

Mrs. Jettie Helton

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Interviewed by: Dr. Evelyn Thompson

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(Jettie speaks)

You got the smallest foot

<non-transcribed mutter>

(Winnie speaks)

Hold on just a minute here

(Evelyn speaks)

I'd look-I'd look sad if I had some big feet wouldn't I <laughs>, on this little body

(Winnie speaks)

I think it's running, you can just start when you feel like it, we'll put the cover sheet <very faint> (non-transcribed statement)

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok Jettie, we're so glad you're consenting to ah- let us interview you about your history, and your family, and your past. And ah-we just want to ask- you to just tell us your story. This project is the effort to collect black history in Surry County and begin to write out history. And you play a prominent role in that. So I want- we want you to go back and to be far as you can remember-

(Jettie speaks)

Well as far uh-as I can remember, is my grandmother came over here from Africa when she was 8 years old. And she was a slave for 3 different people that I knew about. One was the Smiths, one was the Coxes, and the Forrest's was the last one she ended up with. Ah-and she had uh-2 girls, and 4 boys, and she lived until nineteen and forty,

(Evelyn speaks)

Umph

(Jettie speaks)

And ah-she had it real hard. She would tell us about her master, that what they called him then, they had a little shack for them to live on-in.

(Evelyn speaks)

Where was that?

(Jettie speaks)

That was down in the country in Stokes County

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok

(Jettie speaks)

And ah- they didn't have nothing to eat, they didn't have no stove or nothing like that. And the only bread that they had was ah- ashe cakes, you know they ah- made up they bread, and put it in the ashes, and that's the way they cooked they bread. And I remember her telling one time, that she ah-I don't know who these masters was at this time, that-she had worked in the kitchen some to, and ah- was working in the kitchen, and ah-they had cooked some cornbread, and ah-she had got her a piece of it, and they caught her with this bread in her mouth asked her what did she have in her mouth, and she said nothing, and they just beat her until she spit that bread out

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, and she was a young girl?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

How did she uh-were the Smiths-? All of-all the masters that she had in Stokes County?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-a-now I don't know, I believe she had some in Surry, but I'm not sure

(Evelyn speaks)

You don't know how she got to Surry?

(Jettie speaks)

No, In fact sh-she was in St-she lived in Stokes County, and sh-it had to be in Stokes County because when they slaves got free, they gave he a little piece of land it was in Stokes County

(Winnie speaks)

Do you know where she's buried?

(Jettie speaks)

Oh yeah, she's buried at Oaks Grove Cemetery

(Winnie speaks)

Is that in Stokes?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

Uh-huh, ok

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, alright! Well ah-what about your uh-who did she marry? And ah-

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, she never was married

(Evelyn speaks)

Alright, she wasn't married

(Jettie speaks)

And, all of the children she had, except one was by her slave master

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, alright

(Winnie speaks)

The Forrest slave master?

(Jettie speaks)

I don't know what, whether it was Forrest or Cox what, anyway she had ah-first one was a girl, her name was Ida Dearmin, she married a Dearmin, and the next one was a son, he was (non-transcribed first name) Forrest, he lived in Bluefield West Virginia

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Ah- and Buddy lived in West Virginia, he got killed, well ah-(non-transcribed name) got killed too on the railroad tracks

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-then there was ah-Sandy, I never did see Sandy, because he left, didn't nobody knew where he went

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And then -then there was my father, Ed Forrest. He ah-lived in Stokes County, he had twelve children, had ah-had twelve children by his first wife, and ah-four by the last wife

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, did he live in Stokes County?

(Jettie speaks, overlapping Evelyn's previous dialogue)

Yeah, he lived in Stokes County too

(Evelyn speaks)

His last-his last wife, in a--in-his last marriage

(Jettie speaks)

Well he lived there for a while, and then they moved to Mount Airy, ah-I guess it would be about forty, when they moved to Mount Airy

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And they lived up here on-ah, uh- Jones School Road till you know he died, they bought a house up there

(Evelyn speaks)

Do you know the children's names?

(Jettie speaks)

Well yeah

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok

(Jettie speaks)

All the uh-

(Evelyn speaks)

Forrest-

(Jettie speaks)

My children? I mean, my brothers and sisters?

(Evelyn speaks)

The Forrest family, yes

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, yeah, well, er-uh- Joe Forrest was the oldest one, and ah- then there was Oliver Forrest, there was Roxy, there was Sylvester, there was Robert, and ah- then there was Grover, then there was me; you want their names?

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah! Yes!

(Jettie speaks)

Oh! I'm sorry

(Evelyn speaks)

Well you can them all after yours

(Jettie speaks)

Well, ah-ok, and ah- then there was some twins that were born, they were born dead and they wasn't given a name. Then there was me, and then ah- that's within three years, my mother had two more twins, and then she died, Lucy and Abby. They were two days old when my mother died.

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And then my father married ah-my mother's sister

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And their oldest one was Eva, Pergy, Thomas, eh-and Junior

(Evelyn speaks)

Hmmm

(Winnie speaks)

What was your mother's name?

(Jettie speaks)

Abby

(Winnie speaks)

Abby

(Jettie speaks)

Gail-Gail

(Winnie speaks)

Abigail

(Jettie speaks)

Abigail, mm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, and what was her last name-?

(Evelyn speaks overlapping Winnie's last question)

What was her maiden name?

(Jettie speaks)

Her-her she was a France, mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

Was she from?

(Jettie speaks)

She was from Stokes County

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

<*Sucks Teeth*> Tell us about the work, and how your father did here, and how he acquired his land, or if he owned his home in your time

(Jettie speaks)

Well in-in ah Stokes County, while he was in Stokes County he farmed, done it on shift; he didn't own no-no land, he was just a renter

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And uh-and he would uh- cut wood for people, you know, to help make a living, and-and uh-just anything outside that he could do, you know, he would work like that

(Evelyn speaks)

Right

(Jettie speaks)

And then after he came to ah-then he had a farm, I mean he farmed ma-raised tobacco, corn, peas, potatoes

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Hogs, and cows, just raised everything that we ate

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah,mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And then after he moved to Mount Airy, and I'd say in about forty, mighta been before then, maybe it was thirty-nine. And, ah-<*clears throat*> and he ah-farmed some over at ah-over at the quarry. Then he

ah-he moved up, bought this house up here, well before he bought this house, he lived down here in uncle Richard's house, you remember that old house sitting

(Evelyn overlaps)

Yeah, yes

(Jettie speaks)

Well, that's where, ah- he first moved to, then he bought this house on sch- Jones School Road, but before he bought this house, he worked on a W-P-A-Q or something other like that

(Evelyn speaks)

W-P-A?

(Jettie speaks)

W-P-A, uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And ah-at that time ah-they-I think they made about ten cent an hour, something or other like that, and ah-they had to take they money up in food, they couldn't buy you know other things

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, ok. So he bought his land, you know who he bought it from, <very faint> who-?

(Jettie speaks)

Ida Gentry

(Evelyn speaks)

Ida Gentry, and he built this house? Had he-

(Jettie speaks)

No, it was already there

(Evelyn speaks)

So he bought Ida Gentry's-?

(Jettie speaks)

House

(Evelyn speaks)

House-?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, ok

(Winnie speaks faintly)

(Non-transcribed statement)

(Evelyn speaks)

At the Richard's house was that-was that was down by the home place, um-?

(Jettie speaks)

No, it was right back here

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh

(Jettie speaks)

In-and that's uh-it was two stories

(Evelyn speaks)

That was on that curb?

(Jettie speaks)

No, it was behind this house

(Evelyn speaks)

Yes! In a curb like-?

(Jettie speaks)

No

(Evelyn speaks)

Its, you know there's a curb right there as you go around your house

(Jettie speaks)

No, it was next door

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh, ok, alright that's-

(Jettie speaks)

It was next door

(Evelyn speaks)

Was in that curb, mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And it was a two story house, and ah-they lived w-well me and Alton lived there when we first got married-

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Then ah-the-then we lived in Mrs. Mary and Mr. Richard's house there on Nelson Hill, and we were paying 5 dollars a-a month for rent, and we thought that was terrible

(Evelyn laughs)

(Jettie speaks)

So we had worked and he-and went, he and I together had saved up twenty-seven dollars, and we decided we was gone by us some land, and build us a house, and we did

(Winnie speaks)

What year was that?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-forty-one, cause it was the year that, well maybe it was forty-forty-two I'd say.

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Because ah-we bought the land, we paid 5 dollars a month on the land, and ah-use to be a lumber yard here called Dixies or something or other here, Johnsons, well anyway he got the land, and ah-he paid 5 dollars a month on the lumber, and he built two rooms, finished two rooms to where we could just move in

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Then later he finished the other

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah

(Jettie speaks)

And then after-then he was called in service. And ah-and while he was in service, I was drawing a hun-a hundred dollars a month for myself and two children. And I was working making 8 dollars a week, that was a whole lot of money

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

So I saved his hundred dollars, and I uh-let the 8 dollars a week that I was working take care of me and the kids, and it did, and paid my babysitter

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm

(Jettie speaks)

So, I saved that money and when he came home, we built ah- the-this other house, you know from grandpa, you know we got a lot from grandpa?

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Paid a hundred dollars for the lot, and ah-we built that house

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, grandpa Dyson?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh, and ah- when we moved from down there, we moved from up here

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And this is where he-uh- my husband's mother and father is where he-this is where he was raised-ah, not in this house, but on this lot

(Evelyn speaks)

Ah

(Jettie speaks)

And ah-my mantle in my den is got the bricks that came out of ah-their old house

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm, ah, so ah-when you all moved up here to build the house here, you tore the old house down, or you built around it? Did-it was-

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, we tore the old-old house down

(Evelyn speaks)

And-and then-then you built your house here?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, alright. Alright can you eh-take us back a little ways to your childhood, ah-?

(Jettie speaks)

Well, I had a well-

(Evelyn speaks)

How old were you when you moved to Sur-to Surry County? Maybe I can ask that question

(Jettie speaks)

I was seven-ah-fourteen years old

(Evelyn speaks)

Fourteen years old?

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, I came to Mount Airy working for the Sinners

(Evelyn speaks)

For the who?

(Jettie speaks)

Sinners

(Evelyn speaks)

Alright

(Jettie speaks)

That was the first job I had in Mount Airy

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh

(Jettie speaks)

I babysit

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok

(Winnie speaks)

Which Sinner was that?

(Jettie speaks)

Ah-(non-transcribed first name) and William Sinner

(Winnie speaks)

William, mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And I was making 2 dollars and half, babysitting at night

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And ah-so

(Evelyn speaks)

G-give us a history of your work in Mount Airy

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, well, I've had some nice people I worked for, and then I've had some was just-just awful

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

One lady that I worked for ah-

(Evelyn speaks)

Don't call any names

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-uh, one lady that I worked for, I wouldn't work for her no more, because shes dead now, but the nicest person that I've ever worked for and I been with this person for fifty-four years, that I'm still with at night

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh!

(Winnie speaks very faintly)

Non-transcribed statement

(Evelyn speaks)

You can tell who that is

(Jettie speaks)

Mrs. (non-transcribed family name)

(Winnie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks faintly)

Non-transcribed statement

(Jettie speaks)

But ah-in April, I mean in March, March the ah-the 8th, the twins were born ah- on the 6th and they were two days old when my mother died, and I was going to be 3 years old in May, so I-

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh,

(Jettie speaks)

Ah-

(Evelyn speaks)

So that was in Stokes County?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh, yeah, and I had a hard life, cause nobody knows what it's like to-not to have a real mother

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Cause aint nobody gone treat you like the mother, well-

(Winnie speaks)

So you were raised by your aunt?

(Jettie speaks)

Au-uh-huh

(Winnie speaks)

Your-

(Jettie speaks)

My stepmother

(Winnie speaks)

Yeah, mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Well how long were you without a ah-stepmother-you were three years old, how long was it before your father-?

(Jettie speaks)

You know I don't even remember when they got married

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh

(Jettie speaks)

But I don't think it was too long

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And ah-well my life wasn't too well, because do you got that on? *<laughter>*

(Evelyn speaks)

Tell us about ah- school, uh-I know you started somewhere in um- Stokes County, but bring it up to-to ah-Surry County

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, well ah- we lived in ah-Stokes County, but we went to school in Surry County

(Evelyn speaks)

<Very faintly> mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And ah-we were three miles from school, and during the Winter we didn't get to attend school too much, because we had to walk

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And ah- the white kids on the buses would call us names, and spit on us. And ah-started out in a lil-one room school

(Evelyn speaks)

Where was it located?

(Jettie speaks)

Westfield

(Evelyn speaks)

Westfield school

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And it got burned down, then they built a two room school, but the ah-ah-my sister and my brother, as old as I am, use to carry me with them to school, when I was just real young, because it wasn't nobody to stay with me. So I can remember, ah-some man came by and was gone put some bullets in the stove, and blow up the school, and I was scared to death

(Evelyn speaks)

<Very faint> (non-transcribed statement) back then

(Jettie speaks)

And I'll tell you who the teacher was

(Evelyn speaks)

Who?

(Jettie speaks)

Emma Jean Jessup

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, uh-huh, wild story, alright

(Winnie speaks)

And how? What happened? What-?

(Jettie speaks)

I think he was just-he was mad with the-ah-with the school teacher, but it didn't happen

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

But he had us all scared to death

(Evelyn speaks)

Yes

(Jettie speaks)

And ao ah-I went to school, and ah-we had ah-Robert Ceaser was the teacher there, at one time. Sally Kellum, Janie Thompson, and ah-I believe that's all I can remember about the teachers

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, so that was elementary school-?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

At that time

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

Was that the same school that Nathaniel tells about?

(Jettie speaks)

No

(Winnie speaks)

Said the teacher boarded there at his-

(Jettie speaks)

No, this is d-different.

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

This is in Chestnut Ridges what Nathaniel was telling you about

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

This was in Westfield

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, and the <very faint> (non-transcribed statement), ok. Uh-how did you get to know the relatives at this end then? Were you an adult when you got to know ah- my sister-

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

And the people in (non-transcribed statement). (Non-transcribed statement), it wasn't in school

(Jettie speaks)

Huh-uh

(Winnie speaks)

And your sister's name was-?

(Evelyn speaks)

Joyce

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah we were real good friends

(Evelyn overlaps Jettie's last dialogue)

Joyce, uh-huh, Joyce Scales

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, they were real good friends but-

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, uh-huh, and Alma Ceaser

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And I also had some friends at Westfield

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah

(Jettie speaks)

Ah-some good friends

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, alright, you kept a- your, ah- contacts there

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Alright, ah-go back and tell us ah-now with your husband, how-tell us about him. And his- your life with him, your family, and how you met him, and what social life was like-

(Jettie speaks overlapping Evelyn's last dialogue)

Well there ah-

(Evelyn speaks)

And what did you guys do?

(Jettie speaks)

It was used to be a little café down ah-below where Houser's, ah- you know place was. Remember where Houser's place-

(Evelyn speaks)

Yes

(Jettie speaks)

And we were there one night, uh- at that little café, he was there, that's when I met him

(Winnie speaks)

What is his name?

(Jettie speaks)

Ah-James Helton Alton Senior, and ah-well we had a good life, we had our ups and downs but ah-we cost a whole lot, ah-you know

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

This house was one thing; in fact we built three houses counting this one. And ah-so we-we got along just fine

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, and you had how many children?

(Jettie speaks)

Three

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, tell us about Ja-what were their names, give us the names of your children

(Jettie speaks)

Ah-Annette, James, and Mary

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, alright. What-? Tell us the background, with y-with-you told us about your work life-

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

And what you did with-to help out with the family-

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

What about your husband?

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, well he did-ah-he was a chauffeur for the Matt Smiths for years and years

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And ah-then he got a job of night watchmen he (non-transcribed pronoun) his ah-lawn-ah lumberyard

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And he worked there until he was called in service, and after he came home from service, he still went back there and worked awhile u-until he got another job. He got a j-job, ah-setting monuments for the Simmons'. He worked there for a while and ah- it got too much for him, then he went to Oakdale Cemetery.

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

And,he worked at Oakdale Cemetery, I guess over twenty some years, and that was the last job.

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, tell us what you know about his military license, well what war was it, and-?

(Jettie speaks)

World War II

(Evelyn speaks)

World War II, and did he serve overseas?

(Jettie speaks)

No

(Evelyn speaks)

He didn't get-

(Jettie speaks overlapping Evelyn's dialogue)

Uh-uh, uh-uh

(Evelyn speaks)

Go overseas, ah-and how long was he in the military?

(Jettie speaks)

Ah-Twenty-two months

(Evelyn speaks)

Was it, was that-was the ah- Army?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

He served in the Army

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok, alright! Ah-

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-it was, wh-what is the other-other than the Army

(Evelyn speaks)

Navy, ah- Marines, eh- Air Force

(Jettie speaks)

He was in the Air Force

(Evelyn speaks)

He was in the Air Force

(Jettie speaks)

Now James went overseas, my son went overseas

(Evelyn speaks)

Ah-ok

(Jettie speaks)

He went to Vietnam

(Evelyn speaks)

Alright

(Winnie speaks)

Where did your husband train in the Air Force?

(Jettie speaks)

Ah-Mississippi

(Winnie speaks)

Did he?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, and he went from there to Texas

(Winnie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Jettie speaks)

And he sp- spent most of his time in Texas

(Winnie speaks)

And what was the rea-did the war end before he had to go-?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-no, uh-you know if you had three children you could get out

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

So we got married *<laughter>*, a-and he got out

(Evelyn speaks in unison with Jettie when she states <“get out”>)

Get out *<unison with Jettie’s get out statement>*

(Jettie speaks)

So, uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

True, alright so tell us-tell us about James and his experience

(Jettie speaks)

Oh-!

(Evelyn speaks)

When he was in the military

(Jettie speaks)

My husband

(Evelyn speaks)

No, your son

(Jettie speaks)

He wasn’t in the mili-military, he was just in the Army

(Evelyn speaks)

Th-ok, in the Army, wh-wh-where?

(Jettie speaks)

He went to ah- Vietnam

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok

(Jettie speaks)

It was terrible, and ah-he was a good boy before he went in the service, but when he came out he was a different person

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

But ah-he's got his life back together, and I thank God for that

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, what years did he serve do you remember?

(Jettie speaks)

Ah-Sixty-four, I believe it was

(Evelyn speaks)

<Very faint> sixty-(non-transcribed statement)

(Jettie speaks)

Anyway, I think it had been twenty years between him and his daddy the service

(Evelyn speaks)

Service time

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh, I just can't think like I used to

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh, you're doing great. Ah-one other little point we missed way back there when you talked about your grandmother-

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

And you moved here in Stokes County, that we'd like to cover, wh-what was race relations like? Did we- did you ever have any experiences? You've talked about-

(Jettie speaks)

Oh yes

(Evelyn speaks)

(Non-transcribed brief statement) worked

(Jettie speaks)

Oh yes

(Evelyn speaks)

Tell us about that

(Jettie speaks)

Well, about my work?

(Evelyn speaks)

No about the race relations

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, well it was terrible

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, I bet

(Jettie speaks)

Well it was, ah- we had to sit on the back of the bus, and ah- if it was some white people got on and they didn't have a seat to sit, ah- we had to get up and let them sit. Ah-and ah-we ah-I took the two kids, and went to go to Baltimore, Maryland, and the, ah- bus stopped in Danville, Virginia, and it was just pouring down rain. And the little places that the blacks had to go in to eat, it was just pouring down raining. And ah-in the bathrooms you know, they had white only, you know um-

(Evelyn speaks)

No coloreds?

(Jettie speaks)

I ca-don't remember now

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

It-it was just terrible

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, did you have any personal relationship-ah- ex-eh-experiences in ah- your family in this area, with ah-the wh- race relations in Mount Airy? Did you have any contact with the KKK?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-uh

(Evelyn speaks)

Alright, ah- now, let's talk about, ah- did-did anybody own a business in your family?

(Jettie speaks)

My brother Joe

(Evelyn speaks)

Joe, what kind of business, and where was it located?

(Jettie speaks)

He had in Pilot Mountain

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh, he had a ah-a restaurant down there

(Evelyn speaks)

Ah, do you remember the named of it?

(Jettie speaks)

I don't think it had a name at least, I-

(Evelyn speak)

Just a restaurant

(Jettie speaks)

Just a restaurant

(Evelyn speaks)

And what year about?

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, I'd say in the sixties

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And then I had another bro-my brother, ah-uh-had a barber shop, and he lived in ah-Pittsburg, Pennsylvania

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok

(Jettie speaks)

And then I had another brother that had a liquor store, café, and a grocery store in Baltimore, Maryland

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, alright! Now I want to ask you some questions that will just um-and give, there, they are your feeling about certain things, and ah you just answer them anyway you can or want to, and if any you want to skip; say I'll skip that one

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Ah-was there someone in your family or elsewhere who influenced you a great deal, and what did they say or do ah-how did they act that taught you something?

(Jettie speaks)

I had a-a aunt, ah-papa's sister, that ah-taught me how to sew, and ah-she could cook, she was just great. She was more like a mother than my stepmother was. And her name was ah-Lula, not Lula, but um-what was her name, aunt Lu, Lu, but that was papa's half sister

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, mmm-hmm, ok. Ok, can you tell about a time you very happy, and what happened?

(Jettie speaks)

Well, I guess when I got married, but- <laughter>

(Evelyn speaks)

A time to be happy

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah

(Winnie speaks)

How-how did you get married? *<Very faint>* (Non-transcribed statement)

(Jettie speaks)

We went to the justice of the peace, and on our way, ah-we went to Hillsville and got married, and on our way up there, we had 4 blow outs on a car

(Evelyn laughs)

(Jettie speaks)

And coming back we had 1, so we had 5 blow outs *<laughing>*

(Evelyn speaks)

<Laughter> Oh my! Ah-any other questions? Alright, can you tell us a person in your life whom you admire, and ah-what is it about that person that you admire?

(Jettie speaks)

Cause to tell you the truth; it's not too many people that I don't admire

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

But uh-one special is uh- she's ah-paralyzed now. Ah-Mrs. Amelia Pilson

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie and Evelyn both speak)

What was-

(Evelyn continues)

It about her?

(Jettie speaks)

Well ah-she was just so understanding, and ah-you-if you went to her with something that was burdening you, she could talk to you, and just make you feel like it wasn't nothing

(Evelyn speaks)

What-and how old were you? Ah-what's the age difference of you and Amelia? About-?

(Jettie speaks)

Oh well she's', I'm eighty-three, and she's about seventy-six or something like that

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, close in age

(Winnie speaks)

Were you neighbors, or in church together?

(Jettie speaks)

In church together

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Winnie speaks)

What church were you going to then?

(Jettie speaks)

Same church I go to now, Samuel's Grove

(Evelyn speaks)

Was that the 1st Samuel's Grove or s-?

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, that's-no that's the-that's called the low Samuel's Grove

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok

(Jettie speaks)

And the other one is ah-the upper Samuel's Grove, see they had a split, but I wasn't there when they had a split. But ah-I was ah-was ah-was baptized when I was twelve years old before we ever came to Mount Airy

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And so I went to Chestnut Ridge church, and until after I got married, and after I got married ah-then you know it was closer

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, yeah, ok. Um-did you have a-I know you had some s-sad times in your life. Can you share? Do you want to share one of those times, or those times when it's a sad moment, you've hinted at some, the sad times in your life

(Jettie speaks)

Well the sad times in my life is when I lost my husband

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And when I lost my daughter

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah, I think they were very, very close to you, no question the sad times, I can identify with that

(Winnie speaks)

How did you get through that?

(Jettie speaks)

By prayer, and trust in God, any my friends helped me through it all

(Evelyn speaks)

And you still kept going and doing

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

And active

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, but at first when Alton died, I just; we all got ready to go to church, he was buried on Wednesday, and we got ready to go to church that Sunday, and all of us got to the door to go, and all of us just started crying and so we didn't go to church ah-

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And I coul-I couldn't go to church without crying for the longest time

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah, and-ok, tell us um-was there an event in Surry County that stands out in your mind, and ah-?

(Jettie speaks)

Any what?

(Evelyn speaks)

An-an event, something that happened in Surry County that was big, or something that took place that stands out in your mind, and-and what effect did it have on you?

(Jettie speaks)

Well ah-every first Sunday in May, was ah- communion at Locust Grove, well that stood out, we would go every first Sun-well we would go to church down there anyway, cause they just had it once a month

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah

(Jettie speaks)

And they used to have it at Chestnut Ridges once a month and we use to go there every first Sunday. And the first Sunday in May just really stood out, because everybody would uh-would go there, even my daddy after he ah-left here and went to Baltimore, Maryland, he still would come back for the first Sunday in May.

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

It was a homecoming was it?

(Evelyn speaks)

I-it-

(Jettie speaks)

It was service, you know, ah- and everybody didn't go in the church, they just, well it was more like a homecoming wasn't it?

(Evelyn speaks)

Yes, yeah, wa-was was ah-this was the association-

(Jettie speaks)

No just-

(Evelyn speaks)

Was it part of the association, or foot washing?

(Jettie speaks)

Foot washing

(Evelyn speaks)

The foot washing is ah-co-communion

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh, and the same-the same thing would happen up at Chestnut Ridges on the 4th Sunday, and we use to look forward to that too

(Winnie speaks)

Could you explain foot washing for young people that may not have known about it?

(Jettie speaks)

Well ah-they-they have the bread, lover bread, and they have the wine, only we uses ah-grape juice, and we go to the church, and they would ah-after they get done preaching, they would ah-ah, break this bread and pray over it, and pass it to ah-the members. They would pour this wine, and they wou-say when they well ah-breaking the bread, well they would say this is the Lord's body

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Take it

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And when they got to the wine, they would say this is his blood, drink it

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And after that, they would was feet

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

The women washed their feet on this side, and the men over here on this side

(Winnie speaks)

Did they wash each other's feet?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, washed each other, well we do that now

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Well it's Bible, it tells you, you know

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Cause when Peter uh-told Jesus he never wash his feet, and Jesus told him he wouldn't have no part of him, you-I know you've read it, both of you

(Evelyn speaks)

Yes. Alright, ah-tell us ah- Jettie, something that made you very angry, it was moment, experience in Surry County that made you very angry, and ah- is it something that you can tell us about first of all, and- and how did you deal with that anger at the time?

(Jettie speaks)

Well, ah-I had a girlfriend, that lived on the other end of town; and I'd go down there ah-that was after Joyce nim had left; we'd go down there, and you know well we'd spend the night with her, cause she ah-had her room in the basement, you know. So as I was going down the street that-that Sunday afternoon, and I don't know who this white boy was, but anyway he got up in my face, and said "Lets me and you go out" and how-I-I hit him so hard <laughter>, and-and that really did make me mad

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm <laughter> alright-

(Winnie speaks)

So he just took it and left, I mean that was your answer? And- (non-transcribed statement)

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh, yeah, he didn't hit me back

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

The only thing he said was " I wasn't talking to you" I said "Well you in my face"

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, and how old were you?

(Jettie speaks)

I guess I was about twenty then

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, <very faint> (non-transcribed statement). Ok, is there a national event that affected your life in a special way, and something happened that happened nationally, I mean I-

(Jettie speaks)

Like the national convention or something like that?

(Evelyn speaks)

Eh-anything that happened nationally, anything that happened in this country that ah-affected you emotionally or-

(Jettie speaks)

Well, when ah-you know when the war was going on, we had these blackouts, that-that ah-it-it really did you know, get with me

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And as for anything else, I don't know

(Evelyn speaks)

Alright, ah-do you have something to share about a time when you felt really proud to be Jettie?

(Jettie speaks)

Oh yes! Ah- right now

(Evelyn speaks)

Alright!

(Jettie laughs)

(Evelyn speaks)

Tell us about it

(Jettie speaks)

Yes, well, ah-wh-when I was growing, you see the uh-my sisters, all of my sisters was real pretty, and I was the ugly one in the family

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And ah-and I was the lightest one in the family, so I was meringue, I didn't have no color. And ah-they had all this pretty hair, and mine was bushy you know, theirs was real good and straight. And now, all of my sister's hair is just about out, and I still got mine-

(Evelyn interrupts with laughter)

(Jettie speaks)

And I'm proud of Jettie <laughter>

(Evelyn and Winnie join with laughter)

(Evelyn speaks and laughs)

Yeah, Proud of Jettie, ok, Jetti

(Winnie speaks)

Can you-can you explain for me what Mariah means? If you name?

(Evelyn speaks)

Me-meringue-

(Winnie speaks)

Oh! Meringue

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

Oh, meringue, oh, ok meringue

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh, it's bout the albino (non-transcribed adjective)

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah, uh-huh

(Winnie speaks)

Ah, ok

(Evelyn speaks)

(Non-transcribed statement) to the yellow colors

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

And light skin

(Jettie speaks)

And I had freckles, and both all of them had little pointy nose, all except me, I was the flat nose one in the family

(Evelyn laughs)

(Jettie speaks)

So I, I caught it hard

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm. Now they were older than you or-or?

(Jettie speaks)

Ah-well Eva and Pergy wasn't

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok, they were younger?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Alright, then tell us Jettie, w-what things in life are discouraging to you?

(Jettie speaks)

What's what?

(Evelyn speaks)

Discouraging, you know? Sort of, sort of-

(Jettie speaks)

Oh-

(Evelyn speaks)

Gets you down-

(Jettie speaks)

Oh-

(Evelyn speaks)

In life-?

(Jettie speaks)

Well-

(Evelyn speaks)

And how do you get through that feeling?

(Jettie speaks)

By prayer

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, can you tell us about, the incident th-that's what sh- discourages you?

(Jettie speaks)

Well, well church folks is one thing, you know, I don't get disturbed more when we have church conferences any other time. S-get to the place sometimes, I can't even sleep a-at night, s-you know?

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

So prayer is the only thing, just ask God to take it and, you know and-and handle it

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, ok, ah- *<very faint>* did you want to ask? Did ah-te-tell us, did anything ever happen funny to you, that you would tell us about? I mean I know you're a laugher

(Jettie speaks)

Well, no, I don't know

(Evelyn speaks)

Full of laughter, suppose you wasn't so funny when you had all those blow outs? But ah-

(Jettie speaks)

No, well <chuckle> and every time I'd get mad with Alton, I'd say "I shouldn't a married you then" ah- <laughter>

(Evelyn laughs)

That was-that was a warning huh?

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, that's what I-that's what I told him

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

But-but, ah-we had a good life

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, well tell us about some of the happy times, I mean really happy times in your life

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, well the happiest time in my life, was ah-when ah- my husband, and my two oldest children, went down in the water to be baptized

(Evelyn speaks)

Did they go together?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok

(Jettie speaks)

That was the happiest time in my life

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, ok, ok, and if there is something that you would like for us to s-ah-to see improved? You live in Mount Airy?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

And you know Mount Airy now

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

After all those years, do you see-what do you see that you would like to see improved in Mount Airy, or Surry County for the youth for the future for improvement?

(Jettie speaks)

Well, I don't know, cause the blacks is able to go to the "Y" now, and ah-go in swimming, so the only thing that I know where they can't go, they can't go to Cross Creek and play golf. I don't know about ah-Country Club

(Evelyn speaks)

We-we-well I under-I guess I need to correct that, cause I am a golfer,

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

And I play golf there

(Jettie speaks)

Where?

(Evelyn speaks)

Cross Creek, I can go there-

(Jettie speaks overlapping Evelyn's last dialogue)

Oh, well good-oh, well I didn't know that

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah, and you can join, and, but it's a pri-about like anywhere else in the country, it's a private club where you

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-

(Evelyn speaks)

Pay dues-

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

And pay a fee to join-

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

If you have that fee, and you want to join, you can join

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, well I didn't-I didn't know that. Well its one store here in Mount Airy, and I-and they the only people that ah-have clothes that fit me.

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And I said every time, that I aint going to buy nothing from them, but, it's nowhere else, uh- even in Winston, they-they don't fit me like this store do, and they don't have no blacks to work in and in fact I have told the man about it

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, so it's-it's uh-

(Jettie speaks)

He-his, they a pri-private owned store

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok, yeah, (non-transcribed statement) so you're-you're saying that-that then jobs should be opening up where people should be more-

(Jettie speaks overlapping Evelyn's last dialogue)

Uh-huh, and ah-

(Evelyn speaks)

Quick to hire-

(Jettie speaks)

Cause they have a whole lot of black customers

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok

(Winnie speaks)

And you don't feel like you're treated respectfully?

(Jettie speaks)

That's right, mmm-hmm, but every time I go there and buy something they always give me a discount

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

How do you feel about your children growing up in the school system here, so uh- how did that go?

(Jettie speaks)

Well I think its ok, as far as I know, see since I don't have any children in school now, but when ah- my children were small, they used the assembly orchestra used to come here, and be down to the ah-theatre; and my children would have to sit behind the stage ah-on the floor, t- and ah-I don't why they would carry them children down there when they couldn't ah-you know sit out in the audience like the others

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, where were-where did they go to school at that time?

(Jettie speaks)

Up here at Jones'

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh, that's right, up at Jones segregated school?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, ok, tell us a little bit about Jones, that you can remember

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, lordy

(Evelyn speaks)

Since it doesn't exist any more

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-I-I had some trouble, ah-Mary was going up there to school, and you know he would go play golf, and ah-some of his friends would go play golf, and he sent her to babysit for his friend when she was supposed to be in school, he didn't do that but one time

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And there's oh yeah, and here is something else, when Annette finished her course in Durham she was promised a job up there, so uh-she could have got a job, because they was getting them jobs, when they before they left to school, and sh-and she was promised a job up there, when she come here, and ah-and she called about the job, and ah-just didn't have enough money, they just wouldn't let him have a-a secretary, and ah-no, just coul- they just couldn't afford it. So I took her, I guess this was rude in me, I took her to the superintendent's house

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

<*Sucks teeth*> and I-his wife came to the door, she didn't ask us in, I just walked on in. And I asked to speak to the superintendent, when he came out, and after he got through talking to her, the next day she had a job

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, so why-why do you think she didn't have a job before?

(Jettie speaks)

Cause they wasn't-

(Evelyn speaks overlapping Jettie's last dialogue)

(Non-transcribed statement)

(Jettie speaks)

Cause they wasn't-wasn't gone, wasn't gone let the blacks have no money to have a secretary

(Evelyn speaks)

I see, and that's what-that's what the principal told you ?

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, the principal told me that, well the super-superintendent told the principal

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, ok, alright. But you felt good about the education of your children there?

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, uh-huh, mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok, so how long was she a secretary there?

(Jettie speaks)

Up until ah-they integrated schools

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And she didn't go to school to be no school teacher; she went to school to be a uh-secretary

(Evelyn speaks)

Yes

(Jettie speaks)

But after they integrated the school, ah-they took her job, and give it to a s-a white lady, and they had her being a teacher's aide, just a teacher's maid, you know; that's-that's what it was all about

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, how did you feel about that? And how did she feel about that?

(Jettie speaks)

Ah-she didn't feel good about it at-all-at all, and she, and I didn't either

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

Did she work in the head start program there?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

That's what, yeah

(Jettie speaks)

And ah-they would send her from one school to another, and-and ah-well she was over at Tharrington's a while, she was at the Jones' a while, she was down at Mount Airy High school, junior high school for a while, and ah-wh-when they moved her over at-over at Tharrington's then she went up, she ah- got in touch with ah-Raleigh

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And that was cut out

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, so what was-was uh-she had one place?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah, they was moving her all around

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah, that is (non-transcribed statement)

(Winnie speaks)

So it looks like you-you had to stand up for your children

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

And they had to stand up for themselves

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah

(Winnie speaks)

But you had shown them how to stand up for something

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm. Yeah, they know how to stand up too well <laughter>

(Winnie speaks)

What do you think was in your own trainings and t-to give you the voice to go to that superintendent and say this isn't right, how did you get to that point ah-in your own training or your own background?

(Jettie speaks)

Well, I guess I was brought up, ah-do unto others as you would have them to do unto you, and ah-my daddy always taught us, don't let nobody be no nicer to you, than you are to them. So, and he also said, "Well take up for yourselves". Says "Don't hit nobody first, but if they hit you, give them all you got". <laughter>, so I guess that came from my daddy

(Winnie speaks)

And he is the son of a slave?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Winnie speaks)

Right?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

But after she got freed from being a slave, she stood up too. And let me tell you what she used to do, how she made her living. She would take these bar sacks and make rugs out of them, and sell them rugs for twenty-five cents a piece

(Evelyn speaks)

What kind of sack?

(Winnie speaks)

Burlap

(Evelyn speaks)

Bur-burlap?

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, huh

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-yeah,

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

And how, what did she put on the rug? Or the burlap?

(Jettie speaks)

Just ah-she had some rags, you know and she would string them

(Evelyn speaks)

Through that, through-

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh, through them holes

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

Matchwork kind of-

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah

(Winnie speaks)

I'd like to hear some more about her, and when she was freed. Anything you know about how she established herself in life?

(Jettie speaks)

Well she said after she was freed, of her monster, that's what she called her-her monster, uh-ordered her around like he ah-he been ordering her around, but she told me she stood up to him, and told him she didn't have to take that no more! And she went on, and ah-they had to give them a piece of land. And ah-she-she built a little, uh-a little log cabin. And ah-her little log cabin was down here at the foot of the mountain, Slate Mountain.

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Down in there.

(Evelyn speaks)

What ha- happened to that land? Do you know?

(Jettie speaks)

I don't know

(Winnie speaks)

Did she know what part of Africa she came from?

(Jettie speaks)

She didn't never tell us, she didn't say, she probably didn't know. Cause she couldn't write, she couldn't read, she couldn't do nothing

(Winnie speaks)

Did she talk about the-the trip over here on the boat? Anything about that?

(Jettie speaks)

No, she never did say nothing about that, no. Only thing she just told us about how she was treated, and ah-how the monsters used the slaves. And ah-they would use the slaves so-so their wives could rest, isn't that awful?

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

Did she know where she landed in-in the country, and or where the slave market was, or any of that?

(Jettie speaks)

She-she never did-

(Winnie speaks)

She never talked about it?

(Jettie speaks)

Umph, uh, she never said anything about that

(Evelyn speaks)

But she was 8 years old when she came over

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, and she was put on a block, like you sell ah-and was sold

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, was she with her mama at that point?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, yeah she was with her mother

(Winnie speaks)

And did her mother get sold somewhere else, or did she stay with her?

(Jettie speaks)

She ah-she didn't say, she, after she left home she never had any more contact with her family

(Winnie speaks)

Ah-

(Evelyn speaks)

She was sold, from-from

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Winnie speaks)

Probably away from her

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, ok

(Winnie speaks)

Getting back to the youth that are growing up today, are you satisfied that race relations have gotten to where they need to be? Are there other things that you'd like to see?

(Jettie speaks)

Um-well for job opportunity I think ah-ah-the black ought to be able to have better jobs, and ah- than what they have

(Winnie speaks)

You were talking something about not being treated with respect to (non-transcribed statement), do you think the young people experience that? (Non-transcribed statement)

(Jettie speaks overlapping Winnie's last dialogue)

I'm sure they do, cause their smarter than I am. Now I've got a grandson, that just graduated from college, from Chapel Hill

(Evelyn speaks)

Who's child?

(Jettie speaks)

James', and ah- he's-he's so far he hasn't got a job, and ah-and the most of the black children have to start on the bottom, and ah-even if they have got a college education, and ah-and the white can just finish high school, and they're already off top. So, it's a whole lot of changes needs to be done I think, what about you Evelyn?

(Evelyn speaks)

Well ah-yea, I agree

(Jettie speaks)

And ah-just like we got, just like Annette, having to come out of being a secretary, and ah-I don't know why I didn't fight that, cause she-she didn't like it at all. And ah-it was another lady there, that ca-ah-was doing the same kind of work Annette was doing, and ah-and they never did ah-send her nowhere. The- it was always sending Annette, and Annette got tired of it.

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

So she ah-got in touch with a lawyer in-in Charlotte was over you know the schools.

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, I can think of one of the reasons, you might not have thought of this, but at that time people were losing their jobs from the black schools, they weren't placed anywhere, and Annette did have a job, so it might have been about well at least I do have a job.

(Jettie speaks)

Well she was going to do that, after she you know, got in touch with the lawyer. And she paid a fee to this lawyer to take care of things,

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And he did

(Winnie speaks)

Did your neighbors and friends talk a lot at that time about? Ah-you know, the name of the school was changed

(Jettie speaks)

Oh yes, they didn't like that at all. And ah-they then they sent-a whole lot of our black teachers had to leave Jones' school, and go somewhere else to teach because ah-that was ah- integrated school, and they- they wanted white teachers, instead of the black ones, aint that right Evelyn?

(Evelyn speaks)

That's from my understanding

(Winnie speaks)

I was here then, and I remember it pretty well. And they renamed the school North Main Jones, remember that?

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, and well we fought that

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, but uh-we haven't had a chance. And ah-the Lord just blessed us to-to come this far

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

As the old Psalm say we come this far by faith leaning on the Lord, yes sir

(Evelyn speaks)

Alright, tell us now what-will lead, that leads up to the question I have, what keeps you going right now?

(Jettie speaks)

The Lord

(Evelyn speaks and laughs)

You just said it, you just said it leaning on the Lord, yes you did

(Jettie speaks)

And he's, she's been good to me, and still good to me

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Ima tell yall a little story, you filming this?

<All parties speak in unison overlapping one another>

(Winnie speaks)

I'll stop it

(Evelyn speaks)

Can we-can we keep it turning? No? You want it off?

(Jettie speaks)

Well, again you can cut- this is-this is just-

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok well that-

(Winnie speaks)

Yeah tell us the story

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, last year I didn't have a garden, so I had a garden this year, and as I went out to sow my seeds, and as I sowed my seeds, I just talked to the Lord, and asked him to bless my garden and he did. I had two little rows of beans. I got two bushels of beans that I canned, plus I gave the neighbors beans, and I got twelve quarts in the freezer, and I had plenty of cucumbers, plenty of tomatoes, ah-black peas, butter beans, and I still got beans in my garden. I'm still picking beans off that garden and when I go out there, I still blesses, blesses my garden I thank him for ah-for doing all this good stuff he's has done for me

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

But if ah-anything you do in this world; I have learned we got to put God first, and ask him to take care of it for us, cause we can't take care of ourselves either.

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And he has taken care of me for eighty-three years, he has really blessed me. Cause it's been times in my life I didn't know how I was going to get over, and this is one of the times, when my husband died. We had a checking account, we had thirteen hundred dollars in our checking account, ah- we had a savings account, but I couldn't touch that savings account. So the checking account was divided, and ah-and I had all these bills to pay, and I didn't know know nothing about how to pay bills cause he took care of anything. But you know what? The Lord blessed me, didn't na bill go unpaid, and-and nothing. Isn't that wonderful?

(Evelyn speaks)

Yes it is

(Jettie speaks)

And I had to wait; I believe it was six months before I could touch the savings.

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, yes

(Jettie speaks)

So, I just sit back and wonder who wouldn't serve a God like that?

(Winnie speaks)

You know what I see right now?

(Jettie speaks)

<Very faint> what's that?

(Winnie speaks)

I see you in your beautiful lavender outfit, singing in church with this great big smile

(Evelyn laughs)

(Jettie speaks)

Oh, <laughter> I do sing in the choir, I'm up there, I'm with-with the gang that aint doing much singing

(Evelyn speaks)

Singing <laughs>

(Jettie speaks)

Cause my voice is ah-is weakening

(Winnie speaks)

You were doing a mighty lot of smiling; I was there one day and saw it <slight chuckle>

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah

(Jettie speaks)

Well we really enjoyed your friend that day, was you there Evelyn?

(Evelyn speaks)

No, no, I don't think so

(Jettie speaks)

It was really nice

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, (non-transcribed name) playing the chello

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh yes! I heard of that

(Jettie speaks)

It was really nice

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, Ok

(Jettie speaks)

So ah-and I've been able to donate time with church, and I pay my tithes, and ah- I help my neighbors out, I cook food and care to people

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm

(Jettie speaks)

And ah-at my age, and some of them people I care food to is a whole lot younger than I am

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And I-I thank God for that

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm, yeah. Tell ah- can one thing I didn't ask about, that I'd like to know, ah-you-you said that you remember something about ah-grandpa Dyson, Bob Dyson

(Jettie speaks)

Oh yeah

(Evelyn speaks)

Is-do you remember his, anything about his wife, his ah-brothers, his side of the family?

(Jettie speaks)

Well when I mar-see that was Alton's grandfather

(Evelyn speaks)

Right

(Jettie speaks)

And when we got married ah-all-all-uncle Joe was the onliest one living. And aunt Martha, your grandmother

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh

(Jettie speaks)

And aunt Didi, and ah-

(Evelyn speaks)

Aunt Etta

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, and Aunt Etta

(Evelyn speaks)

And aunt Elizabeth, Li-Lizzie

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, uh-huh, that was my mother in law

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm, but did-did you know any stor-did they tell anything about ah-Bob Dyson?

(Jettie speaks)

Well some ugly stuff about him, so

(Evelyn speaks)

Was that history?

(Jettie speaks)

<Laughter>

(Evelyn speaks)

Do you want to talk? Or- ah-it's my grandpa, I don't want it off

(Jettie speaks)

Well turn it off, till I-I

(Evelyn speaks)

No, you can tell it, I mean it's, we are rolling

(Jettie speaks)

Well he was ah-married to ah-Josie Tilley, was his wife, first wife. Well they had, oh, I don't know how many children, I haven't counted them up.

(Evelyn speaks)

(Non-transcribed statement)

(Jettie speaks)

Joe, and ah-Aunt Etta, Aunt-Aunt Martha, and ah-

(Evelyn speaks)

Elizabeth

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, was that all?

(Evelyn speaks)

(Non-transcribed statement) five children, and-and-and ah-Mariah, no not Mariah, ah- it was one of the names you mentioned before, was it Mariah?

(Jettie speaks)

Aunt Martha was the oldest I believe, Uncle Joe, Uncle Bud

(Evelyn speaks)

I missed him

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, and Aunt Etta

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And Aunt Didi

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, and Elizabeth, 7 children

(Jettie speaks)

7 Children, well ah-when was married to her, of course you know he was Jessie's and ah-Sherman's daddy too

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

He married ah-aunt Fannie, but he had already had J-Jessie and Sherman before ah- his wife died

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok, and then he married her

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

<Very faint> (non-transcribed statement) and what-somebody talked about the land that he owned

(Jettie speaks)

Oh yes, he owned land from ah- I'll say from, he used to own the-ah Country Club

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

All the way on up to State Line

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm

(Winnie speaks)

Your speaking of the old Country Club, the first Country Club

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah, uh-huh

(Winnie speaks)

On Country Club Road

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Right

(Jettie speaks)

He owned that country-that golf course, and all that up in there

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

And Alton's grandfather he owned from uh-(non-transcribed church name) the Methodist church down here

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

All this land, on back to ah-well it's a big gully down there, well you know, a well back down in there

(Evelyn speaks)

Uh-huh, ah-but who was his grandfather? Who was the grandfather?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh, uh-ah, his daddy was-what was his daddy's name?

(Evelyn speaks)

You said his daddy or his grandpa?

(Jettie speaks in unison with Evelyn)

His father

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok

(Jettie speaks)

I belie-I believe his name was ah- Bud Helton

(Evelyn speaks)

Ah-ok, so, grandpa didn't give Elizabeth land? Or did he-

(Jettie speaks)

No, he didn't give her land

(Evelyn speaks)

He didn't give her any?

(Jettie speaks)

Cause ah-his daddy gave the land-

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh, ok

(Jettie speaks)

And he built the house for her

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok, so he didn't, ok, who built the house?

(Jettie speaks)

Ah-grandpa

(Evelyn speaks)

Dyson?

(Jettie speaks)

Dyson

(Evelyn speaks)

Ah, ok, so the grandpa (non-transcribed statement)

(Jettie speaks overlapping Evelyn's last dialogue)

Uh-huh, and grandpa Helton give them the land

(Evelyn speaks)

Nice,mmm-hmm alright

(Jettie speaks)

Well see, ah-Uncle Richard, and Aunt Nettie that house back there, that was theirs, that's the first house they built

(Evelyn speaks)

Ah-ok, so they got land from ah-James daddy, your husband's daddy

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

To build that house

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok, so Uncle Richard didn't get land, yes he did, he-he-

(Jettie speaks)

He got that land on, down there where his house was

(Evelyn speaks)

From what? Who? Who did he get it from?

(Jettie speaks)

From a ah-grandpa Helton

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok, and his land, that his grandpa gave him, had to be up in the Parker Road area then, because his-his daddy, no wait a minute

(Jettie speaks)

No, Uncle grandpa Dyson, owned all of that up there

(Evelyn speaks)

He didn't give them any land? He didn't give his children any land? He just gave it to his ah-his to-Martha. See Martha and Jim ah- had ah-a lot of land up there. Martha had a lot of land

(Jettie speaks)

Well that must have come from on the other side of the family

(Evelyn speaks)

It came from Dyson's

(Jettie speaks)

It came from the Dyson's

(Evelyn speaks)

Dy-the Dyson's

(Jettie speaks)

Well maybe it did, I know they said he owned land on up in there

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah, yeah, I think it was Dyson, and I think she-she gave her children land all in that area, cause my mom and father bought some from the brothers,

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Or who she'd given that to, ok

(Jettie speaks)

Well is Martha st-no she's dead isn't she?

(Evelyn speaks)

Who Martha?

(Jettie speaks)

Dobson,

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah

(Jettie speaks)

I went to Kathryn's funeral

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh yeah, yeah only ah-Priscilla, any on that side,

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

On the other side only Uncle Earl just showed up, or something like that, Priscella, Priscilla, I believe you know what I mean

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

Well, ah-I'm not sure I am getting your questions

(Evelyn speaks)

Ah-that wasn't a replay, I was asking about Aunt Martha, Martha Dobson. I was thinking about my grandmother, and you went to the other Dobson side

(Jettie speaks)

Well you know this house here, you say yall use to live in?

(Winnie speaks)

Yes

(Jettie speaks)

Now that was grandpa's house

(Winnie speaks)

Oh was it really?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

What house?

(Winnie speaks)

(Non-transcribed adjective) house, um- that white house over there

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh, that was his house

(Evelyn speaks)

Is that right?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

Is it still existing?

(Jettie speaks)

Yeah

(Winnie speaks)

Mmm-hmm, right there

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh right on the corner there, right

(Jettie speaks overlapping Evelyn's last dialogue)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn continues)

The house when you go up here, and its right here on the left?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh, that was grandpa's house

(Evelyn speaks)

I will have to take a picture

(Winnie speaks)

Did he build it himself?

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Winnie speaks)

I love that house

(Evelyn speaks)

Ha

(Jettie speaks)

And Uncle Bud, built a house, that burnt down that (non-transcribed noun) lived in

(Evelyn speaks)

That burned down?

(Jettie speaks)

Uh-huh

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah, and (non-transcribed name) built the house back. Yea, that's what Bud just (non-transcribed verb). And then of course, Uncle Joes' house is still standing; I need to take some pictures

(Jettie speaks)

Whose house is still standing?

(Evelyn speaks)

Uncle Joe

(Jettie speaks)

Oh yeah, yeah, uh-huh, and Uncle Bud house just about gone

(Evelyn speaks)

Yeah I hear

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Yup, well, ok. That's right, alright, anything else that you want to tell us

(Jettie speaks)

I-I can't think of nothing right now

(Evelyn speaks)

Ok, ah-we've wore her out

(Winnie speaks)

Well great, yeah, we've bout worn her out

(Evelyn and Winnie laugh)

(Jettie speaks)

I hope I-uh- told you something to do you some good

(Evelyn speaks)

Oh yes, everybody has a story

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

And it's everybody's story that

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

Makes the big story

(Jettie speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Evelyn speaks)

And every story is important, so you've given us a lot

(Winnie speaks)

Thank you

(Evelyn speaks)

Mmm-hmm

(Jettie speaks)

Your welcome, thank yall for coming by. You-you've had me sitting down not doing nothing

(Evelyn laughs)

<tape breaks>