



*MRS. DOROTHY SAWYER SPIVEY was born in 1914 in James City she is the daughter of Claude Henry Sawyer (1879-1947), a self employed carpenter, and Mary Jane Holloway Sawyer (1889-1977). Mrs. Spivey speaks of James City from the 1920's to present day.*



*MR. WILLIAM SPIVEY was born in 1915 in James City. He is the son of Moses Spivey (1896 - 1969) and Carrie Dillahunt Spivey (1895-1946) . Mr. Moses Spivey worked in Bennett Saw Mill and VC Fertilizer Factory. Mr. Spivey speaks about James City during the 1920's to present day.*

Bill and Dorothy Spivey

Could you both please state your names for the record. Well I'm Dorothy Sawyer Dunson Spivey. I William A. Spivey. Bill, I understand you were some of the last ones to leave James City. (B) I was the last one. They all had moved and passed and there was four in James City. George White, he passed, he was one of the four, that left three. My daddy passed. That left two. Fellow stayed out there in the mill yard, well that was James City too. Well, he went back home to Wilmington, that was three. That left one and that was me. And so those three passed and that left one in Old James City. And that was actually too much for one going to work, see nobody come to work, see nobody, nobody to talk or come by the mail as far as nobody to just talk to. And that's cause I moved, I was the last one that left Old James City. At the other side of the creek, there on Trent River, I was the last one that left. I was the last button on that jacket, as the old saying goes. (G) Do you live somewhat near the mill? (B) Yeah I was near the mill near Trent River. I could almost throw a rock, but it hadn't for the mill, I could throw a rock from where I was born to Trent River. And at that time, before that happened, James City was full of people. Little houses, huts they were, very easy. You could almost go about, I don't know four or five yards and maybe, there you could touch a house. Houses just that thick, you know. But they moved out, passed out, and went north and south and east and west, and uh, that was it. All boiled down to four. And when

that three left, their two paths one went back home, that left one. And that one was me. And I left. I moved out. (D) He lived in that area, I didn't. But my mother, her foster parents, were members of Reform Shiloh when they were down in the James City area. That was before me. But then after I was born, uh, and awhile after my mother continued to, uh, to be, uh, continued her membership there. But mom said it was so far for us to walk we didn't have anything no vehicle, so far to walk, she says, Pilgrim Chapel. That's what and when and why we moved there, our membership. I was a little girl, there, because I use to go Sunday School Reform Shiloh when I was a child. My mother stayed there after she were married until we were born, well I'll say, and then she decided for convenience she joined Pilgrim Chapel. Uh, because it was Missionary Baptist, which was our faith. And that's when we joined there, Mama say it was to far to pass right by that Missionary Baptist church to go to another one. So that's why it wasn't no nothing malicious, no malice or evil or why we moved. But as you know, I don't think the last Miss Marshal White thought to much of it. Because I heard Evelyn say one time if it burn down, that was the old Reform Shiloh Church, if that church burned, until they could get another one, they would hold the service over the ashes. Yeah, but that's why. (G) So it was one of the last churches to come over into this area, Reform Shiloh? (D) Uh yes, yeah, wasn't it Bill? (B) Uh huh. (D) Mount Shiloh was ahead of Reform. I attended, I attended, uh, at Miss Rebecca Davis, she was a retired teacher, you know. I was a little girl. I attended her

wedding, which was in Mount Shiloh Church, at that time, when I was a little girl. Don't ask me what year, but I was a little girl and I'm 79. But I attended that wedding, that Miss Rebecca wedding. Well I was just thinking, I remember that I was a little girl. Oh, Bill ----- would attend the same Sunday School although, Bill lived close by there. But Bill, as they say, use to pull at my braids, pick at my legs. (B) Yeah sure. (D) But he lived closer there. (B) The three churches Mount Shiloh, Reform, and Jones Chapel, they all come from Old James City. I know when Mount Shiloh moved and I know when Reform moved, but Jones Chapel, it was moved, it is on the corner stone, 1915, well that's the same year I was born. But I do know about where, the spot it sit in, because the old building, you know, it just rotted down, and old foundation, well I played around it and I know about where it was. I know about where Reform was situated and I know Mount Shiloh was sitting down to the end of the old bridge. (D) Uh huh, that's right. (B) And Pilgrim Chapel, this highway, that highway going in, well Pilgrim Chapel was sitting back over there on a hill near Turner Mill. That's what they did, was told me. But it was old foundation, like that, but it was mill sitting over there and Pilgrim Chapel was sitting back over there. And all three of those churches, those three, come from Old James City. (D) Yes, well, I attended, as I had told you that wedding, Miss Rebecca's, it high like that and I was a little girl then. Don't ask me the year. Am I right Bill? That church was not to far, I have an idea, near the end of the bridge. (B) Near the bridge, near the end of the

bridge. (D) And Mr. Simon Phillips had a store across the highway. (B) Right in front of the church. (D) Grace, I know that was before your time. (B) It was a long time before Grace's time. (D) Cause I'm ten months older than Bill. (G) And what they're speaking about is the Old James City, which is all now, where you have to have brick walls out there and they're doing new developments, that's the area that was full bloom. In fact, it was more people over in that section, looked like, than in ----- (D) That right, when we were children, now, Mr. Amos William, he had, to be frank I use to think Mr. Amos Williams and Mr. Rob Davis, I thought they were rich because they have a store. And I am sure, at that time, when they were in a better condition, it was better with them, than us. Well, daddy he was uh, (G) A postmaster. (D) No your talking about the last Richard Sawyer, he was a postmaster, worked at the post office, sometime back. But my dad was carpenter. Yeah, my dad he was a carpenter. Yeah, well, that was some good-ole-days then. You know, Bill, people would stay down sometimes. We stay down in James City, uh, people that lived maybe over in this area stay until that last train that come in from. One would go down in the morning, next time would come up in the evening and that was a big deal for us to stick around to see who was gonna get off or maybe who come over. (G) I heard that they would take excursions or whatever and my mama said that was a big deal to stand out and wait to see who went on excursions. (B) There is one excursion run that Elizabeth City to Washington, or Durham, Norfolk, or Greenville, or Wilson. (G) So you did more

traveling then, than you do now. (B) Uh huh, that's right. Area that was excursion, James City would run an excursion. I seen Wilson, Durham, ah Norfolk, and years ago it used to be steam boats, and lets see there was two freight moves. Phillip was one that they would take river excursions, that's right. Down to the mill where we had a little barge but it was a freight boat too, you know, but uh, we had to haul freight and it was old, it was like a dance hall you know. And we would of had nothing there but the crew and they charter that and take river cruises up to Pollocksville, up Trent River and around like that. In James City, that's right. (G) So James City really was a blooming town. (B) That's right, that's right, we take river excursions just about every year, I mean during the summer months you know, about every year, they charter the Phillip and go up the river and stay all day long and come back and do whatever was doing, come on back and get off and go to work. And at the end, the Phillip would take a load and go on north or wherever it was going. That's right every summer there was an excursion or a river cruise in Old James City. And of course as the old one passed, young ones, you know don't keep up none of that old tradition. That's old fashion you know. But you look at, in times then, and compare and it's better then, than it is now. Because, you take now, everything now is hurry scurry, everywhere I go. We don't have time now to even help out a neighbor put up a fence. Don't have time, but longer then, if you be doing something, you'd have less outside work, you'd have five, six men, when they'd get off from work, they got off all different

times. One stop by, another one stop by, and you'd have five, six men helping you. Now you can, you can't even pay them to do no work now. Like I said you can't even pay them to do no work now, what longer that time to me it was better. It was actually better, because just like I said, lets take women, if one be doing something like that, you know, like you took two or three, why you look you had a yard full. You had four or five helping to do whatever there was doing, you know. And one cook something good, three or four would get part of- that was good. There ain't nothing that do that now, but the wine-o's. Now the wino's do it. Now, the wine-o's share. The wine-o's will share. If you don't have and the wine-o's have a pint, you'll get a little sip of it. But now, no they don't share nothing, but it is always you get and I don't. But longer then, to me, it was better. Money was scarcer. There wasn't no money. But anytime you work 10 hours for 50 cent a day, there wasn't no money. But after, you could do more with that 50 cents than you can do with \$10 now, you know. (G) Bill, mostly workers, what kind of work did they do in this area? I understand there was mills and factories. (B) Well it was fertilize houses and saw mills, timber mills. But, it was one, two, lets see, there was Morgan Bennett, Shadlin, and uh, Tuner Mill. Of course, they all went down. And then there was Resee Fertilize, Meadow which, of course, is Dixon now, but it was Meadow at that time. There was plenty of work, very good work, longer then. Of course it got slack in the 30's. I mean, and when the depression come on, but it was right good work, long in that

time. Cause the fertilize house, and there were seasons at the fertilize houses but still they had a crew, year round crew, you know. And the mill, well, naturally it was right steady, and they load couple of barges. (G) How would they bring the logs in, the timber in? (B) A raft or a boat, pull it on a boat. Yeah a raft of logs pulling on here from there, about the bend. It about 1 mile or 1 1/2 mile long, it float the logs, pull them behind a tug boat. A little boat keep them straight for going through the draw. (G) Somewhat like I would see is in the western, like they sort of just keep them in line. (B) But they'd pull logs from down Riverdale way all through Slocum Creek, Brice's Creek and they got that log train running in the woods. It would run through Pollocksville, all up through Churnen, and rafting logs out on Brice's Creek and the log boat catch them and pull them up creek, out of the creek on Trent River, and pull them to the mill. That's the way they logged the mill. And they brought them to James City. One, two, three mills, Turner Mill, Morgan Bennett, and Bill Mavericks Mills, it was jobs. And ---- come here when I was in New Bern, but they logged it strictly by train. Or they cut somebodies logs till the boat couldn't pull it, you know, so they logged it by train. That was in New Bern. It was right good work going along in the end, but you, when the depression come along, it all ran out, just went down you know. And there was farmers too. (G) Yeah, my mom and all was saying that a lot of the people in the area had the little garden and the little farms and they would share and sell what was left over. And they mostly had hogs and

chickens and everybody had their own little garden. And they mostly had little shops back there in this area too. (D) BJ Lewis started it off, in a tent right down at the corner right there. That's right, and finally, she had a, what did she do, build a place full of shop owners and attached it to her building. But as I recalled, she was a crawling then when she had that tent, then she would sell you know snacks and cook applejacks, food, pies. (G) I understand a lot of the women would cook and serve. They'd have to, for the meals or for the workmen and that's how they'd start their little shops. (B) Sell peanuts. (D) Mr. Pender, that's right, we are on the ground now that his big two-story house of his and he had a store. As I told you, those men, the men that had those stores and I was a child then, I thought they were rich. (G) I have often wondered, they say there were people during that time that owned acres and acres of land and this is going back before your time, but you said, that many of them write one generation off, from being, you know, slavery. And here these people were able to purchase their land and run their little shops, have their own little garden, and so I thought that was quite interesting. (D) Yeah, Mr. Pender and that great two-story house and I says I hope I don't think that was the only good deed my father did oh that house caught a fire and, uh, it was, I mean it was in, it was blazing. But my father risked his life and went in got Mr. Penders mother-in-law, his wife's mother and she was Miss Dorcus, he went and got her down them steps somehow and I think just as he got outside the door, the house collapsed down. He had

a sore on his heel from that and it took a long time to heal. But it did heal, but he did say he got it right on this very spot. (G) Oh isn't that amazing that we sit here. (B) And that's the only house that's been there, except this one, since that time, all those years. (G) That's over almost 100 years ago. (B) A good 50 or better, cause that's right, lets see I'll be 78 and I was about then, we were what, about 14, wasn't we, if we were 14. About 13 or 14. So it was a good 55 years since a house has been on this spot. (G) You use to have, it seems, quite a few fires in those times. Those were big pretty houses in this area. I remember my mom telling me about they lived, she lived in a, Granddaddy West had a beautiful big house and it burned too. (B) That time, it around, lets see, about 5 houses by Mount Shiloh Church. Harry and Miss Amelia, was Harry's wife, and all that back by Mount Shiloh's church was the Browns. I guess that's why they named it Brownsville for old man Austin Brown. (D) Now this was Graysville. (B) Yeah, now I don't know why it got the name Graysville. (D) No, I don't know, somebody might know. (G) I know Meadowsville. (B) Yeah, that got its name from the factory, cause I seen old man, oh I can't remember his name now, but you see, he give them that, cross the track there, a little switch come down to the front. But it still there now, right on the other side that street, see, he gave it to them and they named that Meadowsville, after him. That was the track going on down by central power where Barbie live, and Annie, and all those people. Back down there that's Meadowsville. (G) Now, it is amazing because when I was

growing up I remember they use to say you were going to Brownsville, we're going to Meadowsville, that's how I remember. So when they said its on the map, and everything, I said oh, and I remember and I can point it out because we use to say about it. Now we just say James City as a whole. (?) You mentioned George White who use to live in Old James City. Is this Congressman George White? (B) No. I don't know the congressman. This was just a resident of James City. Could have been distant relatives I don't know. (G) We don't know if they could have been distant relatives. Maybe we keep tracing, you know, one day we will find that out, I was just curious. We do have a lot of the White family named White; what's his name, Bris White. (B) Bris White, well now that was George Whites daddy. (G) Well, now that dates back way into the 1800's. (B) Yeah, cause Bluebird, I think, I beleive there was one older than Bluebird and Bluebird was born in 1892, something like that, and he has another brother I beleive was a couple years older than him, that was William. And William must have been born, I reckon, around, I don't know, but Bluebird said he was 2 years older than he was. Bluebird was the seventh child, so Bluebert wasn't the baby -either. (?) Did you ever have any relations or friends or just someone in the line, someone who ever mentioned talking about serving in the Civil War, with Union armies or building forts around here. (B) Well, I know two men who was in the Civil War. One of them name was John Roberts, and the other one was named Albert Butler, now that's the only two I know that served in the Civil War. I really knowed them direct. (D) Your

talking about Albert Butler, he was Mama Loggins husband. (B) Yeah, he served in the Civil War and old man John Roberts, that's Miss Tempie's granddaddy. Miss Teffy's granddaddy, he served in the Civil War. Now that's the only two that I know. (D) I not to sure about my mama's foster, he could have, Paul Lewis, but now whether he served in the, I won't say yes or say no. (G) He was one of a committee of twelve. So how old was that. That was in 1892, so he was full grown then, so he could have been back there. (D) Yeah, now he and his wife Florence, you have a picture of them, my mother, now her mother, died at the age of 28. Mom lived to be 87 but her mother died at age 28. Alright, maybe I've heard her say but I'm not sure how old she was, she could have been in, I don't know if I went there but. (B) It was a, I think, it was a mason home, I believe it was a mason home or it could have been oddfeller. But long about that time they did have, they use to call them at that time, juvenile. Sure, you know you go over there, Miss Frances, Dudley and Frances just call Elliot and they had children that had to do it all and when the Masons, the fellows would have you know they would make a parade, from that hall to different churches. You know, well this year, they make an appearance at, and next year to Mount Shiloh. But the children would be in with them to. And honey.. (G) (Name ? Avette Man Kury) would do her number when that happened and all the fella's was half there at the fair. (G) So, you had all those organizations, even back then. (B) Yeah, Dr. Pitching, the Pound Society, now that was a church. (D) Wasn't their an organization

called the Dreamins League or something? (B) Oh yeah, three or four Pitchins, the oddfellas, Mason, yeah, about four and then the children, you know, the women of the organization would get the children together, the youth, you know, and they called them at that time to get the juvenile, you know. Any organization at that time had juvenile, had to have women, you know, children get tired and get sleepy. You got them, you carry on, you know, its been a long time ago but this was really, I mean they really had it. And there was a hall over there with a school, that's right. (D) I don't know if I went there but has anyone discuss about the big two-story house that used to be down in James City? Was over on the right hand side. I went to kindergarten there. They moved it from where Miss Arbella had those twin houses right there. (G) Do you remember Miss Caroline Alexander? I understand she was a teacher and a missionary here. (D) I'll give you a picture of her. Yes I'll give you a picture of her. (G) You remember it cause Mr. Aaron saw it the first time I showed it to you. (D) Sure I member her, uh huh. (G) Cause were gonna have it on display too and she did a lot during the time about the land when she went to court over that old land in James City too. So was she one of your teachers? (D) Sure, I remember her cause I was sick. Yeah, cause when she was sick, I think she died and the Late Reverend Dudley was doing his first wife \_\_\_\_\_. I worked for both of them as a little girl, you know, little chores such as I could do or in the garden because where we moved from I used to pick beans, vegetables for Reverend Dudley and first wife. I knew both of the wives. I

use to work for them. And while she was sick, I use to do little chores round the house, and mop the floor and Miss Alexander was there. I think she died in Miss Dudley's house or sometime during that time. Grace, I mean I'd have all this a 100 percent clear in mind, but anyway. (G) That's okay I just love hearing it. (D) Anyone mention about Miss Corbet? She was a b----- and she worked for missionary way back when I was very young. During the time or later than Miss Alexander's time because she use to teach at that missionary. Yeah, oh I'm sorry did I upset something? But this old memory is something it stick with you and some you know is gone from you. (G) Well Mrs. Alexander, Caroline Alexander is in that James City book. That's why I was curious. (D) I imagine I was about the only one that had a picture of her. My mom kept up with it. My mother kept up with it, yeah. (G) I have read about her and Washington Spivey, that's going even further back, that was my great grandfather. You don't remember him. (B) I remember, I remember what they said about him, oh yeah, I heard you. (G) What is some of, if you can recall. (B) Well I heard one time they did have a picture, I had to pay for it one time. Oh, I don't know what happened to it in the old-house and all. Uh, one time the law wanted to come here and do something. And all the men meet him, meet him by the bridge, that old bridge. They had pick axe, shovel, pitch fork, bush axes and all that stuff. The law went back that away, we all come back this away. We just moved but we didn't cross each others line you know. But I had a picture of him. I don't know what happened to it, the old house that burn up

and all probably went with. But they say, the old ones said, I can't remember, I was not there, but they said if something the law want to come over here and do something and it wasn't right. And all those old men meet midway at the bridge with pick axe, shovel, pitch forks, bush axes, club axes, all the weapons they had, you know, were axes and used cause a bad man wouldn't rush an axe, you know. So they say they couldn't get together, so the law went back that way and they come back this way. Weren't a men on his end of the bridge that come back on our end of the bridge. But that's what they say. The gathered together somehow the law never did try to, uh. (G) I've heard of mama and I didn't understand which was my grandma and that was Washington Spivey's daughter. Use to say well if you can't drink all that, drink that water, if you can't swim, and you can't drink that water you better not come mess with James City. Cause they sure run you back. (B) They didn't got to much coming over here. I mean and people more scared of James City. If you tell them you come from James City, they look at you and back away from, you know they figured you was bad. At that time, Old James City they didn't take no stuff you know. And sometimes some of the doctors~wouldn't come over, so they say. I was say some of the old, some of the old doctors, why they'd come right on and a fella would be out by the door with horse and buggy. They tell him to watch my horse, well he'd watch the horse for him now don't mess with doc's horse. That's doc's horse you know. And doc some of the young thugs come out and say I ain't gonna mess with it. But it was, it was sort of, well I tell, for government,

it was better then, than it is now. Because longer then it was old, the city was old timester, but there was more respect. There was more respect. You pass people, say good morning or good evening. (D) More caring and sharing. (B) You'd go like this and wave your hat up or something like that. But now a days you all want to walk right through your yard and take a bucket of trash and throw it on your porch and don't say nothing. Do the law back that, was the wrong wasn't it, but long then, ever child did something if he had to go to the law, if hadn't or got a piece of something, sheriff tell him take him to the back, put a strap on him. Give him a little whoppin, you know, straighten him out and that was it. Or you could straighten out yourself at home. You know, you parents you got a child at home seven, eight years old you straighten him out. Now I want to tell you right up, you hit me, I'm gonna tell the law. See you taken care of them now, the law just making it worser now, in the law than then. I will be 78 years old this coming June. I never been in jail in my life. Now, that's all there is, in prison. Young, come here to kill everybody in here. Cause he feel like the law, and if I hit him a side of the head with this thing here, I gotta go to jail for protecting my own house. So it was better, longer then. The law, longer then, was actually the law. Actually like I said, if a child would do something bad or break a window pane, more than likely that time your parents would get together on you. Well I have it fixed, and then when the child, when they get the child he would just as hot in the box you sitting out there recalling all. It is the truth,

they tie him up right quick. And if he went to the law, he hadn't nobody or nothing like that, the sheriff would tell him take a strap and carry him out there in the back yard. Put it on him. I know one time Freddy, Freddy you know Freddy, Aunt Hattie, Freddy's mother, you know Freddy. But Freddy did something bad and somehow or another it got to the law. And Sheriff Lane took a hand and they carry him out there and kinda strap him a little bit. And Sheriff Lane had to go out there and get him, they'd would of half kill him, you know. And Freddy didn't do nothing no more, you know what I mean. Sheriff had to stop them. Now the sheriff would have put her in jail and she would have been in jail till she died you know. Yeah, abuse. (D) The children know the law now better than the parents. (B) Yeah, that's right. The law back then, you know, I mean there was more respect. (G) And I understand that the parents, if a child did something, a neighbor could help discipline that child. And the child be afraid to tell the parents cause he gonna get another one. (D) They were better children then. Than now. (B) Better children, and if you was doing something wrong, they'd say son stop that. Go home to your mother. They tell me that, I'm gone. I'm gone. I be hot from you and if she tell my mother, I be hot from her. That be two. But now, you tell a child, if you see a child now, really, if you see a child now with matches and a can of kerosene or gas going to set a kids, parents house a fire, you best bet, you gonna get another can and get some oil and tell them here's two cans. And help him out, because if you tell his parents, that wasn't my child. If you say to much to

that lady's child, the law gonna get you. So if you get the gas and help him out, that's the truth. You say something to a kid now about actually doing wrong, you give him a hot and he gonna tell the law. I've gotta go to jail. The law will tell you, your the one that let him go in that lady's car. Just trying to keep him out of trouble, then he'll do something bad, but then they'll kill him. (G) But Bill, back to this, during that time of a the Civil War, I know you can't remember. But anything else you can recall way back to and that the old people might have said, that you know you could sort of remember this. (?) Did any of the men you mentioned who actually fought in the Civil War, did they ever tell you any stories from the fighting back then? (B) Let me see now, its been a long long time. Well I tell you, I heard from (John --- --man Butler?) one see about they tired, you have to sleep on the lean-to. Yeah, a lean-to, that was a shed. It would be back to the ground and front like that and a lot of them would sleep in there and I mean during the war, it be cold. And sometime, they, I think they'd have fire out in the front with the heat going back. And sometimes they'd raise up old bear be sitting there warming too. I think I heard old mān John Roberts tell that. And he sitting back there and they had to look up through the fire there and old bear be sitting there warming to. But they turning round getting together and bear leave. Why I think I heard old man John Roberts say that and they say about the food was bad, and that the water was bad. They had to get what food they could get and what water, you know what I mean. They told me a whole lot but a lot of

it I forgot. But I bet I heard old man John Roberts say about the bear. Trying to keep warm and the bear trying to keep warm. Old bear come into the fire you'd be warming too. (?) Were they proud they fought in the Civil War? (B) Well, I, they told me so much, I mean, because they give a whole history of it. But I was young then, but they told me. (G) Most of them, the way I understand, thought that it was their war and they wanted to be a part of that. (B) They wanted to be a part of it. No I can't remember just what outfit they was with. But I know they did say about this man named, oh a lot of people had fought him and that's the reason they say they all ----- in James City. And I think, they, commanding of this regiment was James. James something. (G) Horace, Horace James. (B) And that's who you see when it was all over, you see, he lead and said well I'll just give it to him and said well this is yours. I think his name was James something. That's the reason the city name was James City. I heard them tell that. But they didn't say, they may have told me what outfit they was in but, long time I forgot it. You see they man just say this is James City and lead it out and they named it after him. They say this is James City. (G) They say that the land was given to them as a reparation for their enslavement and fighting in the war, that was their way of being paid. And many of them said that this is why they would never leave there. My grandma, she said she died there and she almost did but we had to literally pick her up to bring her out of there because she was too old to take care of herself. But she was, she said she was never happy after she left there. When they

brought her in this area. (B) But most of the older ones they did pass there. Most of the old one actually did pass there. All the old ones that you know passed over there. And all the old ones that I know, but a few, passed over there. You take Miss Sarah Riggs she passed on to the side. But I'm like you, I don't think she was ever satisfied. Never was satisfied. (G) They grieved. Something special about that area. And there still is, even when I go through there, I feel something, it is a feeling that you belong. (B) Yeah, there is a feeling. Now when we come across the overpass, I look that way where I was born. Every time I come over the overpass I look that way. Now I come over the overpass, I just about can spot the place that each one of those lived. Cause they got it all down but I could walk through there and just about tell the spot, about maybe, not foot for foot. But about where all lived there. (G) My mother talks about there. That she can vision the whole area where everybody lived. And she, I have a list of what she was telling me from the water back. And that from what my land, that way, I could remember it the way my grandma lived. And then you would go, she would try to show me. (B) If I could walk through, I could about spot it maybe not I mean not direct on the spot but mighty close to it, you know where about all those lived. (G) I understand the post office was right across from the river. (B) I remember him. He's the person I remember. Ebe Howard he was postmaster and then was Richard Sawyer. (D) Now that's my memory, Richard Sawyer, I really. (B) But Abe Howard and Febbie, Miss Febbie, Febbie Howard, that was his wife. (D) Now she's kinda

going from, that name rings a bell. (B) You remember, Miss Angela Grady, that was Tuwie's grandmother. Angela Grady, that was grandma Julie's mother. (D) No. I remember grandma Julie but not her mother. (B) Well her mother is Miss Angela Grady. Do you remember Miss Fanny Jones? (D) Frances Jones? (B) Fanny. (D) Fanny Jones. What was she to Miss Ava. Ava Jones. (B) Miss Ava Jones was nothing to Miss Ava. She was see Kid married Miss Ava. And she was kids on it. Do you remember Miss Minnie Cladler? (D) Yeah, yep, yep. (B) Do you remember Booti's grandmother? (G) Miss Annie Clara? (B) Clara Nolan, and his mother, Cliff, Booti's daddy's mother? Her name was Martel, I think. (D) No. I don't think I remember her. (B) Dear, do you remember, you remember Turner Mill don't you? You know he had to go down the railroad tracks to go by that big house. And they all stayed down there. They all stayed right down there. (D) You see, Bill, you lived down there. (B) I lived up there. (G) See, that's what happens too Bill, a lot of people the young which could be 70 some years, they moved over here cause this town, this portion of James City is over 100 years this year. They were told to get out of there 1892. (D) Now Bill you were born down there. I was born on this back street. (G) Just like my mama. She never lived there, but traveling around with her daddy and her mother, she remembered old James City. (B) Now you take right here where the Mason Hall is, you know who live that, don't you? (D) The Hardison's. (B) Old man Joe Hardison. You take the coral--- sacs houses who lived there? (D) That was one of his houses, he rented from them. (B)

His daughter. (D) The daughter? (B) Uh huh. Who did she marry?  
Talking in your town now. (D) I remember her name was Irene. (B)  
Her name was Irene, but who did she marry? (D) I don't know. (B)  
Frank Foy. Cherry's brother. (D) That's right. You jogged my  
memory. (B) I'm in your town now. (D) Yes. I remember her. (G)  
Bill got it from both ends. He got all of James City and here.  
(B) And old Grandma Soybean-- they lived right in front of you, you  
know. And Miss Hadie and brother Dee. (D) He use to teach school.  
What was it, 15 cent a week. (B) Uh huh, 15 cent a week. (D) Or  
10 cent a week or 15 cent a week for a student. He teach them from  
Monday to Friday. I think 15 cent a week and that was good money.  
And old man John Lee use to transfer people, would do laundry at  
home. I have done it years back. And he charge what is it, both  
trips, a quarter, or 10 cents. (G) In other words he was taking  
the cloths back to the people. (D) Yeah. And go pick them up from  
the people in New Bern and bring them over here, then carry them  
back. And those iletts, on Miss Maine, she could carry on her head  
too. Like we mentioned about Miss Harrett Sawyer. (G) It is  
amazing how the people always had a way of doing, working for  
themselves. (D) That's right, they did overcome. (G) They were  
entrepreneurs. (B) They made a living of it. And those old women  
would take a watermelon, I don't care how round it was, put it on  
their head and walk all the way across the bridge with it. Buy in  
New Bern, bring it home on their head, and it just as round as a  
baseball. And balance it. They could take a basket of clothes,  
set it on their head, and walk with it. (G) And hands full. (B)

Yeah. Hands full and a basket of clothes setting on their head. And walk and it wouldn't fall off. (G) I know, we have pictures of it. (B) How they do it, or how they did it, I don't know. Balance that a long ways, but they did it. Back there, they were good cooks. They were actually good cooks, they didn't have these recipes that come from a book. Because they didn't have no recipes wrote down, no nothing, but they could cook. And they could cook some of the best stewed beef you ever ate in your life. And I knowed a lady, course she dead now, she been dead a long long time. Grace, I reckon you heard talk of Miss Martha King. She never did learn how to cook on a cook stove. She cooked in a fireplace. She could cook just as good a pie in the fireplace as you can cook in any oven that has ever been made. Her fireplace was a great big old fireplace but she had oars in it. You just can't, she had arms and the arms swing in, swing up and the pots had bails, on you know. So you put it on that arm, sling it on the fire, like that you know. When you get ready to check it, you just pull it out and check it like that. And when she get ready to cook corn, bread and pie and cake, she had skillet. Boy that thing had legs on it about like that. Three legs like that. But it had all lead, the, but the whole middle was iron. Everything was iron and then it take coal and put on top of it. So the heat would go in. Be like stove and oven. You take stove now, you got a unit on top and unit on bottom. But the heat was going from top to bottom. And cook some best cakes you ever seen in your life and stewed beef. Lord have mercy. Good food and everything then cooked in iron. Now its

cooked in, what will I say tin, pressure cooker and all that stuff. Pressure cooker can cook white beans in 10 minutes and they'll kill you. Longer then, during that time, they'd put on that they had to cook beans so you had beans for supper. They'd put them on right after breakfast. During that time, 8 o'clock was breakfast time. They'd put on them beans, then, and then roll them. Now those beans was cooked from about 8:30, 9 o'clock until about 4 o'clock. Honey you could eat um, some of the best beans, and they never hurt you. Now you try them now, they'll bend your toes in. Cause there cooked to fast. All that stuff in there and they are just cooked to fast. Longer then, just roll them beans, baby. And be just as good and sweet, and just as soft and everybody could eat them. Now heat them with a pressure cooker. That's good you can cook them in 8 minutes. They don't care to cook them. (G) That's right and if you cook them longer, they're no good. (B) They're no good in a pressure cooker, but if you put them in an iron pot and roll them, honey that is some feeding. Now they cook it in tin. You don't know what your eating. Ham, you could smell ham near the junk yard there. Now you look right in the frying pan, you know its ham. Its the truth. You could go by all the peoples houses and they'd be cooking breakfast. You could smell that ham, you could smell that ham, you could smell the coffee. Cold morning you could smell the coffee. You don't know what in the world you got in the pot now. That's the truth. That's the truth. Grace its the truth. You could actually smell that ham baby. That's right. (G) Now that you speak of it, I can remember how you would smell food. (B)

Well can you smell it now? (G) You don't smell nothing. It may drop some on burner and you'd smell it burning, but it is, you don't know what it is. That's the truth. And you look at the pot you don't know what got in there. You got a name or a label on it but you don't know what the taste, don't know the taste there. And they smoked their meat. They had houses that smoke their meat and racks all up in there and everything. They have some in little bowl, pots or something. And then made a fire, whether they were smoking hickory or oak. And they'd build a fire and the smell of that then filled the room. You'd see smoke going everywhere. Now your talking about ham. And that ham would last, would hang right up in that smoke house summer and winter. They want a piece they go cut it off. Scrap it off a little bit then you wash it off and you go on. (G) You really didn't have to buy very much from a store. (B) No. No. Cause they raised their own. Chickens, everybody had chickens. When they want a chicken they'd catch one of their chickens and you had a cleaning pen, you know, or a coup you know. When they'd catch and put four or five up there. You know they keep them up there and they'd all go out there and get them. And then if you want a chicken, you go get it. But now, you can't cook a chicken now, where they ain't blood to the bone. That's true, you can fry them and fry them they'd be so hard you can't eat any, but still right near the bone is bloody. That's the truth. Grace it sounds funny, but baby its the truth. It's the truth, that's right. (G) It's just the hard truth, that's right. And you're telling the truth, that's why I am laughing. (B) And

then, like I say, their recipes and there seeing that there if Haddy from ----up above, because now everything you cook, you got a recipe. And now everything you cook its cholesterol. Everything you cook now, it's cholesterol, you can't eat cholesterol. You can't eat that cholesterol, it's chemical. And during that time they kill a hog, they get the fat out the hog. And they tie it up. The hunter, they'd cook anything, they'd cook anything out of that lard. The called it the cracklin. They take that cracklin and make it up in corn bread and you'd have cracklin bread. You could get a hunk of cracklin bread and a sweet potato and you could work for six straight hours. You had to drink water. That's the truth. That's the truth. That the truth. And they'd tied that lard up and strain it you know. They did strain it alright, you know. And then they would put it in the stands. Now that was pure lard. (D) They put bay leaves in it. (B) Yeah, they'd put bay leaves, in the season it, like that. But that was pure lard. Now if you get cholesterol, if you get crisco cholesterol, if you get shrimp cholesterol, everything you get, got it, cholesterol. That's right. Everything you eat now, you can't do to much of this. When anybody tell me I eat five pecans and that's enough. It's true. It's true. Dell had a chart, or somebody had a chart and your not suppose to eat but five pecans. I eat but five I don't want to know what I'm doing. (D) Well Bill, they're just trying to look out for you. (B) Look out for what? (D) You know, keep your cholesterol limited. (B) Look out for what dear? (D) Look out for your health. (G) But Bill said he could eat all he wants in those

days. (B) Both pockets full, I could eat all I want and go on home and never nothing could hurt you. It's true Grace. But now it's cholesterol and your heart, bad this, or they never say about the chemicals they put on them. See, they never name the chemicals. Just cholesterol. Butter, margarine, and all that and they use to make the old butter. Take a churn, we had a churn and keg with a lid on, put milk in there, and you'd chop it up and down. And when that get hard. Now that was pure butter. Now you got your scratch milk butter. If you eat to much of pure butter they say your cholesterol. If you eat margarine, cholesterol. There something out called Bonnett, that's cholesterol. So what you going to eat? Well it's the truth. And you're not suppose to eat, but, its the truth Grace, it's the truth, you hear it, you hear it. You read about it, you see it. Cholesterol, don't eat that. That's cholesterol. And all that cholesterol uh huh huh. And they never say about the chemicals. The never say nothing about the chemicals they put on the stuff and make it grow. That's right, they put it on the food to make it grow. Well you know it's going right up that stalk. Going right in the food. Collard greens, going right in the leaves and in the ears of corn. (D) Leon planted some collard greens and he didn't put anything on them and they monster size, it just coming through the soil. You just, no matter, whether you put in your fertilizer or anything, you still, the soil seeps in. (B) It's so much mist, that's what it is. (G) I hate to tell you but my stomach hurts so bad to eat today and suppose to be pure. (B) All the chemicals it's all the chemicals that's right.

It's tough Grace, it's tough. I just tell it like it is. (G) I remember Miss, I mean Grandma Julie, which Herb Fisher's grandma. (B) His mother. (G) She use to run a little restaurant. She use to always have food to serve. Albert Jackson, Pete Jackson, full self up back then and didn't hear nobody say they hurt. You could eat all you want. But it didn't hurt you. (G) Well that's what amazes me about the area, the James City area. Everybody had, they knew how to survive. You know, they worked as farmers, or they worked in the mills, or fertilizers, or they cooked, like had their own restaurants. And I understand a lot of people came from a lot of areas to look for work here. (B) Yeah, because at that time I seen there was right good work here in James City. You take the saw mill, lumber mill going and then season fertilize house going, you know what I mean. You'd start out, let see the fertilize house, they'd start out right after Christmas, there about sometime in January, and they'd work on to about May or June. You know what I mean? And by the time they get through cleaning up their crew. Cause there was a crew that actually stayed and worked year round there. But by the time, that older crew get through cleaning up and around, it be near about time to start back up again. And then they'd probably get a little job up by the mill, you know what I mean. Loading barges or trailer cars, or something like that. So they keep on going you know. Then the farms going to, you know. That's how they kept them survived. I give it to them, they were survivors. (G) In fact, that what had strengthened me, because I said, my goodness, if these people were able to do so much back

there, and look at all the opportunities that was put forth today and the young people are not taking advantage of any of them. I guess the spirit is just out of whack. (B) That's right. (?Dan) You were talking a while back about a folks greeting officials with bush axes, and anything they could get their hands on. Did any of the, did you ever hear any stories about when the North Carolina Malitia actually came, right after that? (B) Well I did hear a little something about that, but I can't get that together. I did hear something about that, it but there wasn't no outcome about it, back then. They come down about the land, but there wasn't nothing did. (G) Someone said they had a big celebration after they came. (B) Raleigh or somewhere. No they never, I mean it wasn't like it is now, all of them had to go to jail now, you know. But longer that time, it was man for man, you know. So it didn't make no to do or nothing like that. I guess they just come down and sort of straighten it out a little bit, cause it was getting pretty hot then. (G) Well I can tell you, Mr. Olsen has heard enough about James City defending themselves. Just about every one we have spoken to, they have mentioned how James City would take care of itself. (B) That's right. That's right. (D) It's like a close knit family. (B) And like I said, in during that time back and even my time, the respect. My daddy, and Bluebert and all they had respect. Now I have been up here, and many times, I been back of Advil's house and go home very late, Sonny and my dog ducking the folks cause I be on the roof drinking liquor, and didn't want them to see me. Me and the boys be on the roof down there, at the, we

would come up there by the factory, cut across the creek, you know, and go through by the old sand hole and go home. But the one lady, she's, I don't care when, she always see you. No mam that wasn't me. Liar. I lied that was you. No mam. I'd lie. But I mean, that was respect you know. You take back over here where Dot Grimes house, that house sitting right over there, back there, go over where the plum bushes where all day long so I could drink. We'd hide. We enjoyed ourselves, but we were hiding. Get ready to go home, we'd go across there, cut through the cemetery. No wonder a snake hadn't got us one night. Then go to the river and go home. But I mean, we were to hide from people you respect. Now they get out in your own yard. (G) You almost have to call the sheriff anymore. (B) Law come by and tell them get out of here, go on home, and then they throw cans at him and he go about his business. Many times I'd be back Advil house, see the moon coming up here and cut across the creek. Me and Charlie and Moe and Bud a lot of boys out there drinking liquor. I don't know. That's the best I can tell you Grace. (G) Well I enjoyed it. To hear the stories told and everybody has a different story to tell. (B) Remember when we were talking a while back. Most everybody had a little garden, raising chickens, or hogs. If you want some collard greens, just go out there and get your greens and go. And then when corn and pole beans you want yourself some corn, you go get you some corn, it's okay. You would get it and go home you know. You wasn't selfish. I get hog, everybody on this street got a piece of hog, you know what I mean. Everybody got a piece of it. Everybody

gonna get a piece of the hog you know. (G) I remember you use to hear the people say such and such is killing a hog. And not long before everybody get a piece. (B) It was times then, more money certainly now, I really mean it. (G) I think that is part of the problems, the more money, the more people became more selfish. (B) That's right. (G) And back to when I use to walk, even in my time, everybody spoke. You could not pass anybody without saying good morning or how are you. But today they turn their heads before you can even say good morning or how are you. (B) That's going out of style. Walk right in your house, they'll come right in your house and walk right on by, kick your flower pot over there, you know, which they would. And not say good morning or how are you all or nothing like that. (G) But you surely did speak when you was a kid or somebody would let your family know, she don't speak. So those days I don't know what happened, in between there. So much little progress. (B) I don't know Grace, it's tough. (G) Bill in reference to the cemeteries, do you, I know about the old slave cemetery out by the airport, but I understand there where other cemeteries located. (B) Well, there was one that new road it goes down this way and goes in New Bern to the old grave, there was a cemetery there. I don't who, back over there where Pilgrim Chapel Church use to sit, back over that a way, somewhere out toward the mill. But there was a cemetery there. (G) Now we are talking water to water, here right in Old James City. Was that near the water, there is a for sale sign near that bridge on the opposite side where the bypass comes over. (B) Well I don't know, there

wasn't any cemetery in there not as I ever heard about it. But there was one, you see, if you are going to New Bern, now if you don't take the old path take the road that going into that short bridge there. There was a cemetery sitting, and I think that road go right over top of it. Over that cemetery. That's the one your talking about. There was a cemetery actually a cemetery there. Now I don't know, before my time. There are a few stones there today but good Lord, them old. But there was a cemetery there. (G) Was there one, you know, where Aunt Maggie on the other side of Scott's creek. Now, we already in James City part, but right across Scott's creek where, what's his name use to. There is this concrete bridge there, when I was a little girl. Was there a cemetery somewhere on that side behind Rem Bellhouse---- or something like that. (B) Well that's the one I know there use to be an old factory, I don't what you mean. (G) Oh, that's it okay, I remember seeing stones there. (B) I remember stones there, part of the old wall, there, but I never seen no sign or cemetery there. (G) Okay maybe that's what I saw, because the cemetery was on the side, in Old James City. Okay. And that was a plate factory, because it use to be clear and I'd see stones there. (B) Yeah, part of the wall, cause that part of it fell down. Boys use to play ball back down there. We boys would play baseball back down in there, you know. But I never found no cemetery back down in there. (G) Bill let me ask you this, they use to have a band here and baseball team. (B) Yeah, yeah, we had all that. There was the clap band and it had a baseball team. I remember a little about

the baseball team. But I remember a lot about the band. Annie Jones got a picture. I don't know whether she showed it to you. About the baseball boys. Baseball team, Felsa, my daddy, Bluebird, Joe White, you ask her to see it. Her daddy was the manager. And Jim Shone, Bluebird, my daddy, Bris, Gumbo Harris, Trusell, there is a whole lot of them. I beleive Pit Bryant was on that, but Annie, got a picture of it. And they had suits. Dr. Pepper, the name of the team was Dr. Pepper. If you go by Annie she show you the picture. You can see they had suits. Dr. Pepper the name of the team was Dr. Pepper. Her daddy Doc was the manager. (G) I hope her children didn't come and take it. (B) That's the truth, oh lord a whole lot of them. (G) Dr. Pepper okay. And the band, I guess that was (B) There was Pieable-- my grandaddy, Sam Jones, Alex, great whole lot of them, I can't recall. It did have a band. (G) The band, what was the name of the band? (B) They had a name for it but I can't think of it now. (G) Okay. We would call it James City Band anyway. (B) That's right, they have got a band. (G) You know from what I hear you had everything. You had everything. And it's amazing how it all just died out. You know somewhere along the way, some generation just skipped right over it. Looking for change you know. And you had it all, just need to improve. (B) That's right, that's right. (G) Well this is going to be very interesting because I am learning everyday. To have recorded and have young people to know that this is how it was. That's strength right there. In fact, James City seemed like it was thriving more so than New Bern. (B) And during that time we

had the band, James City was near about like New Orleans. Somebody pass, the band would go into the cemetery. They played the march going to the cemetery. Funeral march going up. But oh lord coming back, yes sir. And there, the little functions going on like that, the band. Just like those excursions I was telling you about going on, the band and the river boat. James City band, uh huh, that's right. (G) Boy I loved to been back there seems like more fun than now. (B) That's the truth. (D) Oh now there is so much tragedy and (G) So Bill, what would they do, everybody would take their own food or baskets of food or what would happen when they'd go on excursions. (D) Yes, they would take it, some in baskets or boxes. (B) They had their own food. They cook, all day, if the excursion was leaving on a Thursday, they started cooking about Tuesday. Cook Tuesday, and the ribs and the little boxes and stuff. Good food now. (G) Bill when you were a little boy what kind of games can you remember, what you did? (B) Baseball, marbles, hide-and-seek you know all that stuff. (D) Bill did you ever go on the end of the, I don't know if I did, what they call straw ride. (B) I never been on a straw ride. No I never did go on a hay ride. (D) I don't think I did. Papa would never let me go. But they'd have straw rides you know, with these wagons and a horse or mule that would pull the wagon. (B) We had baseball games, marble games, and hide-and-seek and all kinds of games back then. We had foot races you know. I would run from that corner to that corner. (G) Most of this was centered around the churches. (B) Yeah, churches, would have you know. (G) I really do appreciate this. Did you

want to say anything else.

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