



**Mrs. Frances Robinson
Buckley Pratt --**
4/9/2007

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Buckley Pratt
Fredericksburg
century. She
changes in the
beginning of Fort A. P. Hill and the Great Flood. She has an interesting
story to tell and a lot of geographic information about how the town
began and what grew where. She met a few celebrities along the way
too, including the famous artist Salvador Dali and his wife. Her
memory is very good and from it we get a vivid picture of
Fredericksburg through the years.

Mrs. Frances Robinson
lived in the
area for most of a
has witnessed many
area including the

Interviewer: Good afternoon. It's around 2:00 on Monday, August 5,
2002, and I am at the Greenbrier Apartments with Mrs. Richard T.
Pratt, Jr., and Mrs. Pratt is going to tell us about her life today. Good
afternoon, Mrs. Pratt. How are you doing today?

Mrs. Pratt: I'm just fine and I'm so glad to have you here.

Interviewer: Ok, well I'm very glad to be here. And I understand from
your daughter, Barbara Willis, that you have an interesting story to tell
about your days in Fredericksburg. So do you want to go ahead and
tell us a little about yourself.

Mrs. Pratt: Well, thank you. My name is Frances Robinson Buckley
Pratt and I was born February 16, 1916, in Baltimore, Maryland, in my
grandparents' home. My grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Howard
Robinson Buckley and they lived at 2427 Maryland Avenue, Baltimore,
Maryland.

4 Generations – 1935

Standing: Charles R. Buckley- Frances Buckley Pratt- Charles R. Buckley, Jr.

Seated in chair: Molly and Howard Buckley

Seated on lawn: Richard T. Pratt, Jr. - Barbara Buckley Pratt

My father came to Fredericksburg in 1925. He was manager of the G & H Company owned by L. Grief Company in Baltimore, Maryland. My mother, my brother Charles, and I came in 1926. We lived in the Heflin Apartments until Mr. Peck Heflin built the houses on Charlotte Street. As soon as they were built, my parents moved into the second house, 509 Charlotte Street. 511 Charlotte Street was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Abram Bean and their two children, Jane and Tommy. Mr. and Mrs. Courtlandt Roseboro and their son Courtlandt, Jr., lived at 511 Charlotte Street. Mr. and Mrs. Barney Driscoll lived at 513 Charlotte. Later on, Mr. and Mrs. Niles Straughan and three children moved into 513. Their children were Sue, Nancy, and Robert.

Sometime, I'm not quite sure; the Beth Shalom Synagogue was built on Charlotte Street at the very end, next door to 513. I think that was built during World War II. They had an early rabbi who escaped from Germany. That much I remember. Across the street from our house was a meadow where Mr. Duff Green kept his horse. He had a two seated buggy and I would ride with him up Princess Anne Street to buy ice and bring it back for his ice box. Mr. and Mrs. Duff Green lived at Prince Edward Street. The corner, I should say of Prince Edward and Charlotte, with their children, Duff and Arianna. I remember the mailman came twice a day. I don't know why I remember that so vividly, but it was in my memory and I think our stamps were three cents.

I went to Lafayette School [now the Central Rappahannock Regional Library Headquarters]. My first teacher was Miss Maggie Honey. Miss Ethel Nash was principal. Mr. Paul Carston would drive his two daughters, Marian and Grace and me to school in the morning. Mr. Carston worked at Farmers and Merchants Bank on Princess Anne Street. In those days we walked home for lunch and then back to school. Miss Maggie Honey had a house right next to Lafayette School on the corner of Caroline and Fauquier, I think it was.

Going back to living in the Heflin Apartments, I remember the people that lived there so vividly. Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop and their daughter Carol lived on the first floor. On the second floor, Colonel and Mrs. Payne and their son Asher. Colonel Payne taught math at James Monroe High School. We lived on the third floor and, on fourth floor, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Klotz lived. Now that was on the side of the Heflin Apartments facing George Street. Mr. and Mrs. Dempsey and their daughter Nancy lived in the Charlotte Street side on the first floor. Mr. and Mrs. Simon Hirsch lived on the second floor. Next door to the Heflin Apartments lived Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Kaufman. They lived right



in the house next door and Mr. Kaufman owned a jewelry store downtown on Caroline Street. Next door to Mr. and Mrs. Kaufmans' house, on Prince Edward Street, was the rectory of Trinity Church where the minister, the Reverend and Mrs. Jacqueline Ambler lived and their son Jack and daughter Beverley. The open canal ran alongside Kenmore Avenue down to Lafayette Boulevard. We used to jump across it. It had a little bridge but we just jumped across it. That was lots of fun.

I married Richard Turner Pratt, Jr., in the Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, Virginia, April 22, 1932. We moved to Camden, the ancestral home of the Pratts, down below Port Royal, Virginia in 1933. Barbara, Alice, and Robin, our three daughters, were born in Mary Washington Hospital which was then on Sophia Street, which we used to call Water Street.

Dr. Frank Pratt was my doctor. A private room was \$5 a day and a private nurse was \$6 a day. Nurses in that time worked twelve hour days. So, if you had two private nurses, it was \$12 a day. You stayed two weeks in the hospital when you had a baby. That was the required time for recuperation, I suppose you could say.

Interviewer. So how long did you live at Camden?

Mrs. Pratt: We moved down to Camden, Dick and the children and I in 1934 or '35 and my husband was a farmer on the farm at Camden and, then World War II came along. Well, before I get to World War II, I would like to talk about when Barbara and Alice were little ones and went to school. They went to a one room school in Port Royal. It had five grades and one teacher and Alice was the only child in the first grade and I think there were about four children in the second grade where Barbara was. They went to a one room school in Port Royal that is still there. It had two rooms, the building: one half was the post office and one half was the schoolroom and we had to get a water fountain installed because there was no bathroom and no water fountain when the girls started school. They had an outside privy that they used and the new water fountain, though. And then, World War II came along and my husband went in the Navy and he joined the Navy as a Lieutenant Jr. Grade and went to Newport, Rhode Island, for indoctrination in 1942 and he was put on the North Atlantic convoy duty.

The ships which sailed from New York to England and then New York to Russia and that was called the Murmansk Run. In those days, the

North Atlantic was full of German submarines and all our Navy ships escorted the Liberty ships that carried much needed supplies to England. On every Liberty ship was put a Navy gun crew and my husband was put on a Liberty ship in charge of the Navy gun crew. They went back and forth over the Atlantic. Then my husband was transferred to San Francisco and my three daughters and my husband and I rode a troop train that was filled with soldiers. My daughters and I were the only civilians on the train. The bar closed every day at two o'clock. We had, what was called, it's not a stateroom there was another word for it back in those days where we stayed. The sailors would come and knock on the door and say, "Would you order drinks for us?" and I would have all of these twenty dollar bills to buy drinks because I was the only civilian. The military, at 2:00 the bar was closed to them until 6:00. So I would do it and my children were taught how to play poker and 21 by the sailors and soldiers and Marines on the train and that was how we crossed the country from Washington, DC, to Chicago, from Chicago to San Francisco.

In 1942 after my husband joined the navy, we came to Fredericksburg. The girls and I and lived with my parents on Charlotte Street after the war broke out and we stayed with them until the end of the war. I did go out to San Francisco, though and I stayed out there for five months with the children. They went to school there and that was a wonderful, wonderful experience for all of us. We loved San Francisco and we were in San Francisco when the Japanese surrendered. We rode streetcars and cable cars to see the great celebrations downtown. One of the greatest experiences was boarding the submarine, the Bonhomme Richard, for a special tour at the end of World War II. The whole city was ablaze with fireworks and great parades of the military. Then the children and I got on the train and we came back to Fredericksburg on a troop train, another troop train. So that was another very, very great experience.

In the meantime, when World War II started, A. P. Hill was bought by the government. The government took about half of Caroline County and made it into a military installation called A.P. Hill and all of the people that lived in that area lost their farms and their homes and they were given just a short notice and they had to get out and the only reason the great plantation houses along the Rappahannock River were not taken by the government was because Mr. Houser lived at Moss Neck Manor in Caroline County. Mr. Ted Houser was Chairman of the Board of Sears and Roebuck. He went to Washington to plead to the government not to take the river property.

They took all of the rest of the farm land but they didn't take the river strips along the Rappahannock. They did use the river for military exercises; so they had the privileges of using it for boats and amphibious landing and landing planes and things like that. They did do things. That part of it was theirs. When I was a young girl in Fredericksburg, we had a private club called the Stardust Club and it was organized by Mrs. Marion Willis who lived at 1106 Princess Anne Street. Some of the local girls that I remember as being members of the club beside myself were the Wallace girls from across the river at Clearview in Falmouth. They were Helene, Catherine, Mary Hansford and Agnes, Jack and Cary Smith of Fredericksburg, Alice Dew, whose father was Dr. Dew, Nancy Dempsey, Claire Schlemmer of Stafford, Elinor Laucks, who lived on Lauck's Island, Marco and Betty Abby whose father owned the Princess Anne Hotel and the hotel down on Caroline Street that was called the Maury Hotel. Also members were Virginia Elmer, Betty and Caroline Reed, Louise Van Valzah, Arianna Green. We had lots of private dances, especially at Christmas. Always very formal, with local bands. There was Paul Leveque, he had an orchestra and Levin Houston. We had dances at the Elks Hall and the Princess Anne Hotel and then, later on, when the Stratford Hotel was built.

And we always had intermission parties at private homes. Somebody would always have a wonderful intermission party and the one I remember the most was given by the Laucks on Lauck's Island. One Christmas, we had two private dances to attend the same night. So you went to one and then you left and went to the other one and that was lots of fun.

When I was little, I took ballet lessons. Our teacher came from Richmond and her name was Miss Marian Venable and I felt she was the most beautiful person, just lovely. We had our ballet recitals at the old James Monroe School and Miss Blanche Russell was the pianist. My daughters, Barbara, Alice, and Robin went to Trinity Church Sunday School on Prince Edward Street. Mr. Ambler was Rector at that time and Mrs. Ida Beck was their teacher.

The Great Flood of 1942. In the flood of 1942, we were living with my parents on Charlotte Street, during the war. We could see the flames from the gas company shooting up in the sky at night and that was very frightening and from the gas plant at the city dock also, the fuel tanks exploding. We made ham and cheese and bologna sandwiches for the workers. I can remember helping mother make ham, cheese, and bologna sandwiches. Everybody in town made sandwiches for the

workers 'cause they were working day and night at the city dock and all around at the gas works and everywhere.

And we went sleigh riding on Cornell Street in the winter time and that was wonderful. Because from Washington Avenue, you could sleigh ride all of the way down to what is Kenmore Avenue. There were very few homes built on Cornell Street and College Avenue at that time. College Avenue, when I was growing up, I remember two or three homes, and the rest was all farmland. There was farmland all around.

In 1931, I'm sort of jumping around here, my best friend, Cary Smith, and I were invited to a week at Rokeby in King George. Rokeby Farm and there were ten girls and a chaperone who came from Richmond and we had a special week at Camp Rokeby. Mr. and Mrs. Langhorne Williams of Richmond owned Rokeby. Their son, Frank Williams, piloted a two seater airplane and came from Richmond and landed it on the field out front and gave each of us a ride. We landed and took off from a field close by the house.

The stores downtown I remember were Goldsmith's Men's Shop on Caroline Street which we called Main Street back then, Ulman's Jewelry Store, Kaufman's Jewelry Store, Feuerherd's Ice Cream Parlor, which we all loved. That was an old fashioned ice cream parlor with home made ice cream and that was on the corner of George Street and Caroline Street and there was Bell's Furniture Store. There was Thompson's Funeral Home. That was on Princess Anne Street. But on Caroline Street we had Goolrick's Drug Store and Miller's Dress Shop, and Brent's Store, Montgomery Wards, Wallace's Shoe Store, People's Drug Store. We had a Chinese laundry where the information center downtown is now. We had J.C. Penney, we had Bell's Furniture Store, Bond's Drug Store, and at one time there was a small Safeway and we had Young's Bakery. They had wonderful baked goods. We had a wonderful restaurant called Dinty Moore's Restaurant. I think that was for the traveling salesmen because there were no restaurants in Fredericksburg back in my day. Everybody ate at home and the visiting traveling salesmen stayed at the Maury Hotel which was right across from Dinty Moore's Restaurant. We had Ninde's Furniture Store. That had been here a long time and the Pitts Movie Theatre. I paid ten cents to go to the movies and Crismonds Shoe Store was here.

My father was president of the Kiwanis Club. He was also Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge, and he was a member of the Elks Club.

The Farmers Creamery delivered milk every day. Milk came in bottles and the cream was on the top of the bottle and then you would leave a note if you needed anything else; whatever else Mother would order, ice cream or whatever. Maybe she ordered butter; I don't remember but the farmer's truck came once a week; on Saturday. It drove all around Fredericksburg in the neighborhood and it delivered vegetables and eggs. There was a Mrs. Pollock who came from King George and she brought eggs and butter and she might have brought chickens. I'm not too sure about that.

On the corner of Prince Edward Street and Wolfe Street was Peden's Pickle Factory. That was a great big building. It's now where the Washington Insurance Company is. That has another name now but it used to be Washington, Chichester, Carke. Right on that corner was Peden's Pickle Factory. I can remember walking in. We walked on pathways of planks and there would be huge barrels of wonderful pickles. Great big pickles and they smelled so good. All that wonderful pickle and the brine and everything and I think we could buy a pickle for five cents - a great big pickle at that time.

On William Street, then called Commerce Street, was where Lewis's Drug Store was. That was at the corner of William and Princess Anne Street. Lewis's Drug Store had a wonderful counter where you not only bought your drugs and your medicine there but they made the most wonderful chicken salad sandwiches and cheese salad sandwiches. Wonderful sandwiches that you could buy and have cokes. People went there for lunch and then, up from Lewis's Drug Store, on that same block, between Princess Anne and Charles Street was Binn's Hardware Store. That was a wonderful, great big hardware store and right across the street was Hirsch's Farm and Grain Store and next to that was the Chancellor's Grain Store and on the corner of Charles and William Street was the Janney Marshall Store.

The Bean Shoe Factory, The Virginia Shoe Company Store was on the corner of Commerce Street (William Street) and Prince Edward Street where the Renato's Restaurant is now. The National Guard Armory was out in Doswell Field. Doswell Field, as I remember, was out in the area where Route 1 is now and at the foot of Snowden Farm. They had horses that we could go ride and I remember going out riding horses one day and I fell off the horse and I never got back on another one.

The Pratt Clinic. Dr. Frank Pratt practiced medicine in his home at 1200 Winchester Street. He and Dr. Blight Harrison had their practice in the basement of Dr. Pratt's home. Then the Pratt Clinic was formed

at the corner of Lewis Street and Prince Edward. But before the Pratt Clinic was formed there, there was a big white house and it was called Hartley Hall and that was a boarding house and people would live there and took their meals there and it was a real old fashioned boarding house and it was run by Mrs. Lindsey. Then that house was torn down and the Pratt Clinic was formed in its place there on Prince Edward Street. The doctors that I remember that practiced medicine there were Dr. Frank Pratt, Dr. Claude Nunnally, Dr. Joseph Holloway, Dr. Paul Nutter, Dr. Talley Ballou, and, after World War II, Dr. James Willis. I can't remember any others. Then the Pratt Clinic moved to a new large location on Fall Hill Avenue, out where the canal is. I can't give you the number of that but that is now owned by the Quarles Petroleum Company. The Pratt Clinic Corporation is now located in the old Mary Washington House - Hospital, not House. The new one, of course, is up on Snowden Hill. My three daughters were born at Mary Washington Hospital on Sophia Street. I think I've already told you that though.

Interviewer: So, now how old were your daughters when you rode the troop train?

Mrs. Pratt: They were eight, nine, and ten. We took the train in Washington, D.C., at Union Station and we had to transfer in Chicago. When we got ready to board the train, we couldn't find my second daughter, Alice. So my husband and Barbara and Robin got on the train and I ran down into the main part of the terminal trying to find Alice and I found her and got a colored porter and he put me on the last train as it was pulling out of the station and we walked through the length of the train till we got to. Oh, it was called a drawing room. That was our room on the train. Back in those days, you had drawing rooms. Oh, they were wonderful and that would take care of five of us. I almost missed going to the West Coast with my second daughter because we got separated and that was very, very traumatic. I can tell you.

Well, when we arrived in San Francisco. We were only allowed to stay in the hotels five days. That was wartime and nobody could stay but five days in a hotel and then you had to move. My husband had to find a place for us to live. I had taken three little girls, moved to the West Coast to San Francisco with no place to live during war time and my husband went to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and they were wonderful. They found me a flat. It was in the Richmond district by the Golden Gate Bridge and they not only found me a flat but they checked on me all during the time I was living out there with the

children to make sure that I was all right and that they didn't jump the rent on me and I have always had a very, very soft spot in my heart for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

When my husband was on convoy duty in the Atlantic, I would ride the train from Fredericksburg to New York to meet him. I had never been to New York City and I felt like I should have a name tag like a little child. And I would go to the Ritz Hotel, I can't remember which hotel really, and wait for my husband to come and find me. We stayed in a flat down in Greenwich Village, 49 West 12th Street. A friend of ours had a wonderful flat and he would be there, maybe two or three days, and then he'd go back to sea again and I would get on a train and ride back to Fredericksburg and sometimes I couldn't find a seat and I had to stand up. The one time my husband had to go to Biloxi, Mississippi for Navy duty of some kind and I remember getting on the train in Fredericksburg and riding. We rode overnight and the French Navy was on the train and we just had the most wonderful time. I just loved their berets and their uniforms and we played cards and we had a really good time traveling day and night to get to Biloxi, Mississippi.

But one of the things I almost forgot to tell you. In Caroline County we had friends who knew Caresse Crosby who knew Salvador Dali. He was a house guest for over a year. Caresse Crosby had bought Hampton Manor, a plantation house outside of Bowling Green. It was a DeJarnette home and Dick and I were invited to a party there. I remember feeling fairly excited to meet an artist like Salvador Dali and his wife. They spoke no English and we had a wonderful time, though. They had such interesting people and Caresse Crosby was married. She married after she moved down to Caroline County to Hampton Manor. She married a man much younger than herself. His name was Burt Young. He was quite a character. He would ride down the main street of Bowling Green in his open convertible shooting out the street lights and spending the night in jail and he didn't let that bother him. He would turn around and do it right over again.

Second Part of Interview, Monday, September 9, 2002

Interviewer: Today is Monday, September 9, and it's a little after 2:00 p.m. and this is the second part of the interview with Mrs. Richard T. Pratt, Jr. Good afternoon, Mrs. Pratt. How are you doing today?

Mrs. Pratt: Fine, thank you, Jane. It's nice to have you.

Interviewer: It's nice to be back here to hear what you have to say about Fredericksburg and the local area. So, I'm just going to let you go ahead and get started.

Mrs. Pratt: I'd like to go back to the Pratt Clinic if I may. Dr. Frank Pratt practiced medicine in his home on Winchester Street. He and Dr. Blight Harrison had their practice in the basement of Dr. Pratt's home and then the Pratt Clinic was formed on Prince Edward Street. Dr. Frank Pratt, Dr. Claude Nunnally, Dr. Joseph Holloway, Dr. Paul Nuter, Dr. James Willis, Dr. Talley Ballou, Dr. Larry Moter, Dr. Jeffrey Moss, Dr. James Grymes, and Dr. James McKnight, and Dr. John Willis practiced medicine. Then the Pratt Clinic moved to the new and larger location on Fall Hill Avenue, now owned by the Quarles Petroleum Company. The Pratt Clinic today, as of right now, is located in old Mary Washington Hospital. My three daughters, I think I've told you this, were born at Mary Washington Hospital when it was located on Sophia Street. A private room at that time was \$5.00 a day; a private nurse made \$6.00 a day and she worked a twelve hour shift.

Interviewer: I understand now that you want to tell us some more about the Great Flood of 1942.

Mrs. Pratt: Yes. The citizens of Fredericksburg, all citizens, were ordered to go to the public health doctor and have typhoid shots. Back in the days of the thirties and forties, all houses were quarantined if any child or person had measles, mumps, chicken pox, scarlet fever, or any of the communicable diseases and the quarantine signs were always put on the right hand side of the front door so that you knew that somebody in that house was sick with a communicable disease. But today people don't do that. Nobody's quarantined for anything that I know of.

Interviewer: Now, Mrs. Pratt, I understand that you have some more information that you want to share with us about a place that is near and dear to you, Port Royal.

Mrs. Pratt: Yes, I would like to take you back to Port Royal when I lived there in the thirties, forties, and so on. Our doctor, Dr. Rogers Harris, was the only doctor in three counties. He served Caroline County, King George County, and upper Essex. He was a country doctor. He had a very old two room house in the little town of Port Royal that had no running water. I remember the front waiting room had bottles of medicines and pills lined on shelves around the walls. His office was the room next door and you went to see him, and then

he went into the front room and he would get the medicine that he was giving you a prescription for out of the bottles that he had on the shelves. He had a pharmacy, a drug store, and his office all in one. He was a very wonderful doctor. I think back on him and his office has now been moved to the town green and it is in the process of being restored by historic Port Royal.

Interviewer. So I understand that there is someone else in the Port Royal area that was very influential and who was that?

Mrs. Pratt: Yes, that was Helen Jacobs. She was a very famous tennis player and played at Wimbledon and she bought Rock Stop, a lovely old home on the Rappahannock River and she would play tennis at Gaymont. Gaymont is a historic home, right down on 17 below where Helen lived and she was the one who first taught my daughter Barbara Willis tennis. I think that Barbara's interest in tennis stemmed from that day on. And Mr. and Mrs. William Turner Pratt lived at Townfield, a lovely old home, in Port Royal. Mr. Pratt had the first automobile in Caroline County. He later moved to Fredericksburg and opened the Chevrolet Cadillac Agency on Princess Anne Street. Mr. William Turner Pratt was my husband's uncle. His home now was on Prince Edward Street. It's called the Lee Pratt House.

Dr. Charles Gravatt. The Gravatt family lived in an old house in Port Royal back in the early part of the century. Dr. Charles Gravatt went to the Orient and lived for a number of years and later on became a Buddhist. His monument was moved from his home grounds and is now in St. Peter's Episcopal Church Yard. Mr. Farish had a printing press building. Colonial Williamsburg tried to buy the building and contents but Mr. Farish refused to sell. Williamsburg copied the building.

Interviewer: Now, Mrs. Pratt, you've lived in this area for a long time in Fredericksburg and in Caroline County and then also you know a lot about King George County. So can you share with us some of what you remember about King George County?

Mrs. Pratt: Yes, I would love to. The Rappahannock Valley Garden Club would open the historic mansions of King George County for historic Garden Week, the last Tuesday in April. The homes we opened were Powhatan, the Tayloe home. That was bought by Jimmy Walker from New York. He lived in New York City but he had a very famous caretaker whose name was Prince Michael Romanov. Now Mike Romanov was a great character and he mingled with all the people in

the area and was fascinating but he was no more Prince Michael Romanov. He came originally, I think, from somewhere in Washington State but he later went on to Hollywood and opened a very popular restaurant and I imagine he later died out there. Then we would open the home of Mr. and Mrs. Brown Morton at Moreland, a lovely home on the Potomac River and Marmion, the home of the Grymes family, Nanzatico, on the Rappahannock River, that was owned by Charles Davis who came down with his wife from Connecticut.

We had the home of Admiral and Mrs. Ballentine, Mill Bank and Chatterton, also a Tayloe home. That became the home of a movie star, Ilona Massey. Then we had Belle Grove. That was originally a Turner home. That was bought by Mr. and Mrs. John Hooker from Chicago and Woodlawn on the Rappahannock. That was a Turner home. My husband's grandmother Pratt was born there; was born at Woodlawn. Up the river was Canning. That was owned by the Smith family and Dr. Mason Smith, who lived in Fredericksburg, was born at Canning. Also Oaken Brow which was the home of Dr. and Mrs. Low.

Powhatan was later bought by Raymond Guest who was ambassador to Ireland. He bought Powhatan and he had a landing field built there for his airplane and he had a beautiful, gorgeous horse barn. Of course, the Raymond Guest family was famous up in Long Island with the horses. Raymond Guest married Princess Caroline Murat. They lived there and had two children and still own it. The first polo match that the Mary Washington Hospital had as a big fund raiser was held at Powhatan by the son Archille Guest. He is now in residence there as far as I know. His sister, I think, is either in Paris or London. She's married. I remember when we wanted to open Powhatan for Garden Week, Virginia Payne and her husband and my husband and I, the four of us, went over to call on Mr. and Mrs. Guest and to meet them for the first time and ask them if they would open Powhatan for Garden Week for us. Well, they were most gracious and gave us the tour of the house and we had tea with them and we all just had a wonderful visit. That was one of the best tours we ever had in the country. People came from all over the United States. They always do for Garden Week anyway. It was a beautiful, sunny day and they had tea out on the grounds, the gardens for all the visitors and Mr. and Mrs. Guest were so gracious.

Interviewer: Mrs. Pratt, I want to really thank you for sharing all of your memories with us of growing up and living in this area over the past three-fourths of a century. It's been a very great pleasure to hear all the events that you have described. Thank you so much for helping

us. I'm certain that everybody in Historic Fredericksburg will be appreciative too.

Mrs. Pratt: Well, my thanks are to you, Jane. I have enjoyed meeting you and being with you and it has been fun going down memory lane in a way and I just wish that I could remember more but all in all it has been a most pleasant experience. It truly has. I love Fredericksburg, love it dearly, and I have enjoyed my life here and while Fredericksburg has grown, far beyond the reaches I ever thought it would be, it is still a small town to me and I guess have enjoyed life in Fredericksburg. Thank you so much.

Interviewer: You're welcome. This concludes the interview with Mrs. Richard T. Pratt, Jr., for the Historic Fredericksburg Pieces of the Past.