

Interview Mrs. Nora Foy Brown  
Interviewers: Karene Manley and Beverly Smalls  
7/28/1982

*Please tell me what your full name is.*

Nora: My name is **Mrs. Nora Foy Brown**.

*And what was your mother's name?*

Nora: My mother's name was **Emma Harper Foy**.

**Emma Harper Foy?**

Nora: Yes, ma'am.

*And what was your father's name?*

Nora: My father's name was **David Foy, Sr.**

**David Foy Sr.** *Now did your mother ever work on the - what we call the plantation now?*

Nora: She worked in the big house.

*What did she do in the big house?*

Nora: She cooked, as a maid.

*Now did she actually work in the old - there is a - I have a drawing here of the house itself, and on it, I have drawn this floor, right here, we call it, it's the middle floor of the house -*

Nora: The middle floor, uh-huh.

*And this addition was added right here, it's a kitchen, I don't know when it was added. Did she work in this kitchen right here, or was the kitchen out back?*

Nora: She worked in the old kitchen.

*Now where on this map right here was the old kitchen? Now, this is the smoke house. This is Highway 17, and this is a cook's house, or something, we don't know what that was ...*

Nora: That was a meat house, smoked meats ...

*Now the smoke house was right here. Can you tell from this where the kitchen was that she cooked in?*

Nora: The kitchen was upstairs...

*Okay, it was upstairs, so on the main floor of the house. It would be this kitchen right here, upstairs?  
Okay, she worked up there? Do you have any idea when that was built?*

Nora: I sure don't because I wasn't even was born then because she was working for Mrs. Foy before I was born.

*Now which **Mrs. Foy** did she work for?*

Nora: **Mrs. Nora Foy.**

*And do you know kind of what years that might have been?*

Nora: I, of course I was born in 1915.

*So it was before 1915?*

Nora: Uh-huh, she was working with **Mrs. Nora** when she got married, and she got married in 1912.

*Okay, just a minute... Now I want to ask you about **Mary Jane Harper**. Do you know who she is?*

Nora: That was my mother's mother.

*Your mother's mother was **Mary Jane Harper**. Now do you remember what she did at the plantation?*

Nora: She cooked. She cooked until she died.

*She's not living now? When did she die?*

Nora: She died in 1942, January the 1st, 1942.

*Oh, okay, now do you know anything about where she cooked? We have pictures of **Mary Jane Harper** standing out here with her daughter, and she's standing in this area by the smokehouse, and they've got clothesline strung up from the smokehouse coming out this way, but we're trying to find out where the old kitchen might have been. We understood **Mary Jane** had a house right here in the pictures it shows.*

Nora: That kitchen was, I believe that kitchen was on this side. There's a brick place on that side.

*Now according to the map right here, can you tell anything from this? The kitchen that they added where your mother cooked is this one right here, connected to the house. Did **Mary Jane Harper** cook in a building that was not connected to the house?*

Nora: Yeah, she cooked in that kitchen that was *not* connected to the house.

*Where was it on this map?*

Nora: I believe it was on this side, right here...

*Was it in the corner of the backyard?*

Nora: It was in the corner of the backyard.

*Was it as big as the smokehouse? Or smaller?*

Nora: I believe it was a little bigger than the smokehouse.

*Now was it inside the fence, or was it down here outside the fence?*

Nora: I can't remember that.

*Now we've got a picture of a long house, outside the fence, right where I've drawn this dotted line, on number 9, and I understood that **Mary Jane Harper** lived in that house? We don't know if she also cooked in the house or not.*

Nora: Grandma, she didn't never live down there, now **Ms. Mary Liza Pearson**, wait a minute, **Ms. Mary Liza Jackson** lived down there, and I believe that's the kitchen she cooked in.

*In this house right here?*

Nora: Yes, she went down there after my mother quit. Ms. **Mary Jackson** worked down there because she stayed in some of the houses, the old houses, a lot of old tenant houses was back there in the field.

*Uh-huh, back in this area right here?*

Nora: In that field, uh-huh.

*Was her husband **Israel Jackson**?*

Nora: **Israel Jackson**, uh-huh, that was her husband.

(laughter)

*Now we still don't know yet, do you still think maybe the old cook house was in the - you don't know if it was inside the fence, but you think it was over in this corner?*

Nora: Yes, over in that corner when we was children we used to go down there and play. You see all that old plantation was then down there. When we grew up we used to go down there. There used to be a lot of houses back in there where the tenants used to live.

*Uh-huh, back in here?*

Nora: Back in there, and it was **Ms. Mary Jackson** and **Mr. Israel**, **Ms. Cornelia Durham**, **Ms. Lily Durham**, **Ms. Pearson**, what was her last name? **Ms. Shue**, we called her **Aunt Shue**, and ... there was a lot of ... and **Uncle Talon**, an old man named **Uncle Talon**, he's a black man, he brought in all the wood and the water upstairs.

*Was his name **Talton**?*

Nora: **Talon**, we called him **Uncle Talon**.

*Uh-huh -*

Nora: Uh-huh, he used to bring all the wood upstairs for grandmamma to cook.

*Was he married?*

Nora: No, he never been married. He was an old bachelor.

*And he stayed there?*

Nora: He stayed there in the house and wait on **Mrs. Foy** and them, collect the wood in, fed the dogs and stuff. See, we was little children then.

*Where, do you know where he lived?*

Nora: He lived right back there in an old house.

*Right back in these houses back here?*

Nora: Uh-huh, on the plantation.

*Did you ever hear any stories about the house that was built for Israel?*

Nora: I believe that's the house that they lived in. They died, both of them died in that house. It was a white/green house.

*It was a white house?*

Nora: A white house with green shutters.

*Did it have glass in the windows?*

Nora: Yeah.

*That's the house that's out there back there now, and we heard that it was built about -*

Nora: - for **Israel Jackson**.

*For **Israel**? Had you heard that too?*

Nora: And **Ms. Mary Liza**.

*And was he married at the time?*

Nora: I don't know if he was married at the time, or no. We was just children. We used to go down there and play because grandmamma used to cook down there.

*And that was **Mary Jane Harper**, your grandmamma?*

Nora: My grandmamma's name was **Mary Jane Harper**.

*Do you remember her mother's name at all?*

Nora: Her mama, what? her mother was named **Mary Hines**.

*H-i-n-e-s?*

Nora: That was grandmamma's mother.

*And did she also work there on the plantation?*

Nora: No, **Maudie** didn't never worked down there, mostly, down there at **Porters Neck**, you know, where the nursing home at? Mostly way down on **Porters Neck** on the sound in a big old two story house.

*Did she work for anybody there?*

Nora: No, **Maudie** stayed there and raised the children.

*Uh-huh, now, this, uh, **Talton** was never married. But now is it **Mary Liza** was married to Israel?*

Nora: Uh-huh, she was married to **Israel**, he was **Mary Liza's** husband.

*Do you know about when maybe they died?*

Nora: I don't know when **Mr. Israel** and **Mary Liza** died. They raised two children named **Ebony** and ... forgot her name, I can't think of her name now...

*That had a child **Abelina/Evelina**?*

Nora: Uh-huh, they adopted two children named **Abelina** and **Mary Lizzie** – the two children they adopted.

***Abelina** and **Mary Lizzie** were adopted. Do you know if they are living now?*

Nora: Both of them dead.

*And do they have any children living, do you know? We are still trying to find out...*

Nora: My grandmamma now, I got an aunt, she come from Cleveland, Ohio, and she wrote back a note, and that's grandmamma's daughter, her name is **Mary Lina**, she wrote back a note, and she could tell you more than I could tell you because she is much older than I am.

*Now do you have any aunts?*

Nora: That's my aunt I'm talking about now, **Mary Lina Scott**.

***Mary Lina Scott**, and she lives now in Cleveland. Well, now is **Mary Foy**...*

Nora: That's my sister.

*She is your sister? Married to **Reverend Foy**?*

Nora: No, Mary Foy is my sister. You talking about **Mary Belle Foy** – You talking about my daddy's brother's wife, **Mary Belle Foy**.

*Okay, she married a man named Foy?*

Nora: She married my daddy's brother, **Reverend Foy, Fred Foy**.

*Yes, that's who were talking about. Did his daddy ever work up there on the plantation, do you know?*

Nora: Honey, I couldn't tell you because I don't know enough about it because they was gone.

*Do you remember there being an old path that led all the way back here to these cabins in the back?*

Nora: All the way back to the last house to when you enter the field down there. And Ms. **Mary Liza** and **Shue**, we always, **Uncle Jordan/George Nixon, Alex/Alice Nixon**, all of them used to be back down in there.

*Now what about **Nimrod Nixon**?*

Nora: **Nimrod Nixon**? He was **Ms. Mary Nixon's son. Mary Nixon** and **Cleveland/Clear Nixon's son**. Now he used to work for the Foys. He used to work for the Foys.

*Now about what time was this?*

Nora: That was during ... in '36 or '35 ... I got married in '37.

*And then he went off to the war?*

Nora: Yeah, he was in the war.

*And then he came back and still lived in the plantation?*

Nora: He still lived there - He married a girl named **Abba(?)** and they lived in that first house. They was in rows, you know, he lived in the first house as you go through the gate, you see, they had some gates down there.

*Show me where the gate was? If the path came straight out here, was there a gate at the end of the path?*

Nora: Now when you go down that, that little bitty house, when you leave the big house, let me see now, when we was children, you see that flower house on that side, where y'all got flowers at?

*Uh-huh, that's this place right here.*

Nora: Okay, and the gate, you go right on down by that flower house, and there was a big white gate, and you open that gate, and you go in the lot, we always called that the lot, where all the houses were.

*There were houses down in here?*

Nora: Uh-huh, houses way down, as you passed that flower house on this side, and there was a pretty big white gate, and you would open that gate, then you would go down in the plantation where the black people stayed at in the back.

*So that would be off in this area instead of back here?*

Nora: Uh-huh.

*Then these houses were kind of new then, weren't they?*

Nora: No, they was old.

*Now right here, there's the flower house. Was that there for a long time when you were young?*

Nora: Yeah, when I remember, it was right there, the flower house was right there, and then on the corner there was that brick smoke house, what you used to call a smokehouse, I don't know, there was a smoke house, that was the kitchen grandmamma cooked in.

*Over on this side? Right here?*

Nora: Yeah, that was the old kitchen grandmamma cooked in, and I remember when they built the kitchen on that corner up there. Now you're cooking! Now you're cooking, that's right!

(laughter)

*That building is still standing in the corner of the back yard, and it's got two doors in it.*

Nora: Yeah, that was the old kitchen she cooked in and when they built the new kitchen upstairs on the side that's when she went in the new kitchen, now.

*And it had a wood stove?*

Nora: A wood stove, and it had an old bell up there, upstairs a bell, and the bell, the people in the field would work, and when twelve o'clock come, they rang that bell and let them know it was twelve o'clock. Now that's when we were children. You know, we used to go down in that territory because grandmamma worked down there, and then where that flower house at, on this side, there used to be some steps.

*Mmm...*

Nora: You got to step up the step, then you step down again to get into the yard. And out on the main highway, on 17 there used to be some more steps and they were right in front of the door and you had to step up, step up, step up and go down there.

*That's the ones now that I've got drawn right here by highway 17. I heard one lady say that all the folks used to stroll the babies out there and visit out in this area. Do you ever hear that?*

Nora: Yeah, there was plenty of oaks out there, there was plenty of folks out there.

*Did they used to visit on the front lawn?*

Nora: They used to visit on the front lawn out there.

*Who was it that used to visit out there? Was it the white folks?*

Nora: Yeah, white folks, and I'll tell you what else they done ... so by the highway, and there was rows down there in front of the big house -

*This one right here, right there?*

Nora: Yeah, go in front of the big house, and that's where they would park the cars.

*Exactly where on here did they park the cars?*

Nora: And start to line up until it got right on up to the big door, until it get to the end of that row, it used to fill up with cars. Line up to the door. When that road gets filled up, you wouldn't let no more in there. That is what you called the big dogs and have their parties back there, you know. And that's when they had parties and things like that.

*Well, now I want to clear up about the flower house, because I didn't know. Now this is the old kitchen in the corner of the back yard, and this is the highway, and there were some steps going down right in here? Is this the flower house you talking about?*

Nora: Yeah, that's the flower house I'm talking about, right there, flower house.

*And it had a glass top to it?*

Nora: Yes, I remember when they built that flower house, I remember when he built that flower house.

*Who built it?*

Nora: **Mr. Foy, Mr. Bob Foy.**

*About when could that have been?*



Nora: I can't remember when. I used to go down there a lot of times to get milk. My grandmamma died in 1925. I was just a little girl, and we used to go down there and buy clabber, had a lot of cows, and they used to sell clabber for five cents a quart, and we used to go down there and buy it.

*My word, so he built it like in the late twenties?*

Nora: The late twenties, yeah, about 1920s, or something like that. I was just five years old, but, you know, I remember good back then.

*Sure, I sure am glad you can! Now coming up from there, there is the old carriage house. Do you remember that?*

Nora: Now what, honey?

*It's called a garage or a carriage house. It's been there for many years and now it's fixed up. But it was, it had trees all around it, and it was kind of covered up, and then there would have been a tenant house right in front of it. It had big old doors out front.*

Nora: After you went through the gate, a house on that side, and some grape vines back then, and then on this side was the smoke house in the corner, and the wind mill was in the back, and then you go by that windmill and you go up some steps and go down the steps and go in the tenant house, and the tenant place -

*This one right here?*

Nora: And then on this side of the windmill that was called grandmamma's house where she used to iron in.

*Now can you show me on here where that would be?*

Nora: Okay.

*Are you talking about two different tenant houses in this corner?*

Nora: No, there was one house over there where she used to iron in – a row house that Uncle **Talton** used to stay in, and then right behind that old house where she was ironing at they built a big old peanut house back there.

*About like back in here somewhere?*

Nora: Uh-huh, then somewhere up on the front they built the other peanut house. It was right between that row, you know where that brick house is?

*Yeah.*

Nora: And they built a big peanut house there. They used to sell peanuts from there.

*Now that would be on the other side of our parking lot. But I'm not real clear about whether you're talking about two houses here or not. This is the smoke house and there's some steps right here that we've just recently discovered, and we know that there was a house here, and we don't know who was in that house.*

Nora: Was it on this side of the steps or on this side?

*It's on the back side of the steps, going down into the back yard.*

Nora: Go down into the back yard, it was on this side?

*Uh-huh.*

Nora: Well, that used to be grandmamma's old house where she used to iron in, and Uncle Talon used to stay in there.

*Okay, okay. Now was there another house on this side of the steps? On both? On the other side of the steps?*

Nora: Now on this side of the steps there was a lot of grape arbors, and then when **Mr. Nimrod** stayed in that other house on this side, and remodeled his, put new doors and windows in it.

*Now where was his house?*

Nora: His house was on this side as you go in.

*On here. Can you show me where it is on here? These are the steps.*

Nora: Now you had to go through that gate. Where's that gate at?

*Now this is the gate in the back of the house.*

Nora: Okay, you went through that gate and there was some vines, the grape vine over there, and you go down further down and there was **Nimrod's** house, and two more houses was on the side of **Nimrod's** house.

*And were they all inside of a white fenced area?*

Nora: On the inside of the white fenced area.

*So you could get to it from going this way or from going this way? But do you remember anything about some steps being way over here too?*

Nora: Now there was some steps by the windmill.

*Uh-huh, those steps.*

Nora: Uh-huh, those the only ones I can remember by the windmill.

*After you went down those steps, what was down there?*

Nora: After you went down those steps, you had some kind of little house right there - what you call a tater house.

*Oh okay! Yeah, a sweet potato house.*

Nora: Yes, a sweet potato house now. And then grandmamma, they had a big house she ironed in that house on that side, and on that side by the sweet potato house, and then **Uncle Talton** lived next to the iron house, Uncle Talon, the old man that I'm talking about, and that's all I can remember now on that side. Well, and they had a lot of pear trees and grape trees, an orchard down there, now, that's all.

*All down in through this way? Because they're still there, those pear trees. But this house, have I put it in the right place? Right here?*

Nora: Iron house? Go down them steps. Yeah, you got it in the right place.

*It would be on the other side if you come down the steps.*

Nora: You come down them steps by the windmill?

*It's right in back of the windmill.*

Nora: That'd be the house.

*And that was the house the ironing was done in? Did **Mary Jane Harper** cook in that house?*

Nora: No, she didn't cook in that house. She had that for ironing.

*And this she did the ironing in. And you never heard her say about there being another cook house before that?*

Nora: No, never heard.

*Okay, and these houses down in here, uh, there were quite a few of them, and there was a fence.*

Nora: Yes.

*But you don't remember the old carriage house? It might have been covered up with vines.*

Nora: It might have, I know there was an old peanut house back there where they had wagons and stuff in there on this side.

*Yeah, this is further over. Now, on this side here, do you remember there being an old road?*

Nora: Yeah, there was a road.

*Where did that road go?*

Nora: That road went down, just where y'all got your house there now, where that brick house is, right down by that road, that road would take you down in the field and to the tenant houses.

*Now do you remember where it went after that?*

Nora: Went right on down to the sound.

*Do you remember there being a mill or a pond or anything down there?*

Nora: The mill was across the railroad.

*Over on the other side?*

Nora: That was over there by the old commissary was, where **Mrs. Mitchell** and them had, and the mail got dropped.

*Over there where the old train station used to be too, across the street? Okay. Well, can you tell us any of the old stories that you heard them tell, whether they are true or not? (laughter) Sometimes that's the best part.*

Nora: Right side of that brick house used to be a **Mr. Harrell**, **Ms. Adeley Corbett** dated him, and he had two daughters named **Nora Belle/Melle** and **Adelaide**. And she married **Mr. Corbett**, he used to be the man who run the station down there, **Mr. Corbett**?

*There was a **Mr. Corbett** that ran the train station?*

Nora: Uh-huh, **Mr. Corbett** -

*Oh ...*

Nora: And he had a boy named **J.T.**, and he died, he used to work to the Atlantic Coast Line too, and he died, and the train used to come by in the morning and in the afternoon from Wilmington, from New Bern to Wilmington, and throw the mail off, and we'd be out, some of us would get out of school, just to get down there in time to get the mail, and catch the mail bag and carry it to **Ms. Mitchell**, she was, the post office, you know, was right over by the train station.

*And **Ms. Mitchell** was the post lady then?*

Nora: Yeah, and after **Ms. Mitchell** died, **Mrs. Raymond Sidbury** took the post office over, where the antique house is? The preacher staying there.

*That's the **Muesser's** house now.*

Nora: Yeah, **Ms. Sidbury** stay in there. She used to run the post office. I used to work for when I came out of school. I came out of school in '35 - I worked for her.

*Where did you go to school?*

Nora: Wilmington, Williston.

*You went to Willison? Well, you got a great education down there. How'd you get to school?*

Nora: On the bus.

*Was it a regular school bus?*

Nora: Yes, see, we were living in New Hanover then. We had the school bus. The Pender children didn't have no school bus. Pender children used to have to walk to our school because if they'd go to school, when they finished seventh grade in Pender County, you had to go to Burgaw to stay.

*Where was the school that you went to before you went to Williston?*

Nora: Right down there. It is not in Scotts Hill; it's near Kirkland.

*On further down towards Wilmington?*

Nora: You know, where they building that brick church?

*Mmmm-*

Nora: Well, it is right across that road from that brick church.

*Is it on the other side of the railroad tracks?*

Nora: No, it's on the same side of the brick church.

*Oh, but just a little down?*

Nora: Uh-huh.

*Now was that a school just for black children?*

Nora: Just for black children only, because the children out of Scotts Hill used to have to walk past our school, and go way down there, and then about by a pond, and go to school.

*Well, who was, do you remember any of your school teachers?*

Nora: I remember **Ms. Lamb** and her daughter, **Mary Kate**, and **Theresa** and **Abbey** and **Clara** and **Robert Foy**, see, we was raised up just like black children play with colored children now.

*Is that the **Abbey** and **Robert Foy**, **Robert's** children, that are living now?*

Nora: I am talking about the old man, **Robert**.

**Robert Sr?**

Nora: Uh-huh, **Abbey** and **Theresa** and **Mary Frances** and **Clara**, and uh, **Mary Kate**.

*Who was Clara?*

Nora: That was the girl **Mrs. Sidbury** raised, **Mrs. Rayford Sidbury** raised, and the **Corbett girls**, I forgot what their names was - they used to go down there too.

*Now they went to the white school, but had to walk past –*

Nora: Had to walk past the black school, huh-uh. **Ms. Lamb** was the teacher, and they had to walk down there.

*How long was that school still in existence?*

Nora: They tore down that school? When was it? They tore down that school in '37, straight down there, by -- you know, where **Drew's store** at? Well, it was past **Drew's store**, and there was a pond down there, go down right by that pond, and the white children from around Scotts Hill used to walk and go to school there.

*And then where did they go to school from there?*

Nora: After they tore down that school, they built that big school up there at Topsail, and they transferred them up there then.

*Well, uh, another thing I wanted to ask you about was this uh - where you might have remembered any of the privies being - that were connected to - that the people from the big house used. Do you know where they were? The outhouses?*

Nora: You talking about the big house?

*Uh-huh, on this, can you tell me any place where the old privy used to be? The old outhouse? Instead of a bathroom?*

Nora: Oh! It was right back there in the backyard not far from the windmill. Right up there in that corner. You know the windmill right here? Right up on that corner? That was the old bathhouse.

*So that would be right here on this corner? Inside that fence?*

Nora: Right inside that fence, there was an old inside toilet, water toilet.

*So it was kind of like the east corner of the back yard?*

Nora: Yeah, the old toilet. Tt had three holes on it then, you know.

*Oh, it had three?*

Nora: It had three holes. Because it was a big house, it had three holes in it.

*Did it have one door on the front?*

Nora: It had, I believe, it had three doors, separate doors.

*Was it separate once you got inside?*

Nora: No, it wasn't separate (laughter). It was open.

*It had three doors, but all open inside!*

Nora: I remember that day just as good here, uh-huh.

*Do you remember what it was made of?*

Nora: Made out of wood, uh-huh, with shingles on top of it.

*Did it look like it had been there very long?*

Nora: It had been there for a long time. You know, we used to go down there every day when grandmamma was working down there.

*What'd you do while she was working?*

Nora: We used to go down there and do things for her. She was frosting(?) potatoes, you know. When they'd eat the dinner, and, you know, her people wouldn't eat it all, and she would give it to us. Wrap it up in a pail, and we'd go back home, go back home with it. Some days she wouldn't give us nothing, and we'd be crying, and she'd call us and give it any way (laughter). Oh, I remember that just as good.

*What did y'all - did you play in the yard?*

Nora: Oh yeah, we played in the yard, and **Ms. Cornelia Durham**, her children, **Mr. Foy's** children, **Robert** and them would go down and stay with **Ms. Cornelia Durham** and get in her bed and go to sleep every night. My grandmamma would be calling them, and **Ms. Cornelia** would tell grandmamma, "Them boys in the bed, them children in the bed right now."

*What kind of things did y'all play outdoors?*

Nora: We played skipscotch, bowling, you know, we didn't have no bicycles or tricycles to ride in. We took us a wheel and get a stick and get behind it, and we used to have walking things, we make them out of tin cans.

*Tin cans and string, and something with a band on it?*

Nora: Uh-huh, you know how it is, old fashioned stuff like that.

*Kind of like we call stilts now?*

Nora: Yeah, make them out of tin cans, and we'd walk on them, step, step, I was short and couldn't ride them. Couldn't step on them high, I had to make them short for the short ones, tall for the tall ones and we'd jump rope, and hold the rope, and people that we didn't like, we'd put the rope real high and when they'd jump, they'd fall and hurt yourself.

*(laughter) Sounds like y'all had a good time in the country.*

Nora: Shooting marbles, play ball. See, we didn't know nothing about no basketball because we didn't have no money enough to get us no basketball. We played tennis -

*How'd you play tennis?*

Nora: Just put us a line across there and knock the ball back, and knock the ball. We didn't know nothing about now like the children play tennis. You see, we come up through the rough side. You know what I mean? These children now grow up with a golden spoon in their mouths.

*That's the truth. Well, now while y'all were out playing, what was your mother doing?*

Nora: Well, they was – working! And we was glad they was working because we could play a little longer. When they come home, we had to go to bed. We had to be in the bed at 8 o'clock.

*And what did your daddy do?*

Nora: He'd be in the bed before us sometime.

*I mean during the day time.*

Nora: He worked in the field, chopped peanuts.

*Was it mostly just peanuts? Or was there corn?*

Nora: Corn, watermelon time, cantaloupe time, butter bean time, cucumber time, digging sweet potatoes and picking up peanuts.

*What did they do with all these things once they harvested them?*

Nora: They'd put them in the barn and shut them. Right down there where **Skipper** lives, you know where he live at? And they had an old Uncle, named **Mr. Smith**. He had a peanut house, and he'd stack his peanuts in the house in the winter time, and we'd go down there and pick peanuts for 10 cent a bushel, and put blankets over them. We used to keep them from getting cold.

*My word. Well, now do you remember anything about **Israel Jackson** taking things in a wagon, or a truck to town?*

Nora: Uh-huh, uh-huh, taking watermelon, cantaloupes, used to take them in a mule and cart. My daddy used to carry his on a mule and cart, get up at twelve o'clock at night, and load that wagon, and we would go to town, and at daybreak we'd be in Wilmington.



*Whose produce did he load on to the wagon? Where did he get it?*

Nora: He would get it from **Mr. Foy** and them - take it and sell it.

*Now your daddy did that too?*

Nora: My daddy take his own crops. He'd carry his on a mule and cart, he'd carry his...

*Oh, he carried his own and **Israel** would carry **Mr. Foy's**? Well, how did, what was the road like, was it a rock road, or a shell road?*

Nora: Just like that road. Now the shell road, when we was children - you know where **Cornelia Davis Nursing Home** at? Well, on that highway, on down to the end of them posts, used to be shell, put the shell road there, and from the middle of them posts on down, you had to go down a dirt road then.

*What was highway 17 like then when y'all were going to the market?*

Nora: It was a little narrow road.

*Was it dirt?*

Nora: It was cement

*It was a cement road then?*

Nora: Little narrow. It wasn't as wide like it was back then.

*And you went all the way what down Market Street to Wilmington?*

Nora: Down Market Street to Wilmington.

*All the way down?*

Nora: Back that mule up side that thing and sell things right on the street.

*Was there a market house then?*

Nora: Wasn't no market house then. People had to sell right on the street, you know? Back your car up on off the big street, back it right on the sidewalk. There was a horse stable there and some people would take their horse and go put him in that stable to sell that ...

*How far away from the river was it? Could you see the river?*

Nora: You could see the river.

*So it was way on downtown, but the old market house wasn't there anymore?*

Nora: There wasn't no market house. You just had to sell on the street. After selling on the street, they built the market house: up on Second Street - where that fish market at.

*Mm-mm.*

Nora: I can remember better way back then than I can now!

*Some of us are that way I think! (laughter) Well, can you remember any of the stories your grandmother may have told you?*

Nora: I remember **Mr. Mitchell's store**, and **Mr. Bryant**, I don't know if **Mr. Bryant** had a store, or no, old man Bryant, he stayed over there in that two story where the **Blakes** used to stay at.

*Up here at Hampstead?*

Nora: Scotts Hill, uh-huh.

*Were there stores in Hampstead then?*

Nora: I didn't travel to Hampstead much, because we always traveled, we didn't go no further than here because, you know, we didn't go to Hampstead until we got big children.

*Did you grandmother ever talk about, uh, when she was a little girl and what things were like?*

Nora: Oh, they talk about little girls, when they was little girls, and people couldn't pray, they had to go pray in a pot.

*Why couldn't they pray?*

Nora: The master wouldn't let them pray. If he hear them pray, grandmamma would say he would beat them.

*And was that up there at the plantation?*

Nora: That's what grandmamma told us, that's what grandmamma told us.

*And that's when she was working up at Scotts Hill plantation?*

Nora: Uh-huh, but I don't remember her saying they beat them but they - they parents.

*They what?*

Nora: They parents, her - her parents.

*Oh, her parents before them, before **Mary Jane**? Like her mother, and what was her mother's name again?*

Nora: We always called her **Maude**, but her name was **Mary Hines**.

*And they were not allowed any kind of a church or a religious service with the family?*

Nora: Uh-uh. That old church, up there on the hill now? That belongs to the white people, and they built that church across the road, and that church, they built a wooden church, and they give that church to the black people.

*But before that, back in the days of slavery, that was something that they remembered very vividly, was the fact they couldn't go to church? And they'd have to go down in the woods?*

Nora: That's what she told us, and pray.

*And they'd have to sneak?*

Nora: Sneak and pray.

*Did they have to go by themselves? Or could several of them –*

They said they go they self and pray. Now that's what she used to tell us - now that's all I can remember.

*But did she ever say why?*

Nora: She ain't never say why.

*Did she ever talk about what the kind of things that she believed in at the time?*

Nora: They all just said they believing in God, you know, and they had them a church to serve God like they wanted to serve.

*When they finally got a church, what kind of a church was it?*

Nora: They had an old, old Scotts Hill AME church.

*It was an AME church?*

Nora: Right on that hill right now. Right where we go every third Sunday - that's not the church but that's the spot.

*Beverly: How did Scotts Hill get the name, Scotts Hill?*

Nora: Honey, I don't know, a couple of Scotsmen, maybe? I don't know.

*Beverly Small: We've heard that when they'd take the mules and come up along to Scotts Hill, people, they used to live in the house by the name of Scott, and they'd see a big hill, and they'd go on, they'd stop there overnight and stay with the people named Scott, and people would ask them where they'd been, and they would say that they stayed on Scotts Hill, stayed overnight on Scotts Hill.*

Nora: I remember **Nixon Hill**, now that was where the old school house was, that's where my daddy and mama went to school at - that's way down there below Kirkland, we call it. You know, they had an old train station named Kirkland?

*Oh yes!*

Nora: Uh-huh, **Kirkland**, and the old school house was way down there across from **Mr. Piner** across the railroad, that was the **Nixon Hill**. They called that **Nixon Hill**, and then after a while they changed it from **Nixon Hill** and called it *Kirkland*.

*Was that from old Mr. Nixon who had that other plantation?*

Nora: I reckon so, honey, but I don't know then, way back then, I don't know exactly because I wasn't even was born then, but my oldest sister, she wasn't even old enough to go to school, she went to school with my aunt.

*What did you do after you left Williston?*

Nora: After Williston, went to work.

*What did you do? What kind of work -*

Nora: I cooked, cooked.

*Where was that?*

Nora: Up in Hampstead for **Joe Howard** up in Hampstead, for **Joe Howard**.

*And then you got married?*

Nora: Got married in '37, uh-huh, been here ever since then. I got married in '37, and I worked for **Beulah Howard**, and then I stopped working for her and went to **Camp Davis**, and I worked at **Camp Davis**, and went up to **Camp Davis** in thirty-

*What's Camp Davis?*

Nora: Up there what you call **Holly Ridge**.

*Oh no, I am not familiar with that? Was that a military camp?*

Nora: Not familiar with that? Military camp.

*Oh during the war?*

Nora: '42, 1942.

*Do you ever remember about school teachers, or you mentioned **Mr. Corbett** who had the railroad station? Did any of them, or did you ever hear of anybody else living in the house besides the **Foys** while they were there, like renting a room out, or a boarder?*

Nora: I remember **Rod Sidbury's** wife used to board there.

*Was she a school teacher?*

Nora: She was a school teacher, and **Ms. Bobbie, Ms. Atkinson**, down there in Scotts Hill. She used to board there to the white house, and **Ms. Spear**, she used to board there to the white house, and that old lady – what is her name? That old lady what run them tourists down there by the petroleum station on that curve?

*Petroleum station?*

Nora: Uh-huh, you know, before you get to McDonald's? Some of them, a tourists, on that side, and there's an old woman down there. She used to teach to Hampstead, and she'd go to Hampstead. She used to stay at the Foy house when she first came down here to teach. What was her name? **Ms. Floyd**, her name was **Ms. Floyd**, that old lady. The tourists was right on that dead curve right after - after you get to petroleum station, them are tourists.

*Oh, you mean the tourist cabins?*

Nora: Yeah.

*And are they on the left side of the road?*

Nora: On the left side of the road, when you going, right on that curve, she used to stay in that house, board in that house. Her name was - we used to call her **Ms. Floyd**. That was before she got married, and I don't know what she is called now. You stop down there, and she give you some information.

*I always wondered what those cabins were right there.*

Nora: That's her.

*They've been there a while haven't they?*

Nora: She used to teach school up there. She could tell you somebody up in the big house. She boarded there. **Ms. Garrison** that died out there not long ago, she boarded there.

*And were all of them school teachers?*

Nora: All school teachers, uh-huh, and **Ms. Atkinson**, she was with **Bobby, B-o-b**, married Bobby. She married **old man Atkinson**. She used to stay in the Foy house - and stay with **Ms. Sidbury, Ms. Sidbury** used to keep a lot of teachers too, **Raybury Sidbury** - where the preacher stay at? And **Ms. Sidbury** used to keep a lot of teachers, and **Ms. Eubanks** in the house, but her husband's daddy - they had a big two story house. See that brick house? That two story house that got burned down, and they built that brick house, and her husband was the oil man, **Mr. Eubanks**.

*That's who I was wondering if you was talking about, **Eubanks Oil**?*

Nora: Uh-huh, he had a son named **Billy Eubanks**, and uh, what that other one named at? A girl named **Elizabeth**, that's right! **Elizabeth** used to go to school in Scotts Hill, down to the school in Kirkland too. The **Lee boys** used to do down there - the Lee boys, **Hugh, Anne, and Jimmy**. **Jimmy** used to go down there, and in that house where **Ms. Bessie Lee's**, I'm talking about - my cousin worked there, and she had a nurse to come, a black nurse come out when **Mrs. Lee** had her children, and my cousin, she didn't used to stay there, and they went to cut a chicken neck off. You know, people used to cut off, and the nurse cut **Ginny's** finger off!

*Cut her finger off? Accidentally? She was too close to the chicken neck? What did the nurse do, just fix it up right there?*

Nora: Uh-huh. See, **Ms. Bessie Lee**, I remember her first child, I'm a little older than her first child, I read that piece about her, *Ms. Lee*, in the paper.

*Yes, that was very interesting. That's where I read about people used to gather out front out there. Do you remember anything about **Jimmy** having circuses out front?*

Nora: Oh, Lord, yes, sir, **Jimmy** would have all the children down there in the sandbox playing - I remember that so good, and I remember when she got her house fixed over because my Uncle's wife was working there, named Maggie -

*Well, did they have lots of games other than just playing in the sand? Did he put boards and things up?*

Nora: Put boards up there, uh-huh, everything like that, and when it was raining, we'd put boards across the water, and then late at night we'd go pull the boards up, and they used to fall in to the water.

*(laughter) Well, we want you to be our expert when we fix this up for the children again.*

Nora: I remember some good times down there. I remember when the old locomotives used to come up out of the woods and bring the logs, now my husband know all about that, to the Mill, where **Mr. Lee** used to run the mill, and them old big horses, oh, those horses bringing them logs up through them woods, and right across the railroad they used to have a male quarter horse. We know all about that because we used to play up there in that vicinity, with the children. There weren't no children up there where we come from. We would sneak down to Scotts Hill and play with them children.

*And your husband worked at that saw mill?*

Nora: Uh-huh, now my daddy-in-law, well, now, now if he were here, he could tell you something because he's 98 years old, the 25<sup>th</sup> of August.

*Do you think that maybe we could write to him? Can he see very well?*

Nora: He can see, but you have to do some talking.

*Maybe if we wrote out some questions and things for him, maybe he could just talk, and at least we would have it on tape, and his name is **Jessie Burns**?*

Nora: Uh-huh. **Jessie L. Burns**.

*Who did he work for?*

He worked for **old man Bryant**, and **Mr. Sidbury** - now his wife was a school teacher. Her name was **Katie Mack Brown**. She used to walk from **Browntown** down there and catch the train and go to school.

*Now the name, the Browntown - came from the Browns that lived here?*

Nora: **Caroline Powell Brown**, and his mother's -

*Who?*

Nora: Mr. Jessie's mother, her name was **Caroline Powell Brown**.

*Was she the first one to live in this area?*

Nora: Mr. Jessie's mother, and everybody had a **Brown** so they called it **Browntown**.

*Why did she suddenly just build one house? Were there lots of houses that were built here?*

Nora: All these houses was here, lots of houses here, but my husband have to tell you about that, see, because I come from Scotts Hill. I moved here after I was married. But we used to come up here and play a lot. We used to walk. Right down there behind where Scotts Hill - used to be sparkle berry trees down there.

*What are sparkle berry trees?*

Nora: Chinquapin trees.

*I know about chinquapin, but what about sparkle berry?*

Nora: Sparkle berry was like a little tree, something like a hedge, and it would have black berries on it, and it come in the fall of the year like chinquapins, when people get ready to harvest peanuts?

*Uh-huh*

Nora: - and that would be our place to go down there and play because we could get a lot of sparkle berry and chinquapin trees.

*What would you do with the sparkle berries?*

Nora: We would eat the sparkle berries, but the Chinquapin - we would get a big needle and put a hole in it and string them like beads and wear them around our neck.

*And how big was a sparkleberry?*

Nora: About as big as a hickory nut, I guess, about as big as hickory nut.

*And where were they growing?*

Nora: They were growing in the woods.

Just in the woods - they were wild.

Nora: Now right down there by the **Edens** stayed at, there used to be some big old hickory trees growing down there, and they had a lot of hickory nuts on them. In the fall of the year, they would fall off, and we would go down there and pick them up, put them on the track, and let the train run over them.

*And then you'd eat the nuts leftover? That's pretty smart way of getting them cracked! You didn't never put a penny or anything on the tracks?*

Nora: Yeah, we used to put a penny on the tracks and then we used to put two straight pins on the tracks, and make some scissors out of them.

*What? You put them side by side?*

Nora: Cross them.

*You put them cross? I never heard of such a thing.*

(laughter) Nora: See, we didn't have all that fancy stuff like the children got now, so we had to make our own. See, when we heard the train coming, we would get down and put our ears to the track, and we'd say, "the train coming now" and we'd jump and run. And when the train passing, we would go back and put our head down, and say, "The train out of sight now." See, we didn't have nothing to amuse us like children got now.

*I think you had more fun than they do now.*

Nora: Oh, we did, we did - jump rope. We'd jump rope from sun up to sun down.

*Did you have any kind of a swing, or rope in the tree?*

Nora: We had a swing, ropes up the tree and put a piece of board across, you know, and some people we didn't really like, we'd take the board out of the swing, and they had to put some tow bags and put them on the swing.

*What? They'd tie them in knots or something? Did you ever have sack races with the tow bags?*

Nora: We used to put them on the head. We were some naughty girls.

*What did you do when you put them on your head?*



Nora: We put them on the head, and mash them way down, and tie a string on and lead them, and children we didn't like we'd let them walk into the tree.

*(laughter) Would you kind of play monsters? What were you thinking when you put them over your head?*

Nora: We were thinking about the devil using his pitchfork, and then you'd be dead.

*But did you ever get in them and jump in them? And have races?*

Nora: Oh, lord, we would get in the bag and tie the thing up there, and jump, jump, jump. We had fun, but we had to make things up. Mama and papa didn't have no money like these people here have now, and we'd get an automobile tire, and put a big chain on there, and put them up the tree. Did you ever hear of people talking about climbing a Chinnaberry tree and get hung? Grandmamma, us grandmamma, had a big Chinnaberry tree on this side of her yard, and she had a maple tree on that side, so we'd wait until grandmamma go in the kitchen and cook, and we'd go up the Chinnaberry tree and get hung, and grandmamma had to come out the kitchen and get us out.

*(laughter) Was she pretty mad at you all because she had to come rescue you?*

Nora: And then when you scrub the floor then? We used to have to go way down in the sand hole. You ever hear talk about sand hole? See, people didn't have no rugs on the floor like they is now. We had to go way in the sand hole and dig white sand up - and come, and she'd throw it on the kitchen floor, and that's what the people used on the kitchen floor, sand. See, these people didn't have these fancy rugs like they has now. People with fancy rugs on the floors now, they not comfortable with no sand on the kitchen floor now.

*That sand, they'd sweep it back and forth and clean it?*

Nora: Yeah, we'd sweep it out, and then we'd go get some more sand to put on there.

*How far did you have to go to go to the sand hole?*

Nora: We didn't have to go far, but we made like we had to go a long ways, so we could get out there and play.

*Did they use the sand on the main house floors ever?*

Nora: No, they just used it on the kitchen.

*Just on the kitchen floor, where there'd be like grease?*

Nora: And then when they smoked a pipe, a pot, they took the sand and got the clean the pots, to clean the pot with sand. It was the prettiest thing.

*They'd clean the pipe with what?*

Nora: They'd clean the pots with sand.

*Oh the pot!*

Nora: Uh-huh, but, see, we got all this stuff now, the soap pads and everything, but they didn't clean them with soap pads. They cleaned their pots with sand - took some sand and a cloth and cleaned their pots.

*Where'd they clean it? Did they do it in the kitchen or outside?*

Nora: Do it in the kitchen, put some paper down.

*In that old kitchen out back, they did the same thing?*

Nora: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

*Do you remember there being a cistern where they caught the rain water?*

Nora: A cistern?

*Where'd they get their water?*

Nora: Now, I tell you what they do - when it rained, they put a big barrel out there, and let the barrel get full of water, back then.

*Now I don't know when it was built, but instead of a barrel, there is a brick place in the ground, and it's like a brick rain barrel.*

Nora: That's a well, that's a well, where you put something on that and draw the water up, that's the well.

*All this did was catch rain water. It didn't go all - you didn't get the water out of the ground. It held the rain water.*

(Interviewer confuses well and cistern – unaware of well underneath windmill).

Nora: That water must have come from somewhere. Because up there in that big house, what Mr. (?) used to live at? They had a well out there in that yard.

*Was there another well? Was there one near the kitchen? Where do you remember there being any well?*

Nora: I believe that well would have been there, I can't think of it. I believe I know what you're talking about. Well, there was a well somewhere back of that place, but I don't know -

*Now right now there's a brick thing they've found that they called a cistern that collected rain water, and it's right here, right next to the house, right up against it.*

Nora: I should come down to that house one day and go through.

*Beverly: That's what we would like for you to do, come down.*

Nora: Come down there, because I know they had a – they built a bathroom. They didn't have no bathroom. They built a bathroom on the second floor.

*Was that in the middle of the porch?*

Nora: It was right on the corner, on the corner, on the corner, I'll just have come down there, and see. See when all that stuff was down there when us was children. You see, there was three stories to that house, the basement (clap), the middle floor (clap) ... and they got that old safe down there now like what they had?

*Yes, they sure do, that sat out on the back porch?*

Nora: Yeah, have they still got that china closet down there? That pretty china closet?

*No, that's not there anymore - somebody in the family must have that. (Pause) Now that safe that you're talking about, what did it have in -?*

Nora: It had shelves in there, that's where they put the food at when you cook it, the food, you know, when you cook it? You used to put the dishes in there, but after Ms. Betty bought her china closet, my grandmamma used to keep her food in there, her cooked food, like cakes and pies? She used to keep that in there. And that old safe is still there?

*Uh-huh, and now it's got tin.*

Nora: The tin was in there when us was there!

*It had tin in it then?*

Nora: Yeah, it had three shelves, three and a drawer.

*It's got two drawers in the bottom and three shelves in it.*

Nora: You mean to tell me that safe is still there? I better come down there and see that!

*Now we had new tin put in it.*

Nora: You had tin put in it, but some tin was in there, wasn't it?

*Now I heard that years before that it was used as a milk safe, and it didn't have tin in it. They used to put the milk in it.*

Nora: That's what, that's what it was used for. When we used to go down there, we used to put all the clabber and the sweet milk, if they got some of them things down what they used to milk the cows - they got some of them down there too?

*Yeah, sure do. Now what were the bottom drawers for when they used it for like the milk safe?*

Nora: Then they'd take it, they used to shake it up, and put the butter in there.

*What would go in the drawers at the bottom though?*

Nora: I don't know. They used to shake up milk, and make the butter, and wrap the butter round and put it in the drawers. I believe that's what Ms. Betty and them did, never did, everything... Now they had a cow, somebody had a cow down there - because they had a lot of cows in the back when we was children, and they had a fence where they'd go and milk the cows out there, you know, right there. Uh-huh, I just, just have to come down there. Maybe I'll know somebody when I go down there.

*You'd be surprised. We've got some in the family, they've got pictures of **Mary Jane Harper** and her daughter, so one of them would be your mother.*

Nora: I believe, I remember we had that picture, with **Mary Lina** and **Ms. Nora**, a lot of us took us pictures, well, you know what, I don't know what become of them pictures. **Ms. Betty** used to ... you know it's good to keep a memory of your family, now just like my book here, my children, if I happen to die -

*Then you'll have pictures to show them.*

Nora: You see this here, all my retirement pictures when I went to **Camp McKinley**. (You can hear Nora pull out a photograph album).

*Oh, this is wonderful*

#### **BREAK IN TAPE.**

Nora: Well, they had a drive way where they made out to the front, and stop at 17, and go right on in front of the house, and go right on out to the end of 17 again, and that's what you called "Was for the big dogs." You know every year they had someone come, the **Whitakers/Whittall/Whitings**. The **Whitakers/Whittall/Whitings** used to come and stay with the **Foys** every summer, and they would bring they chauffeur, their black chauffeur, and he would stay down in the basement, and the **Whitakers/Whittall/Whitings** they would stay on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. No, the **Whitakers/Whittall/Whitings** were down in the basement part, was the **Whitaker/Whittall/Whitings** part, like they rent it for the summer or something, and you going there on that walk, you had to be a big man, like the President, to ride up and down to that house.

*And what did you say about the highway man and the driveway?*

Nora: The highway come, come, stop on 17, right up to the front of the house and right on out to 17, and that was a big dog.

*And he had it all paved. It wasn't dirt?*

Nora: Had it paved.

*How do you reckon he got the highway to come and pave his driveway?*

Nora: They paved it; they paved it! Money talks, dear.

*Yeah, I guess so! Did you ever hear anybody that knew the - uh, now I heard the people's name was **Whiting**, and they were from Massachusetts.*

Nora: That's right. They'd bring their chauffeur back, their chauffeur down here.

*Did you ever see that car they brought?*

Nora: Boy, that was something, that glass in there, that chauffeur would get out and open that door and get them people and shut the door back. Sometimes they had two chauffeurs. The other chauffeur was from Massachusetts. They'd get my grandmamma's boy to chauffeur too. When the **Whitings** come into town, that was the **Whitings**. That's right!

*Well, I heard they brought a maid with them too.*

Nora: They brought a maid too. But my grandmamma she had maids, sometimes they had three or four maids, had parties, I'm talking about, the pretty silver and china you ever see -

*Did it belong to the **Foys**? Or did the **Whitings** ...*

The **Whitings** would buy it and give to the **Foys** ... They had two dining rooms. Is there two dining rooms in there now?

*Not now.*

*Beverly: Two double parlors are in there now.*

*There's a dining room on the back side. Where was the other dining room?*

Nora: The dining room, the dining room was - let me see now. Go up the steps, the dining room, that was the **Whiting's** dining room. The first room you came to in the back - when the **Whitings** came down -

*Downstairs?*

Nora: Upstairs.

*Oh, upstairs!*

Nora: There were two dining rooms, upstairs, honey.

*Two dining rooms upstairs! Now you come in the back steps. And on one side is one dining room. And where was the other one?*

Nora: The other one was right on up above that.

*Up above it?*

Nora: You see, you come through the kitchen, this dining room here, the first dining room -

*Downstairs?*

Nora: Upstairs - upstairs on the second floor.

*Was it on the front of the house?*

Nora: Uh-huh, the front of the house.

*Oh, I heard that they did use that as a dining room. At one time that was a post office room?*

Nora: I don't know about the Post Office.

*Do you remember there being any shelves in that room?*

Nora: Uh-huh, I remember when the **Whitings** come out – I remember that pretty dining room suit, and the pretty things.

*What did it look like?*

Nora: I don't know, honey, all I know, it was guarded. See, we'd peek in there, because grandmamma would say, "Y'all can't go in there," and so one day **Ms. Betty, Ms. Betty, Mr. Robert's wife** and them, said, "Let them come on through, **Mary Jane**. Let them look." It was pretty in there.

*Did they have white table clothes?*

Nora: Oh, Lord, they had some pretty linens back there, china, crystal, glass - all that stuff.

*Well, how did the people in - the black people in Scotts Hill feel about them bringing these fancy folk up from Massachusetts, like a chauffeur and a maid?*

Nora: There was nothing the people could do.

*Did they - did they care?*

Nora: They didn't care. The Foys had their cooks. They had my grandmamma and her daughter.

*They didn't think he was acting like a big dog then, the chauffeur?*

Nora: No, the Chauffeur was just as nice, and the **Whitings** was just as nice as they could be.

*So nobody minded it at all? You didn't think they were showing off at all?*

Nora: No, no, no, because they was just as nice as they could be. They sure was.

*Do you remember them ever talking about their daughter, Daisy?*

Nora: I don't remember them talking about that.

*There was the **Whitings**, and **Daisy Whithall**. **Daisy Whiting**, and then she married a **Mr. Whitall**, and she kept coming down. They came down for many, many years.*

Nora: Well, all I remember is the man, the old man. Now they could have been a daughter down there. We was so glad when they come because we wanted to see them, because they was rich people. We thought they was big people. You know how children was back then.

*I heard they both sent their car down on the train?*

Nora: Yes, they did, that's right, they did! Uh-huh!

*And how did they get down - by boat?*

Nora: They come on the train or something too. When they come on the train, see the chauffeur take the car to the station. We thought that was something. In fact, people thought the President was coming. We thought the **Whitings** were something. "The Whitings coming down to the Foy's." This was the luckiest thing. We thought us grandmamma was something, working for them.

*Oh, I never thought of it that way!*

Nora: And they would always bring us something.

*Like what would they bring you?*

Nora: Dresses and pretty sweaters. We used to get pretty things. Grandmamma gave them to her grandchildren and her children.

*They especially gave them to her and to you? They weren't just cast off things? She must have been a remarkable woman.*

Nora: My grandmamma was a good mamma! And cook! You talk about cook!

*What kinds of things did she fix for the family?*

Nora: Honey, I don't know. All I know she could cook biscuits and grits (laughter to self). All I know she was a cooking woman! And she used to wash, she used to wash, and way back then, my grandmamma would put a bundle of clothes on her head, I don't know where she said - I'm going to show it to you one day, and she used to get on that railroad track with that bundle of clothes on her head, and walk from her house to Scotts Hill every morning.

*Why did she take the clothes with her? To go do them at home?*

Nora: She ironed them at the house.

*She ironed them at her own home?*

Nora: No, she didn't, she ironed them after they, after ...

(Horn honking in background)

End of tape.

Last updated 8/15/2017