

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions  
Oral History Documentation Project

**ANN LLOYD THOMPSON**

Interviewed by Brenda Coates  
December 2, 1996

At Mrs. Coates home in Lexington Park Maryland

Logged by Tania Jordon on November 28, 2007

A verbatim transcript is available

Original format is one cassette tape

53 minutes, 12 seconds

**CD 1 of 1 (Tape 1, side 1)**

**Track 01**

**0:00 Introduction**

**0:35 She was born on a farm below St. Nicolas Church near the water, in the area that is now currently Patuxent Naval Base.**

**1:55 Her mother worked for people that owned the farm. Her father was a waterman. Her father bought land from grandfather in an area called Fairview.**

**Track 02**

**3:45 She moved to New York with Aunt Lucille. She went to a school in New York for six years at a Catholic School named St. Peter Claver's. She also attended St. Peter Claver's Church in Brooklyn. Mrs. Thompson attended Girls Commercial High School for two years. Her mother wanted her to come home because she was a lone. She currently live off Hewitt Road in Lexington Park. She moved to current house in 1945.**

**6:35 Childhood Memories: She did a lot of walking as a child. She walked to St. Nicolas Church on Saturday and Sunday.**

**7:45 Does not recall what she ate as a child, but knew there wasn't a lot of meat because they could not afford it.**

**Track 03**

**8:14 She currently attends Immaculate Heart Church.**

**8:40** She did remember taking many trips as a child. She doesn't remember her father because he died when she was two years old. She just was told that he worked around the water.

**9:00** Her family was not involved in community activity.

**9:38** She felt she was too young to realize if times were better when she was a child as compared to today. She indicated that they didn't have anything fancy to eat.

#### **Track 04**

**10:17** Her family doctor was Dr. Bean. He did make house calls. Her mother's home remedies were mutton tallow pad for colds. She would put the pad on their chest in the winter. Her mother also used Castor oil, turpentine with sugar, and cough syrup from store. If colds turned into Pneumonia, then they went to the hospital.

**13:17** Black folks received their newspaper from the Afro-American newspaper based in Baltimore. She used to listen to the Grand Ole Opry on the radio.

#### **Track 05**

**14:25** As a child played hop scotch and jump rope.

**15:15** She was the she baby girl and most of her brothers and sisters had left home when she was growing up.

**15:43** Chores included: cleaning house and tending chickens.

**16:19** Does remember much discipline from mother because she was a good girl. Most of her preparation for life came from what she picked up from school.

**18:15** She initially went to Old Jarboesville School before going to New York. Doesn't remember how old she was when she left St. Mary's County.

#### **Track 06**

**18:56** Her mother lived in Piney Hill with her Uncle Bennie. Piney Hill was located on land that was acquired for Patuxent River Naval Base. Her walk to school was under 1/2 hour.

#### **Track 07**

- 24:40 She went away to school during the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade. When she returned from school in New York, she did not continue her education.
- 25:58 What did you dream of becoming as a child? She did not make up her mind at that time.
- 26:26 Her mother did let her court as a teenager and her mother was still courting herself. Old Man Tom Harris would come to see her mother. At the time he was the undertaker. Harry would come to visit her. They would go to a dance every now and then, church dinners at St. Francis and St. Nicholas once per year. They also stayed at home and listened to the radio.
- 28:35 She got married at 18 and stayed at home.
- 29:22 She worked at Long's doing day work, laundry on the Navy base, sewed for The tailor shop at the Navy Exchange and retired in 1975.

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Track 08

- 30:49 She applied for federal jobs, but was never hired. She did not remember the wage she got paid but stated that the wages were very low.
- 32:12 She caught rides to work with Oliver Saxon, brother-in Diggy and somebody from Hollywood.
- 33:45 She was not a professional seamstress but pickup a lot about sewing when working for the tailor shop.

Track 09

- 33:57 She meet her husband Harry when he came to the house visiting her mother. She got married because she was forced to. Her best man and maid of honor were Leo and Louise Smith. They were married April 30, 1933. There was no honeymoon.
- 35:53 Her family life was very smooth.
- 36:11 She didn't participate in a lot of church activities because she didn't drive or couldn't afford it. She did attend church dinners. "She tried to stick with Catholic religion".

Track 10

**38:40**            **Difference in the County now - There is more activity in the area since the base opened. More people have moved here. The base has been the biggest change in the county in her lifetime. Her family was not hostile to changes that the base made with family land. Family bought other land at \$50 per acre. They bought seven acres.**

**41:49**            **Do you think people are different from the way they use to be? She only socialized with people at church so she didn't meet many people.**

#### **Track 11**

**43:13**            **There have been some changes in race relations. Some place didn't want blacks living in their areas. You had to be careful were you setup residence. People could make it uncomfortable for you.**

**44:20**            **She liked the city better then the country. When she moved back to St. Mary's she wasn't in the county long before she got married. Then she had to take on "marriage chores".**

**45:28**            **Feels county was building fast due to base realignment. "They are sticking houses every witch-a-way".**

**46:30**            **She never made any big plans for her life. She took each day as it came. "I was rather timid and slow".**

**47:35**            **If she had to live life over again, she would not have gotten married so young. She would have tried to work at something that would have improved her intelligence. She would have liked to improve her "living in a much better way".**

#### **Track 12**

**49:27** **Biographical Data**