

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions  
Oral History Documentation Project

**FLORENCE BAILEY LANHAM**

Interviewed by Brenda Coates  
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At her home in Ridge Maryland  
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[Begin Side 1, Tape 1 of 1]

BC: Miss Lanham I just want to let you know that if you are uncomfortable answering any of these questions please feel free not to answer.

BC: I will start with asking you where do you live? You know landmarks or whatever where do you live?

FBL: Right now I'm living at 48375 Seaside View Road in Ridge, Maryland.

BC: Okay and that's about how far from Seaside View Recreational area?

FBL: About a mile.

BC: About a mile ok. And it's down below St. Peter Claver Church in that area?

FBL: Yes, Yes

BC: A where were you born? Where were you brought up?

FBL: I was born in Baltimore and I grew up out there in Wicomico County. That's on the Eastern Shore, Maryland.

BC: What were your parent's occupations?

FBL: My father was in business he had ah school buses and dump trucks. And my mother mostly did -- a house work, a housewife.

BC: About how much land did y'all live on your family live on?

FBL: Well ah we had about five acres -- my father brought about five acres of land and built it -- and had a house built on it. But as I grew older and after I left home he purchased more -- much more property. I would say probably about two or three hundred acres. But now he I think he is renting it out or selling it for the most part.

BC: Ok now -- what year did you come to St. Mary's County?

FBL: I came to St. Mary's in September 1951.

BC: Ok, was that when you got married or?

FBL: No I came here to teach school at Banneker High School.

BC: Ok, I'll ask you some more about that when I get to the question about your occupation.

BC: What were times like when you were a child?

FBL: Well when I grew up. I grew up in an area where children in the summer time worked -- our schools would close in about the middle of May. About the middle of May the black schools would close about two weeks earlier than the white schools. And that was so that black kids could go -- start picking strawberries. Then we left -- the time the strawberries would leave then we'd pick blackberries and then bean. It was quite a bit of what we called truck farming and a bus would go through the community -- my father's bus would go through the community and pick up people and we were just packed in the bus -- and I mean just packed. And ah we couldn't breathe. And it's what we did and then we would do that May, June, and July. Probably July was -- some of the sort of when the older people the men would maybe pick tomatoes and the women would work in the canning factories, and then a lot of the kids would be at home. Because tomatoes -- picking tomatoes was hard work and they be too heavy. It would be too heavy for the kids. Then after that then we just planned to go back to school. In August the later part of July and August we had fun [laughing]. In September we had to go back to school.

BC: So school would close early for black kids so they could go out and pick fruit.

FBL: That's right hmm that's right. And bean rows I never will forget them some of them were so long you never could get to the end of them. You would have people on each end and then you have people in the middle meeting. Most times you never did meet.

BC: I guess maybe some things like that happen I just you know right now for you to tell me that and for me to never have experienced it, it's just amazing.

FBL: It was just shocking to me when I got to St. Mary's and I found that the kids here they just didn't work. If they didn't work in tobacco they did do anything.

BC: And now for kids to grow up not knowing any of that is just mind boggling. Uhm did your father -- he had the buses and trucks. Did he do any kind of farming you know have a little garden or something?

FBL: My father never liked farming. My mother ah parents were farmers. Okay and when we grow up we did have a garden but she was mostly the person who initiated that. And then after we had grown and after we had gone off to college and what not -- ah well my father still had business and then he started investing in land. In fact ah but --he didn't do much farming himself he would sort of rent it out that type of thing. But he did have a lot of farm equipment even because some times you know some people they didn't have the equipment and so they would use his equipment.

BC: What is your earliest memory?

FBL: About what?

BC: Maybe about picking strawberries or going to school for the first time or just anything that you can right now just think about how far back you can remember?

FBL: Well when I went to a first grade there were two girls (myself and another girl) and three guys in the first grade and we went to a one room school. And all five of us sort of stayed together until we got -- until we got to High School. Ah one guy -- that we went to, one of the guys he had repeated the first grade and he sort of by the time he got to the six grade he had sort of dropped out. And one of the guys went to Philadelphia to live. And then so that left three of us and we graduated from high school. And when I graduated from high school it was -- it wasn't a matter of are you going to college. The question would be which college are you planning to attend?

BC: Was that the attitude in your family or the whole school?

FBL: That was sort the attitude of the people in the community.

BC: And to get here into St. Mary's and to find out that it was the opposite.

FBL: It was just the opposite, it was a shocker.

BC: Was that because the people figured that if you made it that far that you had to go or?

FBL: Well it seems as though at the time when I came along it seemed like many of the older people had gone to college. Many of them had gone to college or many of as they got older leave to Baltimore to seek employment -- or to go to Philadelphia or New York. And then they would send money home to help you know with their brothers – to help their family's and they was sort of encouragement to go and stay in high school. And go on to college and the two girls, myself and the other girl went to college. And the other – one of boys was killed. He drowned in Ocean City and one guy went up to New Jersey. And I don't know he had a pretty good job went up to New Jersey.

BC: What church did your family go to?

FBL: We were Methodist

BC: Did you family take trips?

FBL Yes, here again we were always -- I guess I was lucky, always going some place. Here again my father had the bus and he would a when he took his trips and things lots of times we would have the opportunity to go. A like a when a church groups would go different churches we would go and sometimes we would -- and sometimes people – lets say a group would want to go to Philadelphia we would go. And then all through the winter and summer too it seemed like all through the summer it was a park in Philadelphia. We would go to a park called Woodside Park in Philadelphia and we would go to this park and we would go to Baltimore quite frequently and we would go to ah the amusement parks up there.

BC: Ok and ah -- but you said that this was a school bus so he drove the kids to school?

FBL: He would drive these children to school. Yes, my father was the only school bus driver I ever rode the school bus with. From the day I started school until the day I graduated from high school. My father was the school bus driver.

BC: I guess I was asking that because a lot of the people that I have interviewed so far ah they always had to walk to school because they didn't have transportation or buses.

FBL: All I did was walked out of my walked out of my door and got on the bus right out in my yard.

BC: Was your family involved in community activities?

FBL: Yes you know most of the community activities would be something involving church and PTA's. They were very active in both church and PTA's.

BC: Do you think that times were better or worst then they are now?

FBL: I tell you I wouldn't like to go back to those times but I -- I can't say it's worse. Well it all depends on how you look at it. I -- in what you got accustom to doing. I would say I guess I was fortunate because as I said before we had a lot of --. I do think that my life was a lot easier then a lot of other kid I grew up with. I would say that.

BC: Because your father was in business for himself?

FBL: He was in the business for himself and we had a lot of -- there were a lot of opportunities and we could take advantage of. Whereby I ride the bus free and if somebody else ride the bus they had to pay. And then -- and those things do make a difference.

BC: What was some of your family's health concerns? How did they deal with health and illnesses?

FBL: Well we got so we went to the doctor or -- and then sometimes you got sick and you call the doctor and he come to you, in those days. And the doctor knew everybody.

BC: Were there hospitals and other medical facilities available to y'all?

FBL: Here again in the summertime we used to let the people get on the bus and go to the doctor. We had some kind -- kind of needles. Oh I don't know what they were. You know as a child I don't remember. But there were a bus load of us. Because and when I -- I don't know what they were for. I --I really don't remember what they were for, but every summer we would go and get these shots.

BC: Well did you go to the hospital or doctors office?

FBL: We went to the doctor's office. We loaded up the bus and went to get these shots. Of course there was a lot of crying and holding the kids.

BC: Okay, did ah your family rely on home remedies? Do you remember any particular remedy or --?

FBL: Every winter we had to take Castor Oil and every time I look at it in the bottle it makes me sick. And we had to take Cod Liver Oil everyday. I didn't mind that, but the Castor Oil I just it couldn't stand that stuff.

BC: Do you remember anything else?

FBL: Those were the two remedies I can remember and my mother ... especially during winter months.

BC: Do you remember how senior citizens were cared for?

FBL: The senior citizens were cared for by their children or somebody else. Or somebody else in the family.

BC: So they were at home?

FBL: Senior citizen -- Most of the senior citizens would be at home. Yes.

BC: When you were growing up how did the black people get their news did they have --?

FBL: Well some people had radios and then we have a newspaper. We had a -- we had a weekly newspaper that would come out.

BC: Okay, and it had a lot about blacks or --?

FBL: Oh blacks be somebody -- somebody killing somebody or something like it be on the front page.

BC: Just like --?

FBL: Yeah

BC: Okay what kind of things did you do? What type of games did you play as a child?

FBL: Well we would a hop -- ah hop ah what ah hop scotch where you throw that thing on the --. We play dodge ball. We played baseball, pitched horse shoes ah rode bicycles and ah.

BC: And what kind of choirs did you have to do?

FBL: Oh everyday we would have to clean the house and scrub the floors and make up beds and wash the dishes. Of course then if you didn't have running water you had to pump the water. Heat the water and wash the dishes. Make fires --.

BC: How did you get along with your brothers?

FBL: Just fine, fine.

BC: Of the games that you played which ones did you like the best?

FBL: Well, I liked them all. I liked them all

BC: How did your parents treat you? What did they do with you that you remember the best? You were talking about your father taking y'all on trips and things?

FBL: Well, I can remember that and of course now if we did something wrong and he would -- they would punish us. They weren't too much of fighting parents you know beating you or that type of thing. We would get punished. You had to give up something. Not be able to do something you wanted to do or something like that.

BC: What did they discipline you for -- was it any particular thing that you would do that would get them angry or something?

FBL: Oh if you didn't do what you were suppose to do like -- Okay like -- see in those days you could leave your children home while you were out or go to work or something like that. And she said by the time I come back I want these dishes washed up. And by the time she come home the dishes weren't washed up and so you had to be punished. That type of thing.

BC: Do you feel that your parents have prepared you well for life?

FBL: I think so I think so. There is one thing that I always remember my mother saying. You never look down on people, never look down people. Because how high you climb the ladder the same people you pass on your way up those are the same ones you pass on your way down. So you never look down on anybody.

BC: That is a good -- a good way to look at life. Okay, now you said you went to the public schools in Wicomico County. You said it was a one room schoolhouse?

FBL: It was a one room school -- elementary school from the first to the fifth grade. And then in the sixth grade we would go -- they sent us to Salisbury Elementary -- elementary school in Salisbury. That's where we did the sixth and seventh grade in Salisbury. And then we -- went to high school there.

BC: In elementary school you were saying about the five kids. It was you and four others in the first grade. So about how many kids all together were in that one room school house?

FBL: Oh about 20 or 30.

BC: Do you remember any of your teachers -- from elementary school?

- FBL: Yes, I remember -- my first teacher name was -- she was a Nutter. I think it was Mary Francis it was Nutter -- Miss Nutter. And then the next teacher I had was Agatha Polk No, Agatha Jones, I think she married a Polk.
- BC: What makes you sort of remember these teachers? Did they do anything that you really --?
- FBL: Well, I remember the first grade teacher didn't live to far from were I lived she was from Nantico. I just -- she was just there for three years, I don't know what happen to her. And of course this other lady, I stayed with my grandmother. And of course I guess by being older I remember her more then I did the first grade teacher.
- BC: What subjects did you like the best while you where going to school?
- FBL: I like English. I loved Home Economics and I loved Civics. , Civics, we had to call it Civics I remember.
- BC: Right, right, and I remember it.
- FBL: Yeah Civics
- BC: Was math you least favorite?
- FBL: Yes it was my least favorite and then of course when I got in high school because of my grades from elementary school -- naturally -- they put me in the higher math. They put me in Geometry. But my mother was real good in Geometry and she actually taught me geometry. And then of course our principle, our my high school principal taught us Trigonometry. Oh, God -- and that was even worse. But anyway I managed to get through it.
- BC: As a child what did you dream of becoming? And why?
- FBL: I just -- well I had aunt that went to college and of course I was gonna go to college. And then when I thought about it I really didn't think to much about what I wanted to major in until I got into a high school -- senior year in high school. And then my home economics teachers sort of guided me into her alma mater.
- BC: So every since you really thought about it you always thought about becoming doing something with Home Economics?
- FBL: No, not really not until after about my senior year in high school. Begin thinking about it. She started talking about it. That kind of thing and persuasion you know how that works.

BC: As a teenager where did your parents approve of you going?

FBL: Here again Brenda, it was -- where did they take me. It was more of that. As I said before that was the controlling factor there. Because if you went anywhere, of course you had to go on a bus. And you know when I look back on it, I didn't have much of a choice. I just went where the bus went [laughing]. So ah -- now we would work as I said during the summer. We would work all week and then on Saturday evenings you went go down to Salisbury. Here again, got on the bus and then of course we went to the movies. Every Saturday night we went to the movies.

BC: About how far was Salisbury for the town?

FBL: The distance we traveled it was less than twenty miles.

BC: Did your parents let you date? And if you did where did you go then?

FBL: When I was in High School and the guys would come to the house. I could not go out anywhere with him. They could come to the house but I did not leave the house to go any place with them.

BC: Okay

FBL: It wasn't until after I gotten into College that I started going out on a date. Believe me that's right.

BC: Okay, what was it like when you first went out on your own. Well let me go back and -- what was it like when you first when out on you own? When you first moved away from home? You know either to college or to go to work.

FBL: Well it was quite different, but when your in college it was most kids -- lots of kids it's the first time being away from home. Then you just have to learn how -- learn how to manage and a how to handle yourself. And I went to school to learn -- to study and that's what I did.

BC: Okay, now when you finished your college and you were out on your own. What was it like then?

FBL: That was that was different because then you had to manage your own money. It wasn't like writing home or calling home and send me. That was quite different for me I tell you [laughing].

BC: What did you do for entertainment when you went out on your own?

FBL: Usually when we go out, we went to the movies. I came up 30 -- You went to the movies - and if there were bars or something like that. Ah the first time I went to a bar was when I came to St. Mary's County.

BC: Your family just didn't do that --?

FBL: No my family we just didn't do that -- But there were people who would do that. And also when I was in high school we had a school principal that we were just as scared of on Saturday as we were on Monday. And he was known to go into the bars on Saturday nights and bring the kids -- students out. And that was embarrassing. And you -- that would go all over the whole county. And that would help to curtail a lot of the kids to go to bars.

BC: It's hard to see that happening here.

FBL: I know -- I know it just like when I came here any place I could buy a loaf of bread, I could buy alcohol beverages. It was really -- it was really a change.

BC: What was your first job?

FBL: My first job was a banker.

BC: This was a after you getting out of College?

FBL: Yes, Yes. This was my first job.

BC: Okay, and you said that you were making --.

FBL: Other than -- other than as I said during summers. And then when I was in college I worked a canning factory. I worked on the soup line. We would stand and inspect tomatoes that were being processed for making tomato soup.

BC: Okay, k so when you came to St. Mary's that was your first job after you finished college? And you were saying that your salary was \$2,200 a year?

FBL: A year.

BC: And this was in what?

FBL: 1951

BC: And like I say what a difference this county has made. Okay, now you said that you taught for seven years.

FBL: Yes, I taught for seven years.

BC: And all that time at Banneker?

FBL: Banneker

BC: Why did you decide to teach?

FBL: That's what I was trained—that's what I went to school – I majored in Home Economics. And I was trained to teach.

BC: Okay, now how did you get to work?

FBL: Well, see then – Okay I rode with some other teachers to work. We would car pool.

BC: And you said you had lived on Leonardtown Hollywood Road.

FBL: I lived on Leonardtown Hollywood Road. I lived with a family -- they were Conley's. I don't think anyone in the family is living now. And then after – I stayed there for about a year or so. Then I left from there and Mr. and Mrs. Waters. You probably remember them.

BC: Right

FBL: Built a little house and then we moved into that house. There were two other teachers living at the same place. Then all three of us moved to the Conley's – to the Waters house. And of course we still were car pooling back and forth to work.

BC: All of you were teaching at Banneker?

FBL: All, yes.

[End of Side 1, Tape 1 of 1]

[Begin Side 2, Tape 1 of 1]

BC: What did it mean to you to leave home and go to work?

FBL: Well it was something I always looked forward to. It was just like a dream come true. And it's what everybody was doing as I grew up. Leave from home and find employment.

BC: How did you meet you Husband?

FBL: [Laughing] I met him at a carnival. He was working on the base and at that time every year they would have a fundraiser. Oh what was it for – I can't remember. Anyway, every year they would have this carnival and -- I was introduced to him by a fellow that I knew.

BC: Okay, now is Mr. Lanham from here?

FBL: No he's not from here actually he grew up in Washington.

BC: Okay, Okay so you were introduced to Mr. Lanham by a friend. How old were you then?

FBL: Ah, I was about 22 or 23.

BC: And you said ok now it is time to get married [laughing]?

FBL: No he said it [laughing].

BC: Do you remember anything about your wedding?

FBL: Yes I remember - I didn't have a big wedding. We got married on a Tuesday night at Mr. Water's House. My parent came over and the ladies – the ladies that stayed there. One was my maid of honor – just one. That was the maid of honor. And then after the wedding -- then some of the teachers just had punch and cake and that was it.

BC: Hmm on a Tuesday night?

FBL: On a Tuesday night.

BC: Then you went to school – to work on Wednesday morning?

FBL: I went to work on Wednesday. As a matter of fact at that time he was flying. He had to do some flying the next day. They were here Thanksgiving. Then Thanksgiving time and a we went a to my parents house. And then his family had a reception for us at Christmas time

BC: In Washington?

FBL: In Washington. But you see here again it was just family.

- BC: Okay, so you didn't have a honeymoon right then but did eventually have a honeymoon?
- FBL: No not really, no not really with all his work and I was teaching so we never had a honeymoon.
- BC: Okay, was he in the service or was he just a civilian employee?
- FBL: He was a civilian employee
- BC: Okay, but he had to fly?
- FBL: He had to fly, and at that time he was doing a lot of flying
- BC: What has your family life been like -- your marriage, your relationship with your children, and your grandchildren?
- FBL: Well, I guess it's been nice. Like every other family you had your ups and downs and you just had to roll with the punches.
- BC: What part has religion played in your life? You attend Zion?
- FBL: I attend Zion, yes.
- BC: Do you participate in your churches activities?
- FBL: Yes, at one time I was the Chairman of Administration – Administration Council of the church. Now I am the Vice President of the Methodist Women.
- BC: What does your church mean to you?
- FBL: It means a lot to me -- for spiritual – I enjoy the minister and I enjoy singing. I just enjoys the fellowship with the folks..
- BC: Are you involved with other churches or other religious organizations?
- FBL: No, only – from the stand point of religious, just the church. But I'm active in other community activities.
- BC: What community activities?
- FBL: Well, I'm -- serves as a volunteer for United Cerebral Palsy. I'm active with them. I'm the ... chairman for ... What else – I'm always going. Oh, I'm with the AAUW, the League of Women Voters and with the Cancer Society.

BC: The one about the medical – medicine for the --?

FBL: I'm not associated with that but – but I believe in it. I – I totally believe in it. And I donate to it. And I just think it's a good thing.

BC: With the health care?

FB: Umm hum.

BC: How do feel about life in general today in St. Mary's County?

FBL I ... quit a bit. And I have seen people – I have seen people change and seen a lot of growth in some people. I think it has really changed a whole lot.

BC: In the forty years that you've been here.

FBL: Yes, yes by all means.

BC: So from that I gather that you're saying that the quality of life --?

FBL The quality of life has improved and I see it improving -- I see it improving each day. Of course we do have – we have some things that need a whole lot more attention. I think that is the way it is everywhere.

BC: People are different from when you first got here?

FBL: Definitely

BC: In what way?

FBL I think people are really more friendly now then what they were. Because just like ... they look at you like you are a foreigner [laughing]. What's she like? What's she gone do? Who does she think she is? I think that people are – of course just like everybody else, you become closer to some people then you others. You still stick with them – your crowd.

BC: Are teenagers different from what they were when you were a teenager? Do you feel there was a difference?

FBL: Sure, there definite. Some of the things that teenagers do now, I would be afraid to do it. I'd be scared to death to do it.

BC: Are race relations different then what they use to be?

FBL: Somewhat, but here again we still have a long ways to go. There are some people who are genuinely trying to do better and others are some -- what I call snakes in the grass. It works both ways for blacks and whites, unfortunately.

BC: Where you ever afraid of a group or any practicing hate?

FBL: I can't that I was because I don't really know anybody who --.

BC: Who practiced hate like that?.

FBL I don't know anybody personally who practiced hatred.

BC: How do you feel about living in the County? Have you lived in a city?

FBL: No not really.

BC: I started to ask you earlier. If you hadn't gotten married would you have stayed in the County [laughing]?

BC: Do you feel there is a difference between county people and outsiders? Even though you've been here for forty years?

FBL: Yes, yes I do think there is -- yes umm hmm. Yes actually when I think about it some times I think your friends are ... Now a I would think that when my -- we've had a lot of good relations with the people who just come and go. And then -- when you get down to your friends in the community, there is very, very few. ... I think back over the years, most of our best friends were people who weren't native to the county. And then we've had a -- some -- few friends with people who are native to the county.

BC: you could tell that that there is a difference?

FBL: Umm hmm, I feel there is a difference.

BC: You interact with outsiders just as well as you do with natives.

FBL: That's right.

BC: Natives makes you sound like foreigner from another county.

FBL: Well actually people who come to the county -- that's how you are look upon. And I guess that's how it is everywhere, I believe.

BC: Do you travel or interact with people from different sections of the county?

FBL: Umm hmm, all over the County.

BC: Do you feel there is a difference? Not looking at them as them being natives and you being from outside the County? Just people from the different sections, do see a difference in them? Like people from this ---?

FBL: Yes, yes I do see a difference – in people. Now for instants, I feel that the people from up the County – in my opinion, especially among the black folks are more community minded then what they are in this particular area. By a -- in other words, they are always involved in NAACP – I know when we had the Extension ... People from up the County were always involved. They were always coming – and coming to the office. .. I don't know, I don't know. It was just like pulling teeth to try to get them. I found that to be a difference. I don't know why, but it was very hard to get group activity in this part of the county

BC: Did they have a 4-H from down here? A 4-H Club?

FBL: Years, and years ago they had a 4-H – 4H group down here. Miss Bertil Bryant was the leader. Okay, she was very active after her children grew up.

BC: Now she's Joe Bryant – no which Bryant was she? Leonard? I can't remember which Bryant.

FBL: I think Leonard was a – was I think ... And I can't remember what her husband's name was.

BC: Okay. So you saw these differences because of your work? You saw things a little differently?

FBL: Yes, I think so. I saw things a little differently. When it came to participating. County Fairs, it was just you know – very noticeable.

BC: What do you feel has the biggest changes in this County in the time that you've been here?

FBL: People buying their own homes – building their own homes. Oh, I was so glad to see that. Then I noticed a change ... and a change in schools. Very, very ...

BC: What are your feelings about the Navy base? Especially the new growth on the base?

FBL: I think it's fantastic, because the County has nothing to do but prosper from it. .

BC:0 What do you think of the direction the county is going today? Do you believe that St. Mary's is going to become an urban rather than a rural county?

FB: I see a – The way I see it the homes -- jobs will pick up on the bases. People are going to come. Some of those people are going to come here to stay. People are going to have to have places to stay. And some areas are going to probably become more urbanized than others. No much you try to stop the growth, I think it's going to grow. Of course a lot of the people coming here working weren't staying here. Because a lot of them are going to Calvert County and Charles County.

BC: So it's going to be rural but only in certain sections. Leonardtown and Lexington Park.

FBL: Umm hmm.

BC: How have you contributed to the county?

FBL: Well I certainly hope those 30 years on -- at the Cooperative Extension Program I hope they were a plus to the County. I'm still involved with things – work in the County like United Cerebral Palsy. I still coordinate programs. At least six programs a year were I have speakers come in. And they can support some of the clients in various places or classes. For classes or lectures or whatever – demonstrations ...

BC: What recognitions, awards and certificates have you received?

FBL: Okay, from the ... I received a plaque ... I'm a co-chairman of Daffodil Ladies. I'm responsible for street sales. And St. Mary's is one of the best in the state. There's a fund raisers ... Then ....of course we ... scholarship ... member there. Oh, something else -- awards I, well I can't begin to name them..

BC: Okay, what do you consider the most valuable thing you have ever had? Something you could not have done without in your lifetime. I know that's a strange question.

FBL: That is a strange one.

FBL: The most valuable that I couldn't have done without. I really don't know, I don't know. Of course I'm happy with my family. That's my pride and joy.

BC: Have you done everything in life that you wanted or planned do?

FBL: No [laughing]

BC: What a –

FBL: I've always wanted a fur coat. But every time I think back finally – my final sign. Now where am I going to wear it. I start stepping back.

BC: Okay, if you could go back and live you life over again, what would you change?

FBL: I doubt that I would have came to St. Mary's County [laughing]. I think I would go the other way.

BC: You wouldn't have gone down to Mississippi either?

FBL: Oh, no. Oh, no. I think I would have probably gone up north.

BC: When you first came to St. Mary's in '51 and you started teaching at Banneker. Do you remember a couple of the names from any of the kids from that class?

FBL: The Class of '51

BC: I mean when you first came here. I'm not sure what grade. Do you remember the name of a couple of your first students.

FBL: Yes, the first year – let me see 1951 --. I think Mary Baines Somerville, I taught her and Delores – Delores Spears. I taught her in 1951. I don't know if Rose Bankins was in '51 class or not. I don't remember which class.

BC: Rose Holly now?

FBL: Rose Holly yes. Now Helen Somerville, I remember her. Now I did not teach her. Now she was going – she -- ... I remember her, she had a 4-H project. She was working on a dress and she was having a problem with a pleat and I helped her with it. You know it's hard to remember. I can remember some of the kids who were in the 1951, but I can't remember if I taught them or not.

BC: Okay, I think that will be it.

FBL: Julia – Julia Hebb. She's Julia Ackerson or Etterson or something now. Ella—

BC: Biggs

FBL: Elaine Neal's sister. Julia – Julia taught – I think she was in my first course ...

BC: That will be it.

FBL: That's it?

BC: Naw, no. Do you want to share a story with us about your life in St. Mary's? A short story if you have one?

FBL Nothing interesting [laughing]. It has really been interesting.

Brenda Coates:

Biographical Information:

Florence Bailey Lanham

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DOB 7/22/1930 in Baltimore, MD

Attend public schools of Wicomico County MD

Education: Bachelors of Arts from Virginia State University, Master from Howard University and advances graduated work at the University of Maryland

Employment : Home Economic teacher at Banneker High School for seven years and worked with the Cooperative Extension Office for 30 year (retired 7/1/91)

Husband – James Cleveland Lanham

Maternal Grandparents-George and Sarnia Handy

Paternal Grandparents – Willie Lanham (does not remember grandmother)

Mother –Mildred Handy Bailey

Father – Robert James Bailey

Siblings (+ self)

Florence Bailey Lanham

Robert Bailey, Jr.

Maurice Bailey

Children (grandchildren)

Cheryl Lynn Lanham Hannon (DeMaris, Alicia & James)

James Lanham, Jr.

[End of Side 2, Tape 1 of 1]