

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions  
Oral History Documentation Project

**CARRIE GLASCOE**

Interviewed by Brenda Coates  
September 25, 1996  
at her home in Mechanicsville Maryland  
Logged by Tania Jordon on February 26, 2008  
A verbatim transcript is available  
Original format is two cassette tapes  
2 hours, 32 minutes, 5 seconds

Audio CD 1 of 3

Track 01

- 0:00 Introduction. Where did you live and where were you born? She was born in Baltimore, MD. She was raised in Hughesville MD in an area called Girl Scott Camp. They owned about 100 acres in that area. It was located across from the prison camp area. It is a ¼ north of St. Mary's County line. She lives in Mechanicville approximately six miles south of the Charles County line about three blocks off of Route 5 across from Tidewater Shopping Area.
- 2:50 What were times like when you were a child? "It was hard work and good times". They were big farmers and her father was a jack of all trades. He shoed horses, carpentry, repaired shoes and farmed. Her mother was a typical housewife who prepared for the summer and winter. She had an older brother (5 years).

Track 02

- 3:59 She had to walk about 5 miles to school. There was only one high school in the area that was for whites only. At that time there was no transportation supplied for the colored students to go to a colored school in her area. The only transportation was for students living in Pomonkey. At one time, she went to a high school in Prince Georges County near Auth Road in the Suitland area. After two years, her parents went to LaPlata and signed a petition to have the school bus pick her up to go from Benedict to Pomonkey. The bus ride was long. Before and after she got off the bus, she had to do her chores.
- 7:30 What chores did you have as a child? She feed the cows, horse, chickens, guinea kets and ducks. They also gathered canned and preserved vegetables. They also

had to help slaughter the cows and hogs and grind meat for sausage. The also gathered the wood and water.

### Track 03

8:39 Was hog killing time a time when neighbors came to help? Her uncle, friends and neighbors would pitch in to help. The young folks would have to go to get the water from the spring. Sometimes, they had so much sausage that they didn't have enough casings so they would have to can some of the sausage and cover it with fat to preserve it.

They had acres of corn and men would come to shuck corn. Both black and white neighbors would come to help. This was called the corn shucking feast. It was done at night when all the other work had been done on the farm. They would go from farm to farm to help each other. They would spend about two or three nights at each farm.

11:50 How much did you eat that you had to buy? What kind of things did you have to buy? They bought sugar, salt and pepper. During Christmas time, her mother would start cooking three weeks before Christmas. Everything was kept in an ice box. She would cook two hams, two turkeys, six chickens, sausage, canning, preserving jellies and cookies. She would also buy candy from the store during the holidays.

### Track 04

14:37 From Christmas day until New Year her mother didn't cook anything but bread because she had prepared so much ahead of time. Her father would build something called a kiln that he would put turnips and cabbage in to keep them for the winter. The cabbage would be ready within ten days during the winter. The kiln would get warm enough to keep the vegetables.

17:35 Lived very well. Grew everything to eat and sold tobacco and corn. In those days, black people did not get what they should have gotten from the crops they sold. Her father also sold gravel and fur from foxes he trapped. He also made wreaths for Christmas.

### Track 05

19:52 Her father did cobbler work with shoes. He was able to patch shoes and shoe horses. He bought her mother a new sewing machine and her mother never learned how to sew. Her father would make her flannel underwear every year.

22:45 She had one brother that died in 1945 during WWII. They had a good relationship. He was in the service before Pearl Harbor was bombed.

23:35 She attends Immaculate Conception Church in Mechanicsville. She also went to St. Francis in Benedict.

#### Track 06

24:03 Did you take family trips as a child? Her father had a Model T or Model A car. They drove from Hughesville to Auth Road in Suitland in the winter time. It was a cold trip because they didn't have any heat in the cars in those days. She would visit her cousin Carrie in Baltimore for a couple of weeks in the summertime. She would also visit her cousin Herbert Lee Banks in Aquasco by horse and buggy. It was about 20 miles away.

26:30 How were senior citizens taken care of in those days. They had nursing homes. They were going there to die. There was little nursing care in those days. They took care of her grandparents and parents in her house. Most of the senior citizens were taken care of in their family's homes.

#### Track 07

28:30 How did your parents deal with health issues? Her mother would make herbs cures like onion syrup and sassafras teas. She would gather rosemary and weeds to make a drink. If they had stomach problems, she would give them castor oil. In the spring her mother would gather pork salad and cook old ham to make a cleanser. The only time they would go to a doctor was when they were sick and they were rarely sick.

31:55 Where was the closest doctor? Dr. Griffin was in Hughesville. In those days doctors would make house calls. Dr. Roy Gryther came to the house to tell her that her mother had died in Johns Hopkins Hospital. He just retired a few years ago.

#### Track 08

33:11 Where there other health facilities in the area. A home nurse from the health department would come to peoples houses to give children inoculation. In later years, the children would go to a clinic in Mechanicsville.

34:25 What types of things did you do as a child? She liked to play ball at home or at field day. She also played dodge ball, volley ball and marbles. She played with a lot of dolls and she would make clothes for the dolls.

#### Track 09

37:27 How did your parents treat or discipline you? Her father spanked her one time. She only remembers getting disciplined one time.

39:00 What did they do with you? Her mother would read to her all the time. They would listen to their record player. Her father was Methodist so he would do a pray meeting blessing every morning before they ate breakfast.

40:10 Do you think your parents prepared you for life? They did the best that they could. Her father insisted that she continue her education when a white family called the Bowles wanted her to come and work for them at their house.

#### Track 10

41:49 Ralph Butler was one of her teachers and he wasn't much older than she was at the time. In those days that got their degrees while they were teaching. "They just wanted a black person to teach black children. The books were terrible".

44:00 How did you get to school? She walked six miles for Hughesville to Benedict. They walked through the woods and a swamp. The school was on Benedict Road (Route 231) past Route 381 and Troy's Inn on a hill on the right side of the road. It was a one room school house with a kitchen. They were taught in both rooms. If it was really cold they all stayed in one room. It was so cold that they had to keep their hats and coats on.

#### Track 11

47:52 What did you dream of becoming as an adult? She initially wanted to be a teacher. She also did some cosmetology training but couldn't continue due to sinus problems. She had sinus problems due to dental work. She had surgery to correct the sinus in 1944. She couldn't stand the smoke from pressing hair.

50:50 Did your parents allow you to court? She went out on her first date at 19. She went to a festival with Johnny Woodlane. Her father found out that the festival was not a church festival and didn't let her go out again for a long time. She would go out with groups to church festivals.

#### Track 12

54:58 When you first moved out on your own, what did you do? It was rough initially. Government pay was low. She rented a room from her cousin. She would go to parties, movies and shows at Howard University. She also went to Brentwood Tavern. She made around \$3,000 per year.

56:55 What kind of work have you done? She worked for the Bureau of Engraving; Senior Youth Counselor Alcohol at Tri-County Alcohol. She left Tri County because of lack of benefits. She went to the Health Department as an Addiction Counselor. She was the only black counselor for seven to eight years. She also organized the youth at the Knights of Saint John's.

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### Track 01

0:00 She would take a lot of children on trips and give parties for them through the Aquasco Knights of St. John's. She was the Director of Knight's of Saint John's Junior Auxiliary

### Track 02

4:36 How did you meet your husband? She met him at Douglas High School. She married him because she thought he was the best person she had ever met. Her brother didn't like him. If her brother hadn't gone in the service, she probably would have never married him. They were married on December 23, 194- (audio to low). Edna Banks was her maid of honor. She was married at St. Vincent DePaul near the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. The wedding was small.

7:25 What was your family life like? Her husband had a drinking problem and she eventually divorced him. Her life was nice; she was having babies every 12 to 16 months. Her husband and children's birthdays are all in May except Janice's birthday in September. Her husband was a brick mason who made good money. He would get paid on Friday and she wouldn't see him again until Sunday. Her children told her that if she didn't leave him, they were going to leave. The children were teenagers at the time.

### Track 03

11:55 How is your relationship with your children and grandchildren? She has a very good relationship them.

13:10 What part has religion played in your life? She attends Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Mechanicville. Her father was a Methodist and she likes Methodist Church better. She doesn't feel that the Catholic church is keeping up with the times. There aren't enough activities for the younger group. Her children go to different denominations. Reverend McGlenn and Rev. Love are doing a good job with the community.

### Track 04

16:28 Belonging to Immaculate Conception doesn't mean as much to her as her relationship with God. The youth are moving away from the Catholic Church.

19:02 Her youngest son is a Baptist preacher in Washington, D.C. When her granddaughter got married in the church, they had a family pray. "You don't see this in the Catholic church. It was a beautiful wedding".

#### Track 05

20:42 What other activities do you participate in your church? She was a member of the church counsel and worked at church dinners. She suggested that there should be a black saint in the church. The church now has a Saint Vincent DePaul statue. She stayed in the counsel until she accomplished this task.

23:00 Did you participate in community activities? She works with a community organization that helps people in need. They would have fund raising events. She belongs to the Knight's of Saint John's in Mechanicsville and Aquasco.

#### Track 06

30:57 She belongs to the Senior Citizen's and Knight's of Saint John bowling league. She participates in the Senior Olympics. She also helps transport senior citizens to medical appointments. She is a member of the NAACP and works with Catholic Charities Women's and Children's Shelter.

#### Track 07

35:10 How do you feel about life today in St. Mary's County? People are different now. The older people now are doing things the younger people are doing. She is afraid to go out to events she use to attend. The quality of life is better.

38:20 How do you feel about the teenagers now? Children seem to be much wiser then the use to be. The discipline needs to start early instead of waiting until they get to kindergarten and preschool. Children are not disciplined like they use to be.

#### Track 08

39:30 Do you feel that race relations are different now? It has changed a little. Sometimes she wonders if it is going back to the way it use to be. The majority of the black people still have to go to DC to get better jobs.

40:50 What was segregation like when you were growing up? "It was really rough. You couldn't even find a bathroom". Most of the bathrooms were dirty. A lot of restaurants would not service black folks in St. Mary's, Charles and Prince Georges Counties.

41:59 Did you every run into a group or person who practiced hate? "Yes, right now. It is hard to tell when a person is practicing hate or not".

Track 09

42:54 How do you feel about living in the county? In the 1940's, Washington, D.C. was a beautiful place to live. She wouldn't live there now. You could go to a park without fear. She would rather live in the county rather than the city.

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Track 01

00:00 It doesn't matter whether the person was raised in St. Mary's County or not, she will be friendly with them.

2:30 Do you travel or interact with people from other sections from the county? Yes in the Lexington Park area.

3:50 Do you feel that people are different in different sections in the county. Yes, in some sections there is more socializing and "running off at the mouth".

Track 02

5:16 What do you feel about the direction the county is going in today? They need to do something about the congestion in the roads. A lot of smaller businesses are going out of business.

6:00 What are your feelings towards the Navy Base? She felt the Navy Base bought in a lot of jobs. Her family was not effected by the land that the base acquired?

Track 03

8:55 What do you feel has been the biggest changes in this county in your lifetime? Better roads and more housing. The job situation has changed because they will bring in people from other areas.

Track 04

12:32 How did black folks get news/information when you were growing up? They got their news through county papers and battery operated radios.

13:55 Do you have any old stories about life? In the old days, people had nice wholesome conversations that the whole family contributed to.

Track 05

14:52 How have you contribute to the county through your work and volunteering? She worked with the Knights of St. John's Auxiliary, NAACP and has numerous certificates of appreciation from the various organizations. In 1993 she also received a Maryland Beautiful Award from the governor for her volunteer work. She is also involved with voter registration. She has worked at the voting polls.

#### Track 06

19:49 What is the most valuable thing that you have ever had? One thing was when she learned to drive. "What would I do without my children"?

21:05 Have you done everything in life that you wanted or planned do? She has been very fortunate. She is happy to be part of the senior citizens.

22:05 If you could go back and live your life again, what would you change. She wouldn't go back and change anything

22:40 What kind of activities were at the church festivals? They had dances, ball games, dinners and associations.

#### Track 07

25:43 She worked in Washington, D.C. before she got married. She worked a number of years with James Mooreland and his family to assist families. The fund raisers were held the first Saturday of each year.

She has done more in her older years than in her youth.

#### Track 08

29:32

#### Biographical Data Information

Carrie Jennifer Glascoe  
28828 Three Notch Road  
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(301)884-3346  
DOB 10/7/1923

Place of Birth – Baltimore, MD

Education – Attending Benedict School in Benedict, MD; Douglas High School in Upper Marlboro, MD; and Pomonkey High School in Bryans Road

Employment -Senior Youth Counselor, Alcoholic Counselor and Notary

She retired from St. Mary's Health Department in 1985

Husband – John Eugene Glascoe, Jr.

Maternal Grandparents - Annie Tibbs Barnes & John Barnes

Paternal Grandparents – Dolly Banks Jennifer & John Henry Jennifer

Mother – Daisy Carrie Barnes Jennifer

Father – Mason Edward Jennifer

Brother - John Mason Jennifer (died 1945)

Children (grandchildren)

Arilea Mae Glascoe Marshall (Holloway Terry Saunders & Reginald Saunders)

Janice Laverne Swann (Juan, Jerome, Twuan, Renee & Marie Swann)

Arthur Lee Glascoe (deceased)

Alonso Eugene Glascoe (Patrick James Glascoe)

Cornel Pedro Glascoe (Tammy Glascoe Davis & Justin Glascoe)

Neighborhood Charity Organization was organization she was involved with James Mooreland and family.