

TMP-020

Interviewee: Dorothy Cooke

Interviewers: Jessica Taylor and David Brown

Date: July 15, 2013

T: This is Jessica Taylor and David Brown interviewing Dr. Dorothy Cooke on July 15, 2013 at 1:15 PM. Dr. Cooke, can you please state your full name?

C: Dorothy Helena Cosby Cooke, with an E. [Laughter]

T: What is your date of birth, if you don't mind me asking?

C: January 8, 1941.

T: Where were you born?

C: Here in Gloucester County.

T: Do you have any siblings?

C: One sister. She's about a year and a half older.

T: Uh-huh. What are your parents' names and occupations?

C: My mother's name is **Paige E. Desmond Cosby**, and my father, who's now deceased, is **Calvert Lucille Cosby**. My mother did domestic work. When my dad was living, he used to work at the saw mill. I think then, he worked at the Evans- the airport here. I'm not sure exactly what he did there, working on large equipment, I think.

T: I know you've had many lives, but what is your occupation?

C: Retired educator, now.

T: Okay. Where do you live in Gloucester County right now, what area?

C: In the Belroi area, near Walter Reed's birthplace on Hickory Fork Road.

T: Is that where your parents lived?

C: We- I was born in Capahosic in the same community where the Moton Center is, Gloucester Institute. We lived around in that area. We moved closer to the Ark community, and then we moved back to the Sassafras community, and then the Belroi community. I ended up marrying and sort of getting permanent residence in the Belroi community. My mother doesn't live very far from me; she's less than a mile down the road from me. Half a country mile. [Laughter]

T: That's wonderful. What is your earliest memory of Main Street?

C: Very isolated, to some degree. There were a few businesses there. When we came down to Main Street, which we call Gloucester Courthouse, we had a particular mission in mind. I recall going to the drugstore, and we'd get our groceries--some groceries--down here. Well, there was a Leigh's Market, and then down a little further there was a Safeway, and there was a Wallace and Gurley's. And the Morgan Drugstore, which is now Wallace and Gurley's. In the latter years, I think, we did our marketing at Wallace and Gurley's and then our drugstore business at Morgan's Drugstore, which was owned by Harvey Morgan's family.

T: Did you ever go to the one across the street?

C: Grey's, which is up this way? No, we always did our business with Morgan that I can recall. We even did our business with Morgan when it was up the street, opposite where Grey's is now. Do you know where that is?

B: Grey's was where Jessica's on Main is now, next to the-

C: Next to it. I think the building next to it was the pharmacist. Next to Jessica's, I believe. You might be right that that particular building was it, but it was right in that vicinity and opposite the street where SunTrust Bank and the annex part now is where the drugstore was. Right next that was a market. I was about to forget this: I think it was called Martin's. It was like a hardware store; lots of little- whatever you couldn't find anywhere else you could find it there. Let's see. The post office at that time, I think, as I can recall it first being located across the street where Mr. Morgan's building now. His office was there. And of course, the court circle I always remember, because that was sort of unique, coming around the court circle. We used to park--my Dad had a way--we lived sort of in an isolated area, out of the way from where there were a lot of folks. So, Saturday, in addition to taking care of the business, it was like a time visiting. I was kind of just looking around. He would park, and I remember us parking in front of Morgan's Drugstore at that time, which is next to Martin's, and just sitting there a long time watching everybody coming...the comings and the goings and then taking care of their business.

T: As an older child or a teenager, where did you spend time recreationally?

C: There was a place and a time when I- prior to my doing a little bit of dating, there weren't a whole lot of places to go. But, we did have a movie. Down on 17, there was a movie called the **Rim** Theater. There was over opposite that--the same person owned that--what was called the Wagon Wheel. They used to have dances. We used to go there a lot, and a lot of our famous artists—Clarence Carter, James Brown— got started there at the Wagon Wheel. They were the

two primary places, and then I can recall when the movie came up in the area where the movie is now at the Courthouse, where now the bowling alley is.

Sometimes we would go there. That was the extent of our recreation, but we were as happy as could be, I guess. If we weren't, nobody told us we weren't happy, so. [Laughter]

T: Describe the atmosphere at the Wagon Wheel, if you don't mind.

C: Just a lot of fun, live music, and just dancing. Fun, fun. You know, I don't ever recall there being a fight. We just had good, clean fun. Whereas now, somewhere to go out, I'd be skeptical of that for the young people or whatever now. Because it looks like- I don't care how nice the place is, there's always somebody that's going to get out of line there. But, it was always just fun. Crowded, very crowded. Hot. A whole lot of folk get in there and get dancing. [Laughter] They had booths; it was primary booths on each side of the room, and then the dance floor's in the center.

T: When you started dating, where did you go for that?

C: Same place.

T: Same place.

C: [Laughter] As a matter of fact, it probably started about the same time, cause as far as- we didn't do the- but you got a group of girls, now, would kind of hang out. You know, they have a car and all. My first car was as a grown woman, and then my husband and I shared that together. It was years after I'd been married before I had a car that was just my name. Things are quite different now. We didn't get

cars for our high school graduation or whatever as we did then. There weren't a lot of youngsters in my neighborhood, so wasn't like we had a hanging-out crowd per se. That basically was home. There weren't a lot of places to go, but we were satisfied with being at home. Always went to church starting way, way back, since I guess maybe about nine years old. I've been involved in church all of my life; look forward to that on primarily Sunday.

T: What about the gas station? Do you remember anything about it?

C: Oh, yes, the gas station. There was one in the Courthouse square, the city building is now. It was Hudson South's. I think it's still **sitting**. The Senior Center sits back a little bit, then there's a building that's right on the- but the other one's on the street, too, but that one's a little closer to the street. You know what I'm talking about? You can tell by looking at it where the gas pumps were. I think that's my first recollection of gas stations.

T: Do you remember Edge Hill Service Station specifically? The Texaco?

C: Oh, yes. I remember that one, but I don't think we went there that much. I think it was Hudson South's where we used to go all the time, was right on the Main Street. My dad did most of the driving. My mom could drive. But that was convenient, so I guess we just always went there. I can't recall- you know how when things change? Trying to think how we would have entered the Edge Hill Station then, if it would have been a problem. We had to go up and come back and all of that. But we went to Hudson South's the best as I can recall.

T: Absolutely. Did you want to ask something?

B: No, no. I'm just fascinated. [Laughter]

T: At your high school- you went to high school in Gloucester, right?

C: Right. T.C. Walker.

T: Okay. Did other students have cars? Did you notice anyone in particular that had one?

C: I don't recall any of the students having cars.

T: Mm-hm.

C: Just out the norm.

T: Absolutely. Did most people walk to school or take the bus?

C: Most took the bus. There were some in community who walked to school. As I can recall, I know once we got our license, if we needed to stay over in the afternoon, once my sister and I got our licenses and the same thing with other students- the parents would allow them to drive the parents' car if we needed to stay in school. But just driving back and forth everyday, no. We rode on the bus.

T: Did you notice, as far as students' parents were concerned, that there were parents who were early or late in getting a car?

C: No, most everybody had a car. Most of them, the majority.

T: Okay.

C: You almost needed a car to get around. Before that, it was a horse and buggy. My family never had a horse and buggy, but I can remember riding on a horse

and buggy. My grandmother knew someone in the community and when we were in the Belroi community, and we'd walk up there, this lady, she'd drive her horse and buggy. We'd go down to Capahosic. If you're going down to the Moton Center, when you cross the bridge if you're going from the Capahosic roadway, as you cross that rickety bridge you notice what looks like it was a store down in there. Well, there was a lot of activity down there. There was a gentleman named Bland who owned the store, and he sold groceries and everything and beer. This particular lady, my grandmother's friend, she would always like to go down and get a little beer, you know? [Laughter] That was something you didn't let the young folks- I guess I wasn't even supposed to know that- get a little beer. Because one day I remember her saying to- his name was Bland. She said, Mr. Beer, give me a Bland. [Laughter] So, she had had a couple of beers too many then. That's my recollection of riding with the horse. Most of the other people had their--I guess the majority of them did have their cars. And the school bus: let me tell a little bit about the school bus. I can recall we didn't have heat early on, and there was a lady named Verna Cooke who owned the busses, and she had a couple of young men that would drive. She would heat, before she left home, of course, bottles of water, old bricks and wrap them in towels or blankets. When she'd get on the bus, she'd give them to us. Then she'd say, put this on your feet to keep your feet from getting warm. Or, you know, put this on your hands, or whatever. Let's see, she had a special name she used to call us. Can't think of what it was right now, but I don't know if it was darling or not. And she would always- she couldn't drive. Never drove anything. [Laughter] But she'd always be

sitting on there supervising her bus and the driver. At that time, you had the seats on the side and then you also had seats in the center of the bus. You know anything about that? The seats where you- the seats on the side- those in the center you were sitting- what is it like? Kind of like a subway. You know how the subway busses ride? That's how they were. On each side, you had nobody at your back and you're sitting back to back, and you had them right down the center of the bus and then some on the outside.

B: Wow.

T: I had no idea. So, as a child and a teenager, you're moving around a lot into the different communities, in cars and busses and horses and buggies- where are you meeting friends and boyfriends most of the time?

C: At school.

T: At school? Like a hundred percent of the time?

C: A hundred percent of the time.

T: I mean, it may be an obvious question, but why is that? Is it a sense of community there, or is it just that-

C: Well, like in my case, you know, in some communities you've got a lot of kids. That was not the case in my community. So, you just didn't meet them, cause when we went out of the community for the most part, we'd be coming down here to the Courthouse. Do our little family business, and we just didn't meet anyone. The other possibility would've been church. Now, the gentleman who ended up

becoming my husband was in the same church. We were in the same church. But I was five years younger, and I'm sure he probably didn't give me a second look and I can't recall paying him any attention in church. Even in high school, he was five years ahead of me. To tell you the truth, I'm not sure how we got together. [Laughter] If the truth be known.

T: Well, tell me about high school. What was that experience like for you?

C: Very positive, pleasant experience, because I've always enjoyed school. Do you know, I always worked really hard in my classes, I paid attention, I did my homework when I got home, and I can recall my parents saying they did not have the fortune of finishing high school, even elementary school. My mom did graduate from seventh grade at Bethel School. I went to Bethel, too. I started out at Bethel, which is one of the Rosenwald Schools. I went there through first half of fifth grade. By that time, Mr. Walker had built the training school, T.C. Walker School, and all of the community schools at that point closed and all of the African-Americans came to T.C. Walker.

T: What was that transition like for folks?

C: It was easy. I was a little afraid to start with because the teacher I had at Bethel was real mild and the one that I knew I was going to have, she was a principal at Bethel, she was just kind of gruff and rough, so I was shaking a little bit in my boots. Thought, oh my goodness, cause she seldom smiled, but it wasn't bad once we got- it was something I knew I had to do. I couldn't run away. [Laughter] But it worked out fine, and then moved on up through the grades. I think it helps

when you're limited and then you're not looking for a lot of things to do, like some of our youngsters, unfortunately. I think there are so many things to do, so many places to go, they have access. The more choices we have, the more confusing it is. You see what happened this morning when we walked back here. I said, we have three rooms and you said, we can go in here. I said, no, wait a minute, let's check this other one out. If it had been just the one room, you know? We create that for ourselves. [Laughter] But the more choices, then you've got to think, oh, you're bombarded. So, I think that's what some of our young people are experiencing. But, with us in high school it was fine. In most cases, the teachers knew our parents and that wasn't a problem. It worked out okay.

T: How was the experience at Bethel different for you than at T.C. Walker?

C: Well, one thing at Bethel: we had- it was either two or three classes going on at the same time in the one room. You had the same teacher. This could never be now. The same teacher shared like two classes. She would teach like my class, and then she'd give us work and then she'd go and work with the other class. Can you imagine that now? I had one group over there; I did a little substituting a few years back in an adjacent county. Just trying to get the one class settled, and we had an old, broken-down computer we had to use to check the roll. By the time I'd get the computer operator to do the roll, then they were off, too. Then I'd go back and settle them down. By the time I got them settled down, the computer had gone back to the default position. So, this is one class, all of them together. But there was never any problem. [Laughter] We minded our- we did what we needed to do because they weren't gonna tolerate it, for one thing. You would

have to stand in the corner. I remember standing in the corner one time until this day. You know how long ago that was? Like a hundred and fifty years ago.

[Laughter] I'm not sure why, because I always really behaved myself. I think the same principal that I was afraid of, who was going to become my teacher, I think it was someone else that did something she thought I was a part of it because I was close proximity. I really think that's what it was. I don't think I had to stay in the corner very long, but that was the only time I can recall. But, it was fun. At the high school, I don't ever recall- because I didn't give anyone any trouble, teachers or whatever. You go to your classes and you do your work. I always wanted to achieve, so that was not a problem. Did my little work and got rewarded accordingly. [Laughter]

T: Absolutely. So, when you're in the commercial district in Main Street or in general stores, kind of like the one you were talking about earlier where you went and got beer with your grandmother.

C: [Laughter] Jessica, I wasn't getting the beer.

T: You know what I mean.

C: Back down here in the Courthouse, there was one place that was- it was kind of like Ben Franklin's. It was on the left...you know where Twice-Told Tales used to be? On the opposite side of the street. I guess it was more almost opposite where the little gift shop used to be. It was- I think it was called Bargain Store. I forgot about on this court circle was Tucker's. I'm sure somebody- the lady you

talked to this morning probably told you about Tucker's. W.C. Tucker. I can remember that. That was on the circle as you're going back, going north on Main.

B: It's where the open lot is now, right on the circle.

C: We did a lot of our shopping there, no grocery items but clothing items, socks and underwear, things like that. Cause I remember one time when I was like grown, it was still there. And my grandmother needed- the old fogeys used to wear what they called snuggies. Have you heard of snuggies? [Laughter] We went all to Newport News and West Point- they had [inaudible 20:34] in West Point, looking for these snuggies. They couldn't find them and I thought, well, why don't I check Tucker's? And there they were. It was right here all the time, and we had gone to other places. And this other little store down the street which, I think it was called the Bargain House, they had some similar items like Tucker's had. No grocery items that I can recall, but I can recall getting hair curlers from there, handkerchiefs. At that time, fogeys used handkerchiefs, not the tissues that we have now. Underclothes and things like that.

B: Were there any African-American-owned businesses on Main Street?

C: Yes. I can't give you the year now, but we did some research and I set up an exhibit quite a few years back. On that court circle, just about all of those businesses were owned by African-Americans. What is now Lemon Lane, going back in there. At some point, I believe that information- I believe I left it in the museum. I need to check on it, too. Somebody may have cleaned up in there and tossed it. But, back in there, it was a cleaners, a motel, there was a florist.

Watkins Florist is probably the most recent one that was open there. Right on the street, I think it was- what you call when you shoe horses and so on.

B: A blacksmith?

C: Yes. And then there was the same lady that lived in Woodville had a little boutique there around where Kerns Real Estate. There were two little houses there. One was the boutique, and then one of our doctors was there, Morris. And then as you continued around, or like if you were coming down right where the Presbyterian Church is? Soon as you pass that, to the right there was Gardner's Shoe Shop. And then next to Gardner's Shoe Shop was African-American Dr. Turner. And I don't know in those next buildings there. But basically, the whole circle some years back.

B: I guess except for the lawyers' row section.

C: That's what I can't remember, what was in the lawyers' row section at the time. Some of these other businesses- of course, I remember some of the businesses I mentioned. I don't remember the blacksmith, but I remember the motel. Oh, and there was- I mentioned cleaners, I think, which was also- he was a tailor. His name was Russell. And they were relatives too, the Lemons and the Russells. Then there was a tea shop. I remember a tea room being opened up in that vicinity. That may have been my young adult years, tea room. But to answer your question, I can't remember exactly what was there. But I'm glad you brought that up, cause I'm gonna go back and check and see if those materials are still there, because I had left them in a file. When the museum was in the circle in what is

now, I think, the tourism building, we used to set up a display every year. Started after we got a museum committee and so on for the county. Fortunately, we had the lady who was a close descendant of those persons that owned those businesses down in Lemon Circle. We had a program that Sunday and she talked about it, the ownership and her relatives and their relationships. Farther down the street, of course you all may recall, what is now the Edge Hill at one time George Larimore owned that. You know? Okay.

B: We had a good discussion with him a few weeks ago.

C: Okay, good.

B: He and his wife came by- I think it's his wife. It's the first time I had met him. Very pleasant man.

C: Oh, okay. We were high school classmates. Mm-hm.

T: When he owned the station, what was it like?

C: It was just routine. I used to go there and get my gas, and he had, I think, a mechanic work on the side. I don't think I ever had any work done in the shop. I would get gas there.

T: In your young adult years, what was the relationship like between black and white store owners that sort of coexisted in the Courthouse?

C: I wasn't close enough to it to observe anything in particular. I'm not aware of any problems.

T: Okay.

C: Never heard anybody talk about any problems that they had.

T: Yeah, absolutely.

C: I think it was more focused, went on and did their business. Everybody minded their business and didn't have time they were so busy struggling. This is my summation of it, now, keeping your business going and all. We didn't have any problem there in that area.

B: Sounds like the number of African-American businesses made a really interesting community. It's more than the necessary things. It looked like there was opportunities to do different things, some entrepreneurial tendencies, if you will, between it being a hotel and a tea room and things like that. They really kind of stick out in your mind, but also mark it as something very interesting.

C: Right. And unfortunately, there weren't family members. In some cases, there were family members and descendants, but not who were interested enough to carry on when some of those people kind of moved out of it with age or if they died or whatever.

B: Do you think that's kind of typical for the county? They mentioned in the newspaper a few years back, the census had recorded there being, what, right around five percent of the population in Gloucester County was African-American. When you were younger, do you remember the population being a larger percentage? How have you seen the numbers of African-Americans in this community kind of- and community, I mean, entire county- you know, how has that changed over from when you were younger to where it is today?

C: I don't know how it has changed. I don't recall any figures, what the percentage was.

B: Just your impression.

C: It was always in the-

B: Just need like your feelings.

C: -minority, number-wise, as far as African-Americans in the county. But now, like you would find in *The Honey-Pod Tree*, there was during this Mr. T.C. Walker's time, and the date--I'm bad at dates, but--a large percentage of African-Americans owned a large percentage of property in the county. That was cited in particular, which was I'm sure part of a part of Mr. Walker's work, was encouraging African-Americans to buy land, build and things like that. A lot of people had followed through and done that.

B: What we research at the courthouse, what we come across T.C. Walker's name in the index to grantors and grantees, it's like a big--I think it's got to be twenty-four pages, and these are the long pages--where he's involved in some kind of transaction. So there's probably twenty-five or thirty transactions per page. I mean, he definitely encouraged and participated in, and was trying to push towards that idea of property ownership being kind of an essential. Much like today, where there's this idea that property ownership is an elevation of one's status in the world. It may not be the best decision for all of us, like if you can't afford a property, but in that day and age it looks like people definitely did their best to purchase a piece of property. It's remarkable.

C: Mm-hm. It is remarkable. It was like the whole idea of home ownership having real value. And you're saying like for African-Americans it's just like a step to freedom and independence and being on your own. The value of that was continuously stressed. I knew him, as a matter of fact. I happened to join the church of which he was a member, Bethel. As a little girl, I can recall him being on the trustee ministry. Every Sunday, he would stand up and say something. I'm sure he was talking cause I don't remember what he was saying. I know sometimes he'd get up and you could hear them go like, not again. [Laughter] It didn't matter to him. He was going to say what he wanted to say anyway. But I'm sure he continued to stress land, or so. As he saw things that were problems in the community, he challenged the folk to do something about it, you know? Don't just sit back and roll over and play dead. I can recall him being there. His father was co-chair of the building committee that steered the construction of the sanctuary in which we now worship. That was 1889 that was dedicated, so the roots go back a long way there.

[INTERRUPTION IN INTERVIEW]

T: I wanted to ask you about, you know, your preservation efforts at the Woodville School and at Moton Center. I mean, I only heard a little bit from you, but it seemed really interesting.

C: It is interesting. I worked on various committees longer than I care to admit, trying to preserve the T.C. Walker Homeplace, house down on Main Street which is boarded up. I'm sure someone has pointed that out to you. I worked on various committees down through the years. So, this is sort of a continuation with a little

different twist, because Hampton University owns the Walker property. We have not been successful to work out an arrangement with them for sale or lease or giveaway or whatever. We wanted to really try to preserve Mr. Walker's home if we could. But with the Woodville, the contact there is Mr. Walker was involved in the building of schools here in the county, particularly of the Rosenwald Schools, and that was one of the Rosenwalds. Mr. Walker always stressed education, so fortunately now that we maintain ownership for the Woodville School, the committee--well, it's a foundation board on which I serve, and we're trying to plan. Going to be raising funds, of course, because we need money for that, and plan for restoration of that building and get some activities going there so that it can be like a focal point in the community, which will not only preserve the history and the legacy, but it will allow participation for some activities now for our young people and older folk as well.

T: Mm-hm. It's an obvious question to ask, but I've actually heard a lot of different opinions on Mr. Walker. I was wondering why in particular- what about T.C. Walker means so much to you.

C: Well, I suppose because I grew up watching him in the church, which was my first knowledge of him. Then the school was named T.C. Walker that I attended. I graduated in 1958. Then I knew his family, like his two daughters who came back home. They were away at the time when he was active there. I was a little girl, but when I became grown they both came back home. He lost a daughter in death some years earlier. We worked very closely together. So that kinship, I think. People like my husband used to be a driver for him. Everybody around

knew him, so it's just a kind of--and when you see folk who have worked so hard to try to help others and to try to be an example, like a mentor for others, and because I to some degree try to do that, I always figured we all need to put our best foot forward and achieve and be instrumental in helping other people do things, to become independent, then I could kind of relate to that and have an appreciation for what he did. I had the opportunity to visit the home, but not during the time he was there that I can recall. The daughters were there; we used to have meetings there. We had some really good times working in church together with the daughters. Now, of course, the history reflects, like his father, longevity and his dedication. So it kind of grew, I guess, with me. [Laughter]

T: Well, what is your vision for the future of Gloucester, and how can preservation play a role in that?

C: Gloucester's moving so fast, I can hardly keep up with it. It's hard for me when I pass and I see where so much development has taken place. Oftentimes I look back and say, now, what was that like? I find it difficult many times trying to remember what it was like before it was developed. It's moving a little fast, and I guess as you get older sometimes you say, well, okay. We need to slow down a little bit. I'm not sure where we are now in respect to growth in the state, but I know we maintained the position, I think, of number one for growth in the state for a while. Where I envision us going: it's a lot of housing that's taking place in the county. A lot of people are moving in. As far as natives of the county, I don't have the statistics, but I think their population is dwindling because they are folk, many of whose roots are here, and they left property to their children. Many of

them have not come back. There have been some who have come back. But many of them have not come back. I've seen properties that have been auctioned off or whatever. But I guess the biggest things is you see the housing developments that are just constantly...and then with the new school, with the decision having been made to build a new school, I would hope that adequate research had gone into that in terms of a needs analysis, that we actually do need that new school. While at the same time, the T.C. Walker School will no longer be used as a school per se. Then, I don't know where we are now with the project which was to be developed between Short Lane and coming out to- not Hickory Fork Road- it's Belroi Road and then back up here. It must have been Hickory Fork. A huge development project which was supposed to be like a community in itself. Have you heard about that? Now, this was some years back, and I think that was sort of halted in its development. But, I think they came up with--there seemed to have been an alternative plan for development. But it was going to be having its own schools like a little town. Like I said, I don't know. That was a little bit scary for some of us. I don't mind growth, but sometimes it gets to be a bit much. I think one of the downsides for us persons who were born here is with the zoning laws. I know you've got to have some structure, but it has been a real disadvantage for folk who have property and they want to split it up and give it to their children. There are so many restrictions with that that a lot of people have suffered some hardship with that. Cause I just know of a family who sold a piece of property. It was six acres. Then with the zoning, cause I had looked at the property and been through all of this. There's nothing you could really do

there unless you were going to purchase horses. There used to be a time, you figured six acres, you could split it. You got six children, or if you wanted to sell it. But you can't do that now. So, those kind of restrictions are not good. I'm thankful that I live where I'm not required to hook up to the county water system or the county sewer system. And depending on where you live, you don't have a choice. When your choice is taken away, that's never usually a good thing. So growth, we continue to grow. I don't know. I just sort of sit back and have to buckle in for the ride. I don't know- my years, I'm claiming a hundred, but [Laughter] I've got a few more years if I make it to a hundred. But I keep telling them with this T.C. Walker project, when it was just when we were working with T.C. Walker, I said, I'd like to see something happen in my lifetime. But even with the Rosewell, now that we're working with Woodville, and I still say the same: I'd like to see something happen in our lifetime. Our foundation, we've been coming up with some plans and all, but the key thing: it takes money to make it happen.

T: Yeah.

C: It'll be interesting to see how many people are gonna- that's like, what comes first: the chicken or the egg? Cause I was talking with someone just yesterday, and he said, before I donate--I said, we need money. We got to get started. Told him the figure that we had- were using for the initial thing. He said, well, how did that figure come? He's an architect. He said, how'd you come up with that? I said, the folk on the board who know those kinds of things have sort of analyzed it. He said, well, okay. Before I give anything, I'd have to see something going on, something happening there. Most people feel that way. But in order to make

something happen, you got to have some money to make it happen. We'll see. Maybe some benefactor...kind of get us moving along with that.

T: Absolutely. I'd like to hear any other anecdotes you have about growing up here, being a young adult here, if you'd like to share them. But those are all the questions that I really have.

C: Okay. I think when I was growing up, I was kind of looking forward to, thinking like most people, to get away, go places and whatever. But Gloucester's all right. The only time I've been away from Gloucester was when I was in school. I came back, and I said my husband's from Gloucester. We built in Gloucester, settled down here, and I'm glad I'm here. When I see other places I travel to, I enjoy it and then I'm happy to get back to Gloucester, good old Gloucester. I tell folk I'm a little partial to it, but I like it. I like the location, I like where I live, and so Gloucester hasn't been a problem for me at all.

T: Absolutely.

C: I can't think of anything in particular. Probably later on I'll say, oh, I could've shared this.

T: That's how it works. You can always call me back.

C: Okay. I doubt it's going to be anything real exciting or earth-shattering or whatever. [Laughter]

[END OF INTERVIEW]

Transcribed by: Jessica Taylor

Audit-Edited by: Jessica Taylor, November 3, 2013