

Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions
Oral History Documentation Project

AGNES GENEVA CHASE BLACKWELL

Interviewed by Joyce Blackwell

November 4, 1996

[location unknown]

Logged by Tania Jordon on December 22, 2005

A verbatim transcript is available

Original format is two cassette tapes

1 hour, 31 minutes, 35 seconds

DISK 1

TRACK 01

- 0:00 Introduction
- 0:20 Family lived on small farm and put up food for winter, earliest memory was elementary school
- 1:52 Siblings - Alice, Loraine, Bernard, Irving, Raymond, Eunice, ?

TRACK 02

- 6:36 Relationship with family and cousins, local traveling, walking to visit friends and family, health concerns: Dr. Bean and Dr. Brown, travel by horse and buggy to doctor, made clothes - bloomers, children's activities – chores: feeding hogs and chickens, picking vegetables, canning and preserving food, root cellar

TRACK03

- 11:44 How parents treated the children/ Discipline - switch
- 14:02 Formal schooling: St. Francis Elementary, Banneker School (one year), and Jarboesville High School (two years), was a good student, behaved, rode bus to Loveville, games - dodge ball, basketball, volleyball, had lots of friends, classmates, teachers - Miss Allen (St. Francis), Mr. Wright (Banneker), Mr. Waters (Jarboesville), liked arithmetic, did not like to read aloud

TRACK 04

- 18:48 Aspirations as young adult, courting restrictions and acceptable places to go, being on her own – recreation, transportation and family obligations, husband

TRACK 05

25:00 Married life, continued family obligations, moved in with husband's mother, had fourteen children (three have passed), husband died in 1987 (married 49 years), grandchildren

TRACK 06

34:16 Religion: Catholic and Baptist (husband was Baptist), children raised Catholic;
Work: Cook, daycare provider, Social Services employee (19 - 20 years)

TRACK 07

39:45 Influence of Naval Base on family, husband worked on the Base, bought a car for transportation, Sunlight Gospel Singers (husband and sons sang - she did programs and scheduling) was an effort to support the community, started about 1955 with Uncle who recruited nephews and their sons

TRACK 08

49:16 Life in general: life is great, changes in County, quality of life, teenagers, race relations/segregation in churches, much like "slavery" then - better now, segregated for everything

TRACK 09

55:49 Living in St. Mary's vs. living other places/ difference between newcomers and locals, contributions to community – volunteer with Meals on Wheels

END OF DISK 1

DISK 2

TRACK 01

0:00 Awards, certificates for Sunlight Gospel Singers, homemakers, church help, Mother's Day, Social Service (work), and more she cannot think of - maybe "twelve or thirteen", kept many of them in her bible

2:44 Most valuable possession is her house and all its contents (currently), life ambitions

TRACK 02

5:52 Travel after husband died - Los Vegas, Atlantic City, Ohio, Florida

7:37 Changes in county - "so many people now", more city than country, Naval Base, Wildewood, shopping centers, fast food places - used to only have one store in Leonardtown to shop for clothes, used to shop at Pearson before the Base came, Mill Stone Landing store called -Mill Stone's ?? sounds like "Milson's"

TRACK 03

10:40 How father made money; logging, trapping and skinning animals - talks in detail about this and cooking the small animals, Trapping/catching turtles and cooking them for dinner - in detail, hog killing

TRACK 04

15:08 Few people got news from a local paper, word of mouth when visiting, no radio until later in life, modes of transportation, no telephone, no television, playing the numbers standing listening to the radio

19:18 walked everywhere - mother walked through the woods then through the swamp to get to work, carried home things for the children

TRACK 05

20:04 made their clothes, did not know "new clothes", did have new shoes - took good care of them

22:12 Health Issues: loss of calcium on teeth because of so many children, gall stone operation, lung operation and recently an eye operation, not afraid of doctors, also thyroid operation, which her husband opposed to but she did it anyway, born July 25, 1918

TRACK 06

26:19 Tells story of her father playing the violin and everyone would dance, family entertainment/ gatherings at different Societies

28:12 Taking care of the seniors, remembers Dr. Brown coming to mother's in a horse and buggy

END OF DISK 2