was...let me see. I was through three years but the built a two-room school. It was a one-room school when I first started going to school...

EM: How many years do you think? Did you go to first grade? Second grade?

EC: I went to first grade and second grade, and probably the third grade.

EM: And then it caught on fire.

EC: I reckon it caught on fire.

EM: Why you reckon it caught—

EC: I don't—because it got destroyed. Or either they decided to build a two-room school. I don't know whether...it got destroyed.

EM: Ok.

EC: And they built a two-room school.

EM: I heard that the first school—you'll correct me anyway—that was on Mrs. Burden's land, that that was the first school.

EC: Uh-uh. The Burdens didn't even have no land at that time.

EM: Ok, now sometime in that—

EC: Do you know where Burdens was living?

EM: No.

EC: You don't know. She was living right across the line down here in Virginia.

EM: Maria Burden?

EC: No, Maria Burden's daddy and mother, when they got married and lived down there in Virginia. And then they moved when they bought this land and I don't know when he bought it because I was a child when he bought it. And so he didn't buy his own land from him for that school. I don't know who ????????? how they got it for the first school.

EM: Who in this community went to school with you?

EC: Nobody living went to school with me in this community. All my schoolmates are dead and the one ain't dead is away. Now Meg Royster, Clarence Cunningham, Gladys Tuck, Patty Burden, Romain Burden, Daisy Ramsey, [name] Burden, and [name] Burden, [name] Burden, [name] Burden, ?????, Meg Royster, Vincent Royster, Darling Royster, Julie O'Brien, Jimmy O'Brien, Sally Cunningham, Irene Lester, James Lester, Thomas Lester, John Davis, Liz Poole, Essie Poole, all went to school with me. Wannell Walker, Clarence Smith. [name] King, Dennis Royster. Oh, there's a whole bunch of them. Then they all...

EM: Ok. Now, I'm going to have to work this community because at one time they had school in Blue Wing Church.

EC: Uh-uh.

EM: Yes they did.

EC: No they didn't.

EM: If the school caught on fire, where did they have—

EC: No, I don't know when it caught on fire. They destroyed that school and they built a two-room school. Now this is in my time. My mother and Rena and all them Burdens and all them said that they went to that same school where I first went to from the first grade to about the third, I think. It was about the third grade. And then they built this two-room school and I went to that until I finished school.

EM: Who built the two-room school?

EC: I don't know. All I know is they built the two-room school.

EM: What did the church look like? Was the church brick?

EC: What, our church?

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: No, it wasn't at our church it was at, though. The church was at one place and the school was up the other side of the church, going from here.

EM: Past the lodge?

EC: Yeah, the school's up on the hill from the lodge.

EM: The second school was.

EC: Mm-hmm. Where those trees and things sitting up right now. There's a house  
????? right now.

EM: Did too many children come? They got too many children?

EC: I don't know.

EM: And that's why they had to build that school?

EC: I don't know. I don't know that. All I know is that we got a new school, one with  
two rooms.

EM: All right. Where did the children go to school that your mother said before they  
built the school? Because you saying the church was first.

EC: What church?

EM: Blue Wing Church.

EC: I didn't mention that church.

EM: I'm talking Blue Wing Church.

EC: I don't know about where the church was before the had a school or nothing. Now I  
don't know that. I don't know when the school was built or nothing about that. All I  
know is she went to Blue Wing School, the same school that I went to when I first went  
to school. And it's located right down there below that road which turns off at the first  
road you get to.

EM: Where was the church at?

EC: The church was where it is now.

EM: Always been.

EC: Always been there where it is, but not in exactly the same spot. Part of it's in the  
spot where the old ???????, part of it's not. It's just a little straight church.

EM: What did the old church look like?

EC: Just a little straight church.

EM: ????????

EC: Yeah, ?????, too. To heels left up on the wall and...

EM: No electric lights.

EC: No! No electric lights.

EM: You didn't have lights in your school?

EC: No! We had lamps. Lamps on the wall.

EM: Lamps on the wall?

EC: Yeah it had a ring and the lamps sitting in the ring and hooked up to the wall. One here and one here...

EM: How you pour oil so high?

EC: Well they take it down. I told you ??????????. Now that's where the church was, and yours too where you come from, wherever you was. (Laughs). You weren't even here. But ?????????? come from, that's the way it was. It wasn't no different that the rest of them.

EM: It had two heaters.

EC: Yeah. One on one side and one on the other side.

EM: And you remember when they started building this one?

EC: Not this one, this ain't the one. They built another one before the built this one.

EM: Where'd they build that one at?

EC: Right there, same place.

EM: So this the third church.

EC: Well, I wouldn't say...They repaired it and made it different. But the old church, it ?????? completely and ?????? house is part of the first church that I can remember.

EM: Why is her house part of it?

EC: Oh she bought the old church lumber when they tore it down. ??????

EM: Is it still there now?

EC: What?

EM: The house.

EC: Yeah it probably is there. They done put some more to it. Part of it's the same thing.

EM: So he got a piece of the history.

EC: Well he's dead now.

EM: Huh?

EC: He's dead now.

EM: His family got a piece—

EC: Yeah. ??????. ??????. You know [name]?

EM: And Mr. [name]. And Mrs. Cunningham that lives up there.

EC: Well the next house down on this side from Cunningham is [name] Woods. And [name] is the one I'm talking about--his daddy --bought that lumber and put the room to his house.

EM: Didn't Mr. Woods go to school at Blue Wing?

EC: Yeah. But Mr. Woods is in my mother's age. More than he is mine.

EM: Still living?

EC: Oh he's been dead.

EM: Do he have family down there?

EC: Did I tell you Kenneth Woods?

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: That's his son.

EM: Ok.

EC: And his wife is down there.

EM: Ok. Where did Kenneth go to school at?

EC: Blue Wing. All of them went to Blue Wing School ??????.

EM: And your kids continued, as you moved around, went to Blue Wing School.

EC: We ain't never moved too far that they couldn't walk to school.

EM: Ok. Do you know what your teachers was named? How many did you have?

EC: My first teacher was [name] Harris.

EM: Where's he from?

EC: He was from up there in Harris Town up there.

EM: Harris Town?

EC: Yeah, from [name] School.

EM: Never heard of that before.

EC: What?

EM: Never heard of Harris Town.

EC: Well that's up there around ???????? school.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: Well that's where he rode the buggy. That's where—

EM: Huh?

EC: He rode on the buggy.

EM: He did?

EC: And come to teach us.

EM: Ok, who was next?

EC: And the next one was Addie May Tuck.

EM: Tell me something about her.

EC: Addie May now, not Annie. Addie, A-D-D-I-E. Addie May Tuck.

EM: Where did—

EC: Addie May Tuck from Person County. About seven, eight miles from here.

EM: She came on horse and buggy? Or she slept in?

EC: She stayed in Burdens.

EM: She boarded in.

EC: Mm-hmm. All of them boarded in but [name] Harris.

EM: His name was Haver Harris.

EC: Yeah, the first teacher that I had.

EM: Who else?

EC: Addie May Jeffers. She married Jeffers but she was Addie May Tuck then when she was teaching me.

EM: Where did Mrs. Jeffers go?

EC: She died.

EM: Huh?

EC: She died. She's dead.

EM: Did she sleep in?

EC: I think she stayed at Uncle Rufus which is Arita's dad.

EM: You related to Arita?

EC: Yeah my husband is. I'm not related to nobody right in here. All my people is in Person County and ??????. And Johnson Creek. ...Addie May Jeffers was my second grade teacher and Julia Clayborne was my third grade teacher and William Hunt. Now Claire Thomas was my fifth grade teacher. Claire Thomas. ???????? Now she was my fifth grade teacher. Now, me and her had this argument. I'm eighty years old and she's ninety-two. And she ain't never been able to teach me...she wouldn't have been able to teach me in no fifth grade.

EM: She said she taught you in school?

EC: She ain't no said, she know she taught me.

EM: And she said she what?

EC: I said I'm eighty. She's just ninety-two. That's twelve years.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: Well how could she teach me fifth grade and ????????

EM: Maybe she got her days mixed up. Or years.

EC: Or she don't like telling her age and she just said ninety-two.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: But she couldn't have finished school just twelve years older than me and come back and taught me in fifth grade.

EM: Who was the midwife in this area?

EC: [name]

EM: Wait a minute, what's her name?

EC: Anne Royster.

EM: How do you spell it? Anne?

EC: Anne Royster. Clark-Royster, but they called her Anne Clark.

EM: Anne Clark.

EC: Yeah but her husband was named Clark.

EM: Ok what was her maiden name?

EC: Royster.

EM: Ok.

EC: Anne Clark-Royster.

EM: Anne Royster-Clark.

EC: No, her was named Clark-Royster.

EM: Ok.

EC: And they called her Anne Clark. The midwife.

EM: Ok, Clark Anne, or Clark Rain, or Anne Roy—

EC: Anne Royster.

EM: Ok now who else?

EC: I don't know if—

EM: Just one?

EC: That's all I ever known about. I just can remember her.

EM: What about did she help white people?

EC: I don't know.

EM: You don't?

EC: Uh-uh.

EM: Well has this community always been black or was it a white community?

EC: Always been black. From right there--- no, from about that ??????? about a mile around there.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: And the Tuck man we were talking about, but not in my time because I can't remember him or nothing about this Tuck man who run this steal room and all that.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: But in my time, there ain't nobody ever lived in no houses from the first—

[END OF SIDE A]

[START OF SIDE B]

ETHEL CARRINGTON CLARK

25 September 1995, cont.

JAMES EDDIE MCCOY: I don't know, and you don't know about—

ETHEL CARRINGTON CLARK: I do. I wasn't thinking about the second...the other school my children went to. All my children. It was right there where you—that road, that first road you turn, and I told you we lived around there at Poole's. ?????????? but the place was called Poole Place. It's still over there.

EM: Is Poole Place a plantation or a big farm?

EC: It's a farm.

EM: It's never been a plantation up here?

EC: Well they called it a plantation because he had a lot of land.

EM: Did you hear people talking he had slaves?

EC: Oh, no.

EM: What about old graveyards?

EC: There's old graveyards over there.

EM: Ok. All of them black, or white?

EC: All of them white.

EM: All the graveyards is white on the Poole Place? He don't have none? You don't know of any...

EC: No, I don't know—

EM: You don't know no black graveyards in this area, except down here where you say that y'all used to play down there.

EC: ????????

EM: Graveyard. You said it was an old graveyard down the road.

EC: There's an old graveyard over across them woods over there.

EM: In Granville County?

EC: That's black. Over there. I don't know if white folks are in it or not but it's black folks.

EM: Ok, I'm going over there, one day.

EC: Well, you have to—

EM: You gotta show me how to get in there.

EC: You'll have to see Arthur Junior.

EM: Oh, ok. He owns...Ok, that's no problem.

EC: His grandfather owned some.

EM: Ok.

EC: Was the owner.

EM: Now, they moved the school from Maria Burden to the church. Up near the church.

EC: Uh-huh.

EM: Up near the church.

EC: Look, I'm trying to tell you now.

EM: Get it straight.

EC: I forgot about the second school was where my kids went.

EM: Where was that at?

EC: Right down at that corner of that road where I told you to turn off and go to Poole's. That's on Ruthie Burden...was on Ruthie Burden's place.

EM: That—Poole—

EC: That's the school...That's the lane that ?????? put the school on.

EM: Ok, now listen—

EC: That's the second school.

EM: Oh, ok. Now that's what I wondered. Ok, now tell me where the first school at and the tell me—

EC: That ain't no second school. That's the third school.

EM: Ok.

EC: Because that's where my children left and went to Joe Toler from that school, right there. We had three schools. The first one my mother went to. I went to the same one.

EM: Which one—

EC: Then—

EM: Wait a minute, tell me...Your mother and you went to the same school.

EC: Mm-hmm.

EM: Ok.

EC: And then they built this two-room school.

EM: Y'all's had one room.

EC: And I went to that. My mother was gone.

EM: What was the name of the two-room?

EC: Blue Wing School.

EM: Where was it at?

EC: I told you up here above the hall.

EM: Ok.

EC: Then the next school they changed and went down there to where Ria talking about.

EM: Ok.

EC: That's where my kids went to school. But it was still Blue Wing School until they went to Toler.

EM: Ok. Now I got it now. You and your mother went to the first Blue Wing School.

EC: Mm-hmm.

EM: The second Blue Wing School—

EC: I went to.

EM: By the lodge hall, you went to.

EC: I went to.

EM: All right. Now, the next one—

EC: My children went to.

EM: Your children went to it. Ok now—

EC: And all the children that grew up around here went there but that was in my children's age. My oldest child is fifty-nine. And all the rest of them went to that school.

EM: Ok. Now I'm going to ask you a question. If I go out... This is the main thing that my researches—I put a lot into it. Emphasis. What came first, the church or the school? And if I interview in this community and someone tell me that when they moved that school in December, we went to school in the church. If they say that we moved that school in April and we went to school in the church, if they say we moved that school in September and we went to the church until it was ready for us to go...

EC: I'm going to tell you now, we never had no school in church.

EM: You never went to school in the church.

EC: No.

EM: Never.

EC: And nobody around here went to no school in no church. No Blue Wing Church.

EM: When I find a person that went to school in Blue Wing Church, what do you want me to do?

EC: Nothing, because you ain't going to find none.

EM: Ok.

EC: We ain't had no school in no church.

EM: You can't move a school three times without going to the church until it be repaired.

EC: No, we never been to no church for no school. I'm telling you now. If you can find anybody, you come back here and tell me. Because I've been here eighty years and it ain't never been no school in that church. Not one of them churches. And that church been repaired three times far as I know.

EM: Graveyard always been in the same place.

EC: Yeah.

EM: Never moved the graveyard. Always been down from the church.

EC: Mm-hmm.

EM: Ok.

EC: Far as I know. I never heard talk about no graveyard. I know there ain't no graveyard nowhere else.

EM: Ok.

EC: But it's another graveyard back over there but we don't know whose they are.

EM: They're blacks? Who land that on, black people?

EC: White folks, I reckon.

EM: It's on black land? Black people?

EC: Black folks was on it. I don't know who owns it now. But still, it was white folks ?????.

EM: It from white to black, from black to white.

EC: I don't know.

EM: What's the name of the black people that used to live on it?

EC: Royster.

EM: Where are they at now? Anymore—

EC: All them folks dead.

EM: Ain't no Roysters around here?

EC: Ain't no Roysters over there where I'm talking that graveyard.

EM: Ok. You don't remember nobody that lived in Virginia and went to school over to Blue Wing Church. —School.

EC: Yeah.

EM: Who?

EC: Thomas Downey and Ain and her sister. They lived in ??????.

EM: Virginia.

EC: Mm-hmm.

EM: And they walked to Blue Wing School?

EC: Yes.

EM: About how many miles?

EC: I didn't show you where they lived at but....I don't know.

EM: Thomas Downey.

EC: Yes.

EM: And who else?

EC: White boy named Thomas Downey and a girl named Ain Town and...

EM: Ain what?

EC: Town.

EM: T-O-W-N?

EC: Mm-hmm. Her mother was named Alyssa Town.

EM: Thomas and Town—

EC: Downey was—

EM: Downey.

EC: Uh-huh. And he could have been an artist. And that was when I was going to school.

EM: Ok.

EC: He could draw anything.

EM: Thomas Downey and Ain Town was two of them that came from ???????.

EC: There's more than that but just those two come to mind.

EM: And this was with you when you was going to the first school.

EC: When I was—mm-hmm.

EM: Ok.

EC: No, I wasn't going to the first school. I was going to the one here. Up here on the hill.

EM: What happened to Downey, Towns and them when Toler School opened up?

EC: Oh, they was gone. They finished school just like I had. My children was the ones that went to Toler. See this is another generation

EM: You didn't go no higher than seventh grade?

EC: Uh-huh. That's all...

EM: --that was out here.

EC: That was out here. And then I took all the courses but still I didn't—

EM: Did you have substitute teachers?

EC: Hmm?

EM: When the teacher got sick, who taught in their place?

EC: I don't know no substitute...

EM: Huh?

EC: ????????

EM: Did you and your mother go to school six months or nine months?

EC: Nine months.

EM: You sure?

EC: I don't know what my mother did.

EM: You sure you did—

EC: We went...I don't know, we went six months or seven months. Six or seven months.

EM: You couldn't have gone to school nine months.

EC: I don't think they had nine months at that time because they lengthened the school year. No, we never went to school no nine months.

EM: Ok.

EC: Because I can remember when they lengthened it to nine months.

EM: You remember when they went to nine months?

EC: Yeah, you ought to, too.

EM: I know. It was six months, the average school, and you ????? on eleventh grade.

EC: It was six months and you went to seventh grade.

EM: Ok. Now. Where did Mr. Cunningham's father come from? What Cunninghams did their family come out of?

EC: I don't know. My mother said she came from Virginia. They lived over here where I'm talking about the cemetery was. And Priscilla Cunningham, that was Arthur Cunningham's daddy's mother. And Peter Cunningham.

EM: Peter Cunningham?

EC: His mother, Priscilla Cunningham, lived right across from him...

EM: Tell me about Ms. Priscilla. Good community lady, good—

EC: Oh, yes.

EM: Helped everybody in the community.

EC: Well at that time everybody helped each other. Because when anybody got sick, the whole community would go there and see what they needed, give them food, stay with them. Take care of them. First one, then the other. I can remember when I was a little girl, anybody get sick in the community, they go sit up every night, some. ????? Like four or five tonight and four or five tomorrow night and it's like that. And we didn't have no doctors because it wasn't but one or two doctors. They get mighty sick to have a doctor. And they would sit up with them.

EM: And she was the lady that came here after your mother and father moved here. She wasn't born here.

EC: Who, Prissy?

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: No, she said she came from Virginia and now see I was a little girl when ?????? I used to go with her granddaughter over there and stay all night with them.

EM: Prissy.

EC: Priscilla. We called her Prissy, though.

EM: Prissy Priscilla?

EC: ??????

EM: Ok, she came from Virginia.

EC: So she said.

EM: Was she married when she—

EC: Oliver Cunningham.

EM: Where did the Cunninghams come from in Virginia? What part?

EC: I don't know.

EM: Ok. They ????? the land. They moved—

EC: I don't know nothing about that about how she got the land or nothing. But she had a little house on the land over there.

EM: All right now Mr. Cunningham lived right over here. The daddy.

EC: Let's see. Peter is Arthur's daddy. And—

EM: And Prissy was his wife.

EC: Look—

EM: Get it straight now.

EC: Peter was Prissy's son. And Prissy married Oliver Cunningham, which was not Peter's dad. Just where his name Cunningham.

EM: Who that?

EC: ??????? name of Oliver. See I don't want to dig into all that.

EM: Oliver Cunningham—

EC: Oliver Cunningham, Peter's mother was married to Oliver Cunningham. But Peter was not Oliver Cunningham's daddy. So I don't know who his daddy was (laughing), but he went in the name of Cunningham. That's where the Cunningham was from.

EM: Oliver and Prissy was husband and wife.

EC: Yeah.

EM: Ok. ...Oliver Cunningham. Was he light, a white man? Like Peter his son was?

EC: He was a mixed Indian but he was a black one.

EM: So the rest of them look white. Peter was a white man.

EC: No he wasn't.

EM: Huh?

EC: He was a mixed Indian.

EM: Peter was too?

EC: Peter was a—His mother was a mixed Indian.

EM: Prissy was a mixed Indian.

EC: She said. That's what she said.

EM: Oliver was a mixed Indian.

EC: Oliver was a black man with white eyes. I knew him.

EM: And he's supposed to have been—

EC: He was Cunningham. I told you that I don't know who really Peter's daddy was but he was ???? in the name of Peter Cunningham. That's why I said—

EM: Peter don't look like the rest of them.

EC: You don't know Peter because Peter been dead.

EM: I remember him!

EC: Peter Cunningham?

EM: Yeah. Right up here on ?????

EC: Uh-uh

EM: Oh, ok.

EC: That's Arthur Cunningham. That's supposed to be Peter's son but he's not. See that's how all that is tangled up there. Peter, I don't know who Peter's daddy was but Peter went in the name of Cunningham. That's where the Cunningham name comes. Because Prissy married a Cunningham. But Peter was not Oliver's son. Then Peter married Ella—

EM: You mixing me up now. Where did Ella come in at?

EC: That's Peter's wife that was Arthur's mother.

EM: Peter. Peter was whose mother?

EC: Peter wasn't nobody's mother (laughing)!

EM: Who daddy was Peter? Peter was Oscar Cunningham—

EC: Supposed to have been Oscar Cunningham's daddy but it wasn't!

EM: Peter was—

EC: No let's don't dig that up! Let me tell you. Peter married Ella Cunningham, which—

EM: He married who? Evelyn?

EC: Ella.

EM: Ella.

EC: ????? And Ella was a Boxley and I never—

EM: Was a what??

EC: B-O-X-L-E-Y.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: Ella was a Boxley, and her mother was a black woman and her daddy was a white man. So that's where the color come in. See that family's all mixed up with the white and the black.

EM: Where's the Boxleys come from? Virginia?

EC: I don't know nothing about them—

EM: Ella was a Boxley.

EC: Yeah, she was a Boxley.

EM: And she had who? I'm gonna draw me some boxes now.

EC: Who? Ella? Or the Boxleys?

EM: See, I'm gonna put Ella here.

EC: Ella Cunningham was married to Peter, which was Arthur's mother.

EM: Uh-huh. Peter was a Cunningham.

EC: I told you Peter was Prissy's boy.

EM: Now we got Prissy. Now we got Boxley.

EC: Her name is Priscilla.

EM: Priscilla, ok. Now let's come down the line. Who's next?

EC: Who next from Prissy?

EM: Uh-huh. Who did Boxley have? Ella Boxley. Which one was her children?

EC: That was Peter's wife.

EM: I know, but what was her children name? Peter and Boxley?

EC: No, Peter and Ella. Ella Boxley is Peter ????

EM: Ella Boxley—

EC: Married Peter.

EM: Yeah, this is her maiden name.

EC: Yeah.

EM: Mm-hmm, yeah Boxley's her maiden name. Ok now after them two let's come down the line.

EC: ???????

EM: Now who did Peter and Ella Cunningham—what was their children named?

EC: Arthur Cunningham and Tom, Lenora, Clarence, Hassy, Lloyd, Margie...all of them.

EM: Ok.

EC: Whole bunch of them.

EM: Now where did they go? They still live around here?

EC: They still—all dead. Everyone is dead but Clarence.

EM: Who's Clarence?

EC: That's the baby boy of the Cunninghams.

EM: Where do he live?

EC: He lives in ?????, New Hampshire.

EM: Ok now how—

EC: And he went to school with me. He's two years older than I am.

EM: Now how do we get to the Cunninghams that's here now? If I go around this circle.

EC: What you mean? How you get to know...

EM: Ok, I got Peter Cunningham and Ella Cunningham is at the top. Now you said they had five—six children.

EC: They had more than that.

EM: Ok, where did the Oscar Junior and the Mr. Cunningham that was the funeral home man?

EC: The Mr. Cunningham that owns the funeral home—his house right down here—he was Ella's son. He was the oldest son. Ella Cunningham's son.

EM: Ella Boxley Cunningham. He was her son.

EC: Arthur Cunningham Junior. I mean Arthur Cunningham Senior.

EM: Ok. Now Oscar Cunningham—

EC: Lonnie Cunningham his brother, Lloyd Cunningham his brother, Thomas Cunningham his brother, Clarence Cunningham his brother. They all dead except Clarence. And his sisters was Margie Cunningham, Lloyd Cunningham, Hassy Cunningham...

EM: Hassy?

EC: Yeah.

EM: Was that a girl or—

EC: Hassy's a girl.

EM: All right.

EC: And Sallie Ann Cunningham.

EM: Sallie Ann or Charlene?

EC: Sallie Ann.

EM: Spell that one?

EC: S-A-L-L-I-E A-N-N. Sallie Ann was her name.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: All of them was the Cunningham family. You oughta be talking to the Cunninghams for that!

EM: You were part of the family.

EC: And I know ?????

EM: Now what happened after—Ok, now which one did Oscar Junior come out of?

EC: Arthur.

EM: Ok the first one.

EC: Ella's—

EM: First husband's child.

EC: First son.

EM: Ok. And they came from Virginia. That's what they say?

EC: Prissy came from Virginia. All the rest of them from right here.

EM: Mrs. Boxley, I thought you said—

EC: Boxley lived right up there at my mother's house when my mother went to West Virginia.

EM: Who was Boxley's mother?

EC: I don't know. All of them came to the Roysters.

EM: All the Cunninghams was?

EC: I'm talking about the Boxley lady. Her name was Sally.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: So I've never seen—

EM: Ella Boxley was Sally Boxley—Sally was Ella Boxley's mother.

EC: Yeah.

EM: Ok.

EC: Now don't ask me nothing about who—Sally Boxley was a Royster in the beginning. So I don't know...

EM: Is it any Boxleys living around here?

EC: Oh, no.

EM: Sally Boxley. What was her married name?

EC: I don't know whether she was ever married or not. I don't think she was.

EM: Okay. And Sally Boxley was Ella Boxley—Ella was Sally Boxley's mother. Did Ella have anymore sisters?

EC: No, Ella was Sally Boxley's *daughter*.

EM: That's what I'm saying. Ella was Sally's—

EC: Now see, Ella had a daughter named Sallie Ann. She named her after my mother. The one they name Sallie Ann, and she's dead too. But she was the youngest.

EM: Sallie Ann what? Was she a Cunningham or a Boxley?

EC: She was a Cunningham. No Boxleys but Ella's mother, named Sally Boxley. That's all I know ?????? She was a Royster. ????

EM: Now tell me, how did the children go to Mary Potter? You had some children—I was told that it was a bus up here that carried kids from here to Mary Potter. Do you remember children being bused from here to Mary Potter? They bought a bus. Tell me about that.

EC: Number one was the first bus and...

EM: You have to talk louder. Did you help pay for it or how did it go?

EC: You paid three dollars a piece down there where...what do you call the senior citizen house, what you call that? That building right there.

EM: Oh, the community center.

EC: Community center. We used to meet down there.

EM: How did you—tell me—

EC: ????? down there it was Mr. Reggie and a bunch of them and they asked us did we have any donations we could pay. We paid three dollars a piece, we paid three dollar for—everything was three dollars. We paid three dollars for the children to go into the community center. My children. When they opened that because children would come to that. We paid three dollars for a family.

EM: What did you do with—

EC: But the bus now...

EM: Yeah, get the bus straight first.

EC: We had a meeting down there in that school right there, that corner, where my children was going to school.

EM: This is Blue Wing School.

EC: Before they ever went to Tolers.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: And they wanted to get this bus. And all around town the Number One bus was the first bus that they had. They had that Number One. Then Number Two went to Johnson's Creek. We paid three dollars a piece down there for that bus.

EM: How often did you have to pay your three dollars?

EC: ?????? paid our three dollars.

EM: How many people?

EC: I don't know how many.

EM: So that blacks got together and bought the bus for their children to go back and forth to school up here.

EC: That's what they said.

EM: Who was the driver?

EC: Now the age—Paul—we had so many drivers. John's my brother in law, Otis Clark, John Burden, Jalen Watts...

EM: Was who? What Clark?

EC: Otis Clark.

EM: Mm-hmm. Otis Clark and who else?

EC: John Burden...Jalen Watts...

EM: Burden was Mrs. Burden's brother? Or...

EC: Brother.

EM: Ok.

EC: And he was the oldest one living.

EM: And Otis who? Watts?

EC: Jalen. ?????????? whatever they called him.

EM: Ok. Was this the first bus that blacks bought in the county, or you just don't know?

EC: I don't know about the first bus in the county but it's the first bus that came to ???????.

EM: And the blacks bought it.

EC: The blacks donated. They didn't buy it. They donated three dollars a family.

EM: Ok.

EC: And those that passed the seventh grade went to Toler School. Then from Toler School it went to ????.

EM: Mm-hmm. Now, all your ???-- I know you was born in New Jersey. Everything you remember was right here.

EC: Yeah.

EM: In this community. So you grew up with all these kids. Now what about West Virginia? Did your brothers or anybody go back? No relatives that was left up there or nothing?

EC: No, no.

EM: What was your father doing in West Virginia?

EC: Working in some kind of factory.

EM: How did he find out—

EC: I don't know.

EM: Ok. He came back.

EC: See that was...Now look. I was born in nineteen fifteen. And when he went to West Virginia, it was in the eighteenth century. See I can't remember nothing about the eighteenth century. My grandfather bought this land eighteen ninety-eight. And my daddy bought that land up there, my mother and father, in nineteen oh two.

EM: How many acres did your granddaddy buy in nineteen—

EC: Each of them bought a acre.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: That's the way there were selling, acre a piece.

EM: Uh-huh. From the whites.

EC: Yeah.

EM: Now. Your mother was a housewife. That's what she was.

EC: Mm-hmm.

EM: Ok. You kids, your brothers then worked on the farm.

EC: ?????

EM: Your kids worked on the farm with y'all.

EC: ?????

EM: Y'all always had food.

EC: Yeah.

EM: Always had basic things that other people had.

EC: Right.

EM: Was your father, could he build barns and stuff like that? Was he a carpenter?

EC: I don't know.

EM: Was he a mechanic?

EC: I don't know.

EM: He died before you was old enough to know who he was.

EC: I don't know what he done.

EM: Ok what did your mother say he did?

EC: I never asked her.

EM: Why?

EC: I just didn't ask her.

EM: Did you remember his uncles? Were they carpenters or anything?

EC: I don't know. See I don't know my uncles.

EM: After your father died, you said you was three years old.

EC: Two and a half years old.

EM: Did your mother get married again?

EC: Yes.

EM: Who did she marry the next time?

EC: Samuel Wilkinson. He was from Virginia.

EM: How many children did she have with Samuel Wilkinson?

EC: Three.

EM: Name them.

EC: Oscar ???? Wilkinson, Leah ???? Wilkinson...

EM: O-W-N?

EC: Oran, like a orange.

EM: Oh. Two boys and one girl?

EC: Mm-hmm.

EM: Were they older than you? No, they was younger than you.

EC: (Laughing) They had to be younger than me if she got married a second time!

EM: Did your stepfather, where did y'all live when—

EC: I didn't live with him.

EM: Who did you live with?

EC: I always lived right here with my grandmother.

EM: You lived with your grandmother.

EC: Mm-hmm.

EM: Tell me about your grandmother.

EC: Ellen Beard Smith.

EM: She was what?

EC: Married a second time after my grandfather died. She married Lewis Smith.

EM: He from Virginia.

EC: No. He was from North Carolina but don't ask me where at because I don't know.

EM: Lewis Smith. How many children did she have for him?

EC: None. She only had one child and that was my mother.

EM: So you stayed with Mrs.—

EC: Let me tell you. When my mother came home from New Jersey after my father died, she was pregnant. Like three months of having that boy I showed you in the picture, Leslie. Her husband's right up there and my grandma's right here. So I stayed down here with my grandma. She was taking care of me because my mother was down with the baby. So I stayed from house to house until she married the second time and when she left with her husband I didn't go. So therefore I stayed with my grandma all the time.

EM: Where did she go with her husband to?

EC: Virginia.

EM: What part?

EC: Well, I don't know what part. ?????? Virginia.

EM: Ok. Tell me a story about them. Any of them. In this area. What you heard... You the first person I'm asking because they lived up here. Tell me about the Indians when you was a kid that lived here.

EC: I don't know no story about them.

EM: You never seen—

EC: These people I'm talking about now, when they told me my grandmama said that she came from East Carolina.

EM: East Carolina?

EC: That's what she said. My grandmother came from East Carolina. And she was a mixed Indian. But I don't know what the name of the Indian was. And she said ??????????????????.

EM: Say what?

EC: She said well salt and ????? mix. That's what she said.

EM: What was your grandmother's name?

EC: Ellen Beard Smith.

EM: Ok. She came from East Carolina.

EC: That's what she said. And she was Ellen Young before she married and my great-great-granddaddy was named Randall Young and my grandmother was named Eveline.

EM: Did they ever show you the pictures?

EC: No.

EM: They ain't never showed you no pictures?

EC: They ain't take no pictures back there then back in that time, hardly.

EM: Where did the Youngs come from in your family?

EC: I told you they came from East Carolina. See my grandma, that's why she said she came from there because her parents came from there.

EM: Is she called East Carolina, does that mean down near Greenwood or down in that area?

EC: I wonder.

EM: Uh-huh. That was down east. That's where East Carolina is.

EC: Yeah.

EM: I know you weren't living, but did they ever say how they migrated from way down there?

EC: No.

EM: Now where did the Indians stayed on this road? I've seen—they told me Indians live up here.

EC: Not in my time ??????????. Mixed Indian.

EM: They lived on this road.

EC: No, because Prissy and them lived on this road. Lived ??????????--

EM: Indians lived up here when you was a kid.

EC: Uh-uh.

EM: Between here and ??????

EC: Not a Indian one. Everybody on this road was black.

EM: What do they call this area?

EC: Richmond Road.

EM: I'm talking about what's the name of this area? Did they give it a name?

EC: Blue Wing community and Richmond Road. I don't know where Richmond Road came from. Somebody came in here and called it Richmond Road because it's so many people on it ??????

EM: What do they mean by so many people on it?

EC: Just like I told you. From right around that curve across the Person County line, we had ?????? on both sides of the road. Was a house, black folks was in it.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: Now any other of the houses, some of them rotted down and I know where the houses was when I was growing up. But you wouldn't know because there isn't a sign that would tell you. And somebody lived in every house and it was just like a town. Because you could walk from one house to the other and you would hit. Now I could be over here in this yard and I could hear them talking all the way down or either up here somebody was talking and whispering and singing all the time. And it done changed so much now because all is dead, part of the houses ???????? don't even know where it is. There was a house sitting right there from, see them trees there in my line? Right in there was a great big old house when I was a little girl but the people was gone. One right across the road there. Right there where they pulling in was another house. Another house there where this house right straight across from me.

EM: I want to ask you a question. What do you think about me going around trying to get the history of this county and try to put it together where people will know something about blacks and what they did and we got blacks in this county that is a history. We don't have to go and get other people. Athletes has a back history or Martin Luther King, and don't we have some black history here? What do think about me doing this research?

EC: Well, like an athlete doesn't have one, we don't have—I don't know other than just my name...Back then nobody did anything except undertakers and them. Mr. Burden was an undertaker in my time.

EM: Luther Burden.

EC: That's [name]'s dad.

EM: Where was that at?

EC: It first started in ??????? with [name] Daniel. ??????? was a white man. And then he bought it out and Arthur Cunningham was joining in with him and that was the first black undertaker we had.

EM: You were going to whites to bury you.

EC: I reckon it was. I don't remember nothing about...

EM: So what do you think about the history—

EC: ????????????????

EM: What do you think about the research? You're part of it. I'm interviewing you. What do you think about this?

EC: About what?

EM: The interview and the history I'm trying to get for this county and put it together. Where your great-grandchildren or nieces or somebody will...

EC: Read about.

EM: Uh-huh.

EC: I think it's all right.

EM: You think it's a good idea?

EC: Mm-hmm. Yeah but it will take you the time to get all fixed up there.

EM: Next question. Let's talk about children. Why they don't do what people's parents say no more. Why do they... You know everything you find it's children killing, children got a gun, children won't do this. What happened to kids?

EC: Well, the white man messed that up.

EM: He did?

EC: Well, Negroes saw that they were doing ????? something when they got integration. And after he got integration they changed all the rules. They don't want no black person to cook for no white child. And so they stopped them from cooking. And then they had the law in about abusing—if you whip a child, you're abusing him. I don't care if you smack him and he call and say you done hit him. So that's why our children in the predicament that they're in. I remember when white man said he was going to whip his. He didn't care what they said. I listened at him. He said, "I'm gonna whip 'em." ????? They ain't going to stop them from whipping as long as they stay in the house. I said, "I agree with you. I'm the same way." I said, "If I got to feed a child and clothe them, take care, attend to his needs, then he's going to mind me and I'm going to whip him when I get ready." And he ain't gonna call no ????? for one thing.

EM: I agree. Why—you know, in church, a lady and I, one of the members, we corrected a kid yesterday, and you the parent didn't like it?

EC: Mm-hmm. Well now here's what's wrong with the parents. This generation, this is another generation. I done experienced two generations of children. I said now I taught Sunday school, third class in Sunday school, for forty years.

EM: Forty years?!

EC: I taught my children. My oldest child is sixty-nine years old. The next one's fifty-seven. The next one is fifty-three. The next one is fifty, and the next one is forty-eight. I've taught the third class in Sunday school for that many years, from when they was children until the year before last—I resigned from doing anything with them kids because I can't stand them now. Now this is the third class in Sunday school and I could tell all the difference in every generation. And I could handle kids in my children's generation. The first three. The next two had changed, my two last children. They had changed their ideas and everything and they knew a little more how to explain to you about this is the way it's supposed to be done. So I went on with them, the children that's thirty, twenty-four in this community now, I taught them. And they're altogether different from the older generation. Now they didn't have no television and no—

EM: Telephone?

EC: No telephones.

EM: No cars.

EC: Well the parents had the car because they had to commute and had a car all the time. When I was raising my children I had a car. Me and my husband had a car. We had a car when my first child was born and we've had a car ever since. But the children parents of the second—just like I said my children's children—they was in a different era and things had changed and they had all these...My children had—what do you call them—phonographs. You played records?

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: That's what they had. Well then after their children come along, they had television and they had record players. And then they all changed now and they got all the other kind of things...what do you call them?

EM: Cassettes.

EC: Yeah, all that stuff.

EM: Video.

EC: Yeah. All that. Now the last children that I'm teaching, when I'm trying to teach them about the Sunday school lesson, they trying to tell me what's on the TV. "Well so and so said, well so and so--"

EM: My grandbaby do the same thing at five.

EC: And all this stuff like this.

EM: Mm-hmm.

EC: So ????? now. This generation is saying what's right is wrong, what's wrong is right. And they can't change. What's wrong has got to be wrong. And what's right has to be right.

EM: We talking about a whole generation. Black and white, blue, black, brown, pink. This whole generation—

EC: Yeah this whole thing!

EM: People said we done lost it.

EC: Yeah!

EM: We have.

EC: Done lost it.

EM: And that's why they building prisons for them.

EC: Uh-huh. But who can train our young men?

EM: While all of them in prison?

EC: While they're in prison and the young white men's out and they're doing the same thing? And they can see that they doing it but it ain't never been ??????. And the little money that they get from this doping mess ain't doing them a bit of good. And the white man when he's fooling with the dope and he's getting the money. And he's the one that never goes to prison. And they can't see that?

EM: You know what the lady told me yesterday and the same about you, I was involved in what you call chastising a kid. She said she wouldn't have said anything about it. It got her upset and I could tell because she was sitting in front of me. And when we came out the mother got at us and said, you know, you shouldn't have, the little girl's a usher. She say that you people now cannot say much in church to children because they know you live by yourself, and bad as they is now, she said they might burn you up in the house or kill you in it.

EC: Well they might!

EM: And she said that's what's happening to the church. When you're reading you can't correct them in the church now because you're afraid what they'll do.

EC: Mm-hmm.

EM: And my mother said, well everybody scared of him. Ain't no more than ten years old.

EC: Mmm. Well they will!

EM: And she's talking about the church.

EC: They will! Because they burned the church up and steal from the churches and break in the church. Our church was broke in one time. We had a break-in when we had a trip to Williamsburg, Virginia. All these cars that parked out there...Had to be somebody in the community that knew all about we were going. All the cars parked out there, a stranger would not come up there and break in no church while we were gone. It had to be somebody knew something about it. And they broke in the church and stole the stuff out the church. And so, yeah you scared. You can't do too much talking and telling. Now I got some boys like twenty-three, twenty-five, and thirty-one—they

running around here now. They running around and every time they see me... like at church or anywhere they be at, I used to tell them to sit, listen and hear. I asked them, I said, "What you get from the sitting?" Listening and hearing is different from listening and hearing. Well they told me a whole ??????????????. I said, "Well, what are you hearing?" You can hear a noise ?????? and you didn't see it. You don't know what it is. And I said, "I want you to sit and listen and hear and could you just think in between there what I'm saying." So the walked up to me now and tell me, "Mrs. Clark, Ethel, ?????? I'm sitting!" And I said, "You ain't sitting and listening and hearing." They never forgot it though. They tell me about they sitting. "*Sit, listen and hear. Sit, listen and hear.*" I said, "Well you ain't heard nothing I've said."

**[END OF SIDE B]**