

STAFFORD COUNTY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

INTERVIEW OF MARY JANE CULLEY BOXLEY

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Subject of Tape(s)_____

MARY BOXLEY

Today is November the 25th, 1986. My name is Lou Young Silver and I am talking to Mary Jane Culley Boxley about growing up in Stafford County.

Q: Miss Mary Jane, tell us your date of birth. When were you born?

A: I was born July 5, 1902--yeah, 1902. Born 1902.

Q: Where were you born?

A: Stafford.

Q: Stafford County? Were you born in a hospital?

A: No--I know you know--where you go into Mr.-- let me see is I can recall his name now--where James used to always go over there--you know back over there-I can't recall that

man's name now to save my life. I done forgot his name.

Q: Was it close to Brook Station?

A: No. No, indeed. It was--you know where you turn to go down to Mr. B. Newton's old home place?

Q: Yes, I do.

A: Well, you know to the old house that sat on that road before you get down to that turn there! It was a house, long years ago. My mother said they used to live there.

Q: Close to John Newton and Mr. Hugh Newton?

A: Uh-huh. They used to live there and I was born there.

Q: That's interesting.

A: I was born right there.

Q: On old Stage Road?

A: Stage Road, right.

Q: That's interesting.

A: That's right.

Q: Do you know did your family live in Stafford County? (As long as you can ember?)

A: Long as I can remember all except this boy that I got here in this house now. He was a--from Philadelphia. That's where his home was. His home, he got married out there and been there for years.

Q: Do you know was your mother and father born in Stafford County? Or did they move?

A: They were born in Stafford County, too.

Q: Was your father a resident of the White Oak area?

A: Yes, indeed. Yes, he was.

Q: I think your family has always lived in this area.

A: Always, always--that's right. You never did know... old man William Culley, did you?

Q: Yes, I think that when I was a very small child.

A: Child, that's right.

Q: I remember coming to visit right up this road, visiting your father and your mother.

A: Yes, indeed, that's right.

Q: Do you know what kind of work did your father do when you were small?

A: Well, I tell you (laughter)--

Q: Farmed the land?

A: No, he was a duck hunter! He used to take that big gun, stay in that creek a-hunting them ducks.

Q: What kind of work did your mother do? Was she a housewife? Did she tend the garden?

A: Uh-huh--tended the garden and she was a midwife, too.

Q: A midwife? That's what I was hoping you were going to tell me.

A: Yeah, she was a midwife, that's right.

Q: She birthed many a children.

A: Oh, didn't she--'deed she did! 'Deed she did!

Q: How many years do you think, Mary, she acted as a midwife?

A: Long as she lived.

Q: How old was your mother when she passed away?

A: Now, I don't think I can't handle that. Mama was--she was up in the eighties. Because I'm 80--I was born in 1902--I'm 84 years old myself.

Q: That's interesting.

A: Yes, indeedy.

Q: Do you remember did your mother get paid for doing midwife work?

A: Yes, they paid her.

Q: That's good.

A: Everybody she waited on, paid her.

Q: That's good.

A: Yes, indeedy.

Q: Did she do black families and white families?

A: Yeah, that's right.

Q: The entire end of South Stafford!

A: Right.

Q: And she probably had to walk or go in horse and buggy.

A: No, she had to walk.

Q: She had to walk?

A: Had to walk when they didn't come and get her. Some of them used to come after her.

Q: Well, how many miles to you think, Mary, that she ranged--four or five miles from her home?

A: That's right. That's right.

Q: It was a lot of territory.

A: It certainly was. 'Deed so.

Q: If your family has all been raised in this section, what size do you remember families being? Did everybody have small families? Or large families? They probably had to take care of farms and help--how many brothers and sisters did you have?

A: I had, let me see, five--help me with, Will May (her daughter)--brothers and sisters I had.

MABEL: Harry, Bill, Arley, Joe--that's all I know.

A: Bill, Arley, and Joe. How many sisters--Frances--

MABEL: Harry, Bill, Arley, Joe, Frances, and you.

A: And myself.

MABEL: That's six.

A: Uh-huh--that's right.

Q: Good. Were you the youngest, the oldest, or in the middle?

A: I was the oldest--I am the oldest one in the bunch.

Q: The oldest in your family?

A: The oldest one.

Q: When were you married, Mary?

A: I was married on the--I tell you the truth--I know when I was married, but I done forgot now.

Q: How old were you? It doesn't really matter too much--

A: When I got married?

Q: Uh-huh.

A: I was 17 years old. (About 1919)

Q: 17 years old. And where did you find your husband? Was he close by or was--

A: Stafford. Did you know Matt Borley and Aunt Bessie Boxley? Lived on Stage Road, over there?

Q: Close to the Preston family?

A: Yeah, you know Willie Boxley? That was my husband.

Q: That's right. And I remember my grandmother testifying as to when your husband was born, so he could get a birth certificate.

A: Sure, enough.

Q: My family and your family were all raised close to each other.

A: That's right, that's right.

Q: Did your husband work away from home or did he work on the farm?

A: No, he farm--worked on the farm. And he worked in steel in Pennsylvania after we got married, he worked and bought this place right here from the Joneses-King George. And then he come home and stayed and was a farmer. Bought him an old horse and mule and that's why he farmed a long, long--as long as he was able. He farmed.

Q: Did you work at home on the farm or did you work away from home?

A: No, I used to help him on the farm. After it got right hard on him, then I went away from home and went to work.

Q: Tell me where you worked.

A: I worked at Mary Washington Hospital.

Q: And how many years did you work over there?

A: I worked at Mary Washington Hospital for seven years and then after that, I left that and I went back to--let me see, where did I go to then--they called me back to Mary Washington Hospital to be a maid. I went there then, feeding patients. And I was there five years, feeding patients. And then I liked that. Some of the people, they got so fond of me, you know, I used to be so good to them. You sit down and feed them, you know, and help feed them, you know, and the nurses liked that. And then I turned out from that, turned out with them to help dress them and they like that. Some of them old people, you know, I was so good to them, and they thought, "Lord," they thought there weren't nobody like me.

Q: They were proud to have you around there.

A: Proud to have me around there. And I stayed there in that hospital until Doctor Payne had an accident injury. You know him?

Q: Yes, I do.

A: Uh-huh.

Q: He was killed in an automobile accident.

A: Uh-huh--that's right. Got killed in an automobile accident. He had already told me, he said, "Mary, you're so good around this place here. You can have this place here--work here as long as you live--long as I live." After that happened to him, then another bunch of people, I don't know where they was from, bought the place. And they went and found my afe their own selves and said I was old enough to retire. They were going to retire me and they retired me. And do you know one thing--that thing hurt me so bad, I didn't know what to do. 'Cause I really liked the job.

Q: Did you work anywhere else? After you retired from the hospital?

A: No. no, I didn't work nowhere else after that. Nobody else I was talking with was going to work. But the people said I bad to retire and was too old.

Q: Do you know how old you were?

A: Then?

Q: Yeah, when you left the hospital.

A: I was way up--67 years old.

Q: How many children did you and Willie have?

A: We had ten children. Had five girls and five boys.

Q: Now, that's interesting. Have most of your children lived in Stafford County?

A: All of them.

Q: All of them.

A: All of them in Stafford County.

Q: I remember your son, Elder, working for Stafford County.

A: He worked for Stafford County. And you don't remember Leonard. Leonard was the youngest boy and he was the--he was down here Sunday. He don't come down here much... He lives in town--over

here on Duke Street and he is a truck driver.

Q: Truck driver?

A: Un-huh. Drive that tractor and trailer all the time and I don't know how many years he ain't been on it.

Q: That's interesting.

A: 'Deed, it is.

Q: How many years has Elder worked for the school system in Stafford?

A: Oh, my Lord, he--well, he started out a bus driver.

Q: I remember.

A: You remember that?

Q: Driving the bus when I was going to school.

A: Yeah, that's right. That's what job they give him. He loved to drive that bus. I don't know how many years he stayed on it.

Q: I remember him driving it at least 30 years ago.

A: He drove it a long time.

Q: Yes, he did.

A: Drove it a long time. Then when he got off the bus, took him right to that school and he-

Q: In the maintenance department and kept up the school.

A: That's right. And still there. Now, he tells me down here Sunday, that he was talking about one time-, he'd get so tired sometime, he was telling about, "Soon as I get old enough, I'm going to retire. I'm going to retire." But he turns around here the other day and fired(?), the bus--who used to be the manager of the school? Mr.--he was down here the other week here--Allard.

Q: Yes, Mr. Dickie Allard.

A: Dickie Allard, that's right. When Mr. Dickie Allard, when he retired, you know he retired. He retired, they got another man put there, and Elder come telling me the other day, they fired him. I said, "Well, now they got to give somebody up." He said, "You know what they done? They threwed me right square in his shoes." I said, "What?" Said, "Throwed me right square in his shoes." And he said, "You know, I can't stay there all that time." 'Cause he said, "When I get old enough to retire," he said, "I'm coming away from there." And he's supposed to be the head manager there now.

Q: That's interesting. He's filling in and being the supervisor. Foreman, I guess they call him supervisor of maintenance.

A: That's right. I think so, too, yes, indeedy.

Q: And your son lives close to you, doesn't he, Mrs. Boxley?

A: Yeah, he live up the road here on the other side of this trailer house, up here. That brick trailer. He live in the next house up above that trailer house. And my daughter, she lives down where you come down that hill down there, she live down the next hill on--Geneva.

Q: Geneva. She worked in the Fredericksburg school system.

A: Well, yes, she did.

Q: Now, she retired.

A: Uh-huh. You know I'd forgotten that?

Q: She retired from the Fredericksburg system.

A: Back over there, yes, indeedy.

Q: Do you have other children that worked in Stafford County or in this area?

A: The only children I got--I got the youngest one right here--live right here--she works at Southland all the time. Southland worker.

Q: That's interesting.

A: Yes, indeedy.

Q: What's here name, Mary?

A: Estelle Strother.

Q: Estelle.

A: Uh-huh. Estelle Strother. You know Mamie, don't you?

Q: Is that Mrs. Mickens?

A: Mickens--hospital lady.

Q: She works at the hospital.

A: Hospital--yes, she do. All the time in that hospital. She and her husband both work there.

Q: I didn't know that.

A: You didn't?

Q: No.

A: Yes--they've been there ever since they moved from town down here and they had these little houses built here.

Q: That's interesting.

A: Uh-huh. Their father give them each one an acre of land and he had these houses put here. All three of them. Mamie had hers put her one here yonder. He picked that one out and that was the first one. He did the land, too. He picked that spot out over there for her. Well up that hill over yonder. And the next one lived right here in that last little house right here--that's Estelle. That's the Southland worker.

Q: Southland.

A: Uh-huh. And the other one, she used to--she had a job over here--she used to work at--she worked at G & H. 'Till they closed that up. And she left there. And now, she just do day's work for people.

Q: What is her first name?

A: Oh, her name is Lorraine Alsop.

Q: Lorraine.

A: Lorraine Alsop.

Q: It is nice to have your daughters close by.

A: Yeah, ain't it, though? Yes, it is.

Q: I remember this area of Stafford County being called the Woodlanding.

A: it was called Woodlanding.

Q: Woodlanding Point--Woodlanding Farm?

A: Right.

Q: Why do you think it got that name?

A: They had it 'fore we ever come here. They had it. Woodyard Landing--they had it 'fore we ever got the place. And they still got it and, let me see, they want to change the name. They wanted to change the name, but they couldn't handle it so good. I don't think they could handle that. And they still--they still--it's still the Woodyard Landing.

Q: That's right. The roads are all going to have a name put up on that road.

A: Yeah.

Q: Makes... things.

A: Sure enough.

Q: And Woodyard or Woodlanding Road is going to be the name of your new road.

A: That's right, uh-huh. And the houses down there on that creek, just like a town.

Q: There used not to be any houses there, were there?

A: No, indeed. Willie used to farm down there for the Joneses. He got this place from them.

Q: Why do you think they called it the Woodlanding?

A: I don't know, but they had the name when we got it.

Q: You think maybe they cut down all the trees and put them on the boat?

A: Maybe so.

Q: Probably so--cut up the wood down there.

A: I know when Willie used to cut ties off this very place here, paying for the place, and he used to haul them down on that creek and I used to go in those woods and help him fell down them trees and saw the ties and box the ties and done--he used to load the wagon and I used to carry them down to the creek myself and how I'd get them off the wagon I don't know. But I'd get them off there. And the barge would come in here and pick them up. Uh-huh.

Q: I think that's why maybe you all knew that place as the Woodyard.

A: Yeah, Woodyard Landing.

Q: And the Woodyard Landing.

A: Yeah, that's right.

Q: And I think that's a good name for your road.

A: Yes, it's a good name for it. I likes it. I like that name for it. Yes, indeedy.

Q: Did many people move in and move out of your community, Mary? Did most of the people that lived in this area stay in this area?

A: Most of them--I never known any of them to move out. Yeah.

Q: Now that your children are all grown, there are some new houses being built down at the end of

your road here-

A: What you talking--some houses. I wish you'd go down there--brand new houses down there now. Some nice people down there, too.

Q: That's good.

A: 'Deed it is!

Q: And it's like you say--a little town, a little village down there.

A: Uh-huh. Nice people down there 'cause I know I went down there in the summer time--had got some apple trees and sit them out there and I never seen so many apples. They told us to come on down, get all the apples we wanted.

Q: That's good.

A: 'Deed they did--there was nice people down there. Lovely people down on that place.

Q: That's good.

A: Yeah, Yes, indeedy.

Q: I think I met Dr.--

A: There's a doctor live down there.

Q: A dentist?

A: I know a doctor down there.

Q: Embrey? Doctor Embrey.

A: He down there.

Q: Yeah, Dr. Embrey.

A: Yeah, that's right. He a nice man, too. 'Deed there is nice people down there on that creek.

Q: That's good. Was there ever many community activities going on with the schools, or the churches,

or--? What did your family do for recreation?

A: I don't know. I don't know what they done, I tell you the truth. What you mean?

Q: Did they have a church that they'd go to?

A: Oh, yeah, we got a church.

Q: What's the name of your church?

A: Union Belle.

Q: Union Belle Baptist?

A: That's right. Union Belle Baptist Church. That's our church.

Q: Did they ever have many parties or social gatherings for the people? Did you family get to go out?

A: Didn't have no parties much, but used to have--

Q: Maybe a homecoming once in a while.

A: Oh, yeah--they'd have homecoming days there. Big days.

Q: Big days.

A: 'Deed they did, yes.

Q: Carry lunch in?

A: Carry lunch. We had there Sunday.

Q: Oh, they did. That's interesting. That's interesting.

A: Yes, indeedy. I didn't go back 'cause I went Sunday morning, but I didn't go back Sunday evening 'cause I stayed here to help with my son.

Q: Are there many of the old families still at your church, Mary? Are there many of them?

A: Yeah.

Q: That's good.

A: James Griffin.

Q: James Griffin--and the White family?

A: Yeah, you know them, don't you?

Q: Mr. Frank White.

A: That's right.

Q: James Griffin. These are people who have been in this community for a long time.

A: A long time, that's right. 'Deed they have. Yes, indeedy.

Q: Can you remember a preacher--one of the old time preachers?

A: Yes, we had one--let me see--we have one old pastor there. His name was Peter Carter.

Q: Was he a good preacher?

A: 'Deed he was. He was a good preacher. And he left. And we got another preacher there and he wasn't too good. And then after that, they got one there by the name of--let me see, he died--I don't know what his name was now, but he died here some time back. And now, then after that, they got one from Washington City. He come down here and took over and when he got tired of it. He just give it up and went on back to Washington. And now we ain't got no steady pastor. We just gets different ones.

Q: Do you remember having any dentists to take care of your family's teeth?

A: I used to remember them, but I don't know--Estelle, she got one over in town. Take care of her teeth. Lorraine and Mamie--let's see--Mamie got one, too. All of them go to the same one, I think.

Q: Maybe you were one of those real lucky people that you didn't have to go to the dentist.

A: Yes, I did.

Q: You did have to go to the dentist?

A: Did I? Did I have to go? I used to go to--the last one I was at--oh, the last one I was at, I tell you the truth, all my teeth got bad and you see, hear me talking, but God knows I ain't got a tooth in my head of my own. And I tell you where he lived at. He lived right across the street there from--he lived right across the street--he preached--'cause I went to the funeral. Mr. Cox's funeral and he right across the street there.

Q: From where they held that?

A: Uh-huh. He lived right across that street. And I can't call his name 'cause he--he--he took sick and passed away before I even knowed it.

Q: Was it Doctor Talisman ? ?

A: That was him.

Q: I think he lived in that big white house--right across from Wheeler Thompson.

A: That's right.

Q: That's---

A: And he fixed my teeth.

Q: That's good.

A: Uh-huh. He certainly did and I thought he was so nice.

Q: I didn't realize he replaced all of those teeth.

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A: Everyone of them. And pulled them--all of the bad ones--pulled them all out. And when he stopped pulling them, I said, "Take them all out while you're at it."

Q: That's interesting.

A: And he did it. I was working for Dr. Payne and them, then.

Q: That's good.

A: Uh-huh.

Q: You probably didn't lose many days from work either.

A: No, I didn't. I didn't lose--'deed I didn't. I sure didn't. No, indeedy.

Q: Did your family have a regular medical doctor, Mary? Or did you do your own doctoring?

A: No, we had a regular doctor.

Q: You had a regular doctor?

A: Yes. Regular doctor.

Q: ... real interesting kind of doctoring. Your mother passed on her medical knowledge?

A: Dr. Ellison(?) used to be--used to be the doctor.

Q: Dr. Ellison would come and visit?

A: Yeah, uh-huh. He used to visit--he used to visit.

Q: Do you remember when electricity came to this part of the country?

A: I think that's too much for me. 'Deed I don't.

Q: Well, you probably studied or did your reading at night time, you probably had lanterns or oil lamps.

A: That's right. Oil lamps. That's the truth. Oil lamps. Yes, indeedy.

Q: Did you go to school when you were a young girl?

A: Yes, I went the little bit I could go. After I got such a woman, I went and got married. Didn't go to school any more after that.

Q: What school did you attend?

A: I used to--you remember the old school up yonder called Jericho?

Q: Where was it located, Mary?

A: You know where old Jericho School on Stage Road?
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Q: On Stage Road.

A: Uh-huh. Well up in there where, let me see, who live up in there now? Some of them.

Q: Gordon...

A: Uh-huh. Yes, indeed. That was the last school I went to--right there.

Q: Do you know how old you were when you went to school? Were you six, seven, or eight years old?

A: I must have been ten years old when I started.

Q: Ten years when you first started.

A: Yes.

Q: You went to school maybe four, five, six years?

A: Uh-huh. Then I turn around after that and got married. And that ended that up.

Q: That ended up the schooling?

A: Yeah.

Q: Then you really did go to work after that, didn't you?

A: Went to work then, 'deed I did.

Q: And I'd say you've been working for about 70 years.

A: Oh, I've been working, I'll tell you, I have.

Q: Do you remember what your school teacher's name was?

A: I knowed his name--let me see now--his name was--my teacher was--he used to room at Uncle Matt's place. Willie's home, you know, up there across there. He used to room there. But he didn't belong here. I can call his name, but I--it slipped my remembrance. But he was a good teacher,

though.

Q: That's interesting.

A: Yeah, he was a good teacher. I liked him. Some them children up there was, you know Basil Boxley and Harvey, hard to remember them.

Q: And did the Preston family--were some of the Preston children from Belle Plains area, living down in that area then?

A: Yeah. They lived in a old house over there--we always--you know, my Uncle Ned(?) used to live and lived right in that old house.

Q: And they went to school with you? They were some of your schoolmates?

A: That's right. They went to that school, too. And they had a falling out over there and when they had the falling out, the teacher got mad and left.

Q: That was the end of the school?

A: And... and didn't have anymore schooling either.

Q: What year, Mary, do you think that the school closed down?

A: Oh, my Lord, I can't tell you, I don't know.

Q: If you were about 15 years old?

A: That's right. Around that.

Q: Must have been around 1917 maybe.

A: Must-a-been. Most surely was.

Q: Where did your children go to school, Mary? When your children were in school?

A: Oh, my children used to go up here--go to Stafford High School and go to, I don't know how many schools they didn't go to. They'd just go to Stafford High School and-

Q: I reckon the Walker-Grant School, maybe?

A: No. They didn't. Estelle was the onliest one went to Walker-Grant. She was the only one went there.

Q: Was the H.H. Poole(?) School, maybe. That was right located where the Stafford School boilding is?

A: Yeah.

Q: I think that's where your son Elder used to drive the bus.

A: He certainly did.

Q: Certainly did--

A: Yeah.

Q: I remember him picking up all the Preston children.

A: Yes, indeed.

Q: Joseph William's children.

A: Uh-huh.

Q: on the Belle Plains Road.

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A: I declare he used to haul them. And used to haul them down there from Union Belle, down to Union Belle Church--all up and down in there, too.

Q: He had a long bus route.

A: 'Deed, he did. 'Deed, he did.

Q: And he went early every morning.

A: Every morning he was on that bus route and gone.

Q: He was a very good bus driver.

A: Uh-huh.

Q: Do you remember when the roads were first paved in this part of the country?

A: No, m'am, I don't remember that.

Q: It's been a long time ago.

A: Long time, uh-huh.

Q: Do you remember when you first got a telephone?

A: Oh, I don't know. We had this old shack put up here and then I said after we used the lamps and all if we wanted to use them and our lives were so busy working and I said to Willie one day, I said, "Willie, you know what I want to do?" He said, "What's that?" I say, "I'm going to have this house wired up." And so I did.

Q: That's good.

A: Had the house wired up and then I turned around after that and had the telephone put in.

Q: That's good. And you've been able to talk to the world ever since, haven't you?

A: Ever since, ever since, yes, indeed. That phone ain't been bad but once. It got bad here one time, I don't know what happened to it. I called the people and come up here. They said the whole trouble was down in the office.

Q: That's good.

A: Yes, indeed. Phone still hanging in there.

Q: Did you all ever have a tractor to work on the farm? Or did you always used horses?

A: Horses. We didn't have no tractor. Always used that old horse and mule. And the old mule died with old age. And then after Willie passed away, the horse passed away, too. Uh-huh. We had them buried right here on this place.

Q: How long had Mr. Willie been dead?

A: Willie been dead about--Willie been dead about eight years.

Q: I remember Mr. Willie being ill.

A: Yes, he had bad feet.

Q: He certainly did.

A: Uh-huh. His mother--she always had bad feet and he had bad feet, too. And then he had... one of his legs took off.

Q: That's right. They said he had sugar diabetes?

A: That's right.

Q: Amputated his leg.

A: That's right, uh-huh. Yes, indeedy.

Q: He was very brave and courageous--worked for all those years.

A: Yes, indeed.

Q: A very brave person.

A: Certainly was. And I stayed right here and took care of him. Waited on him.

Cared for him until he passed away. And Lord knows I didn't even know--he went to bed that night and sit up in the bed and talked. I and him was talking. I was sitting up in there--I and him was talking. And he said--he said to me--he said, "Now if you didn't stay over in with me, it would be awful lonesome." I said, "Yeah, I reckon you would." And I was sitting over on the day bed, he was laying over in the little hospital bed back over there, and he got up that morning. He said, "I don't feel too good this morning." I say, "You don't?" He said, "No, I don't. I don't feel good this morning." Well, the next morning after that, he didn't wake up. I went in there to wake him up. And I went in there and wake him up and I said, "I'm going to wash your face and hands now," and he said, "No, no," he said, "I'm all right, I'm all right." And Lord knows the man was nearly dead and I didn't even know it. I called my daughter, Mamie, over here and Mamie come over here and Mamie said,

"That man passing away hard as he can." I said, "What?" Man gone--passing away hard as he can. Lord knows, that thing like to kill me that morning.

Q: Well, Mary, how old was Willie? Was he in his seventies?

A: Yeah, uh-huh.

Q: Upper seventies?

A: Yes, he was.

Q: And he lived right in this community all of his life?

A: All his life. 'Deed he did.

Q: Mary, did you and Willie ever take a trip together?

A: No, not off nowhere, no, nowhere. We didn't go off nowhere.

Q: Not to Washington, D.C.?

A: No, we never did. Stayed right around here.

Q: Kept the home fires burning.

A: Kept it going. That's right. Yes, indeed, that's right.

Q: Do you ever remember there being any rivalry between Stafford County and King George County?

Did you all tease each other? For being persimmon tree climbers? Or-

A: No.

Q: King George--you worked together and you didn't have time for much playing and games.

A: We didn't do no playing, no, indeed, no.

Q: It took a lot of time to cut the wood and keep the fires going?

A: And shucking corn.

Q: Shucking corn.

A: Cutting off corn. People going up and down this road and I'd be out there cutting off corn just like he was.

Q: You're right. After you finished your day's work at the hospital, then you'd come home a lot of times and you'd work at home.

A: Work at home, 'deed I did.

Q: And raised your children and send them all to school.

A: Yes, Lord.

Q: Take them to church. There was always something to keep you busy.

A: That's right, that's right. Yes, indeedy.

Q: Mary, were there any local leaders or any people of the community that you would look to to help you with problems or--?

A: No, I never did--no, I never did get into that.

Q: You didn't really have to go to Boards of Supervisors' meetings?

A: Didn't go to that either.

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Q: Mostly your traveling was to church and back.

A: Church and back home. Church and back home.

Q: Do you remember the first mail carrier? They come in a horse and buggy to bring you your mail?

A: Uh-huh. That was Mr. Hudson--Johnny Hudson.

Q: Mr. Johnny Hudson.

A: Do you remember him?

Q: I've heard his name a great deal.

A: That used to be the mail carrier. Used to drive a horse and buggy.

Q: Do you remember when you got your first mail boxes? You have to put up a mail box out on the side of the road?

A: That road out there, but I can't remember when we got it.

Q: And that's been--

A: That's been a long time.

Q: A long time.

A: A long time, I tell you, it's been.

Q: They gave you a rural route number and changed your box number so many times since then.

A: They ain't changed it--they changed it after we put the box out there. We had to have this new number. The mail carrier give us this number.

Q: That's right.

A: Uh-huh, they give it a number.

Q: Where did you go to do your shopping, Mary?

A: Now?

Q: or when you first remember, where did you do your shopping? Was there a local store? Did you always go to town to buy?

A: No, I used to always go to store--different stores--different ones. Always go to a different store wherever I felt I could get a little bit cheaper at.

Q: Had to shop around for the best price.

A: That's right, yes, indeed. Certainly did.

Q: Miss Mary, did you all do some fishing? Did you raise your own beef, your own pigs?

A: I raised my hogs.

Q: Raised your hogs.

A: And chickens.

Q: And chickens.

A: And Willie, he was--he turned out to be a fisherman.

Q: That's interesting. I appreciate your sharing the history with me and I hope you have good holidays.

A: Thank you. I hope you the same.

Q: And you think of any other stories you would like to tell me, or any other history you want to share with me, you just tell me and I'll come again.

A: All right.

Q: Thank you so much.

A: Thank you. I goes over here to Earl's Food Market. That's been our place all the time. At that food market.