

UNIFIED COMMITTEE FOR AFRO-AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS
Oral History Project

Howard Young
Interviewed by Merideth Taylor
with Alma Jordon, Anna Moseley, and Martin Young (Mr. Young's nephew)
October 18, 2024
at Mulberry Fields main house in Leonardtown
Transcribed by REV.com on October 21, 2024
Edited by Merideth Taylor on November 7, 2024
[a log is not available]
Original format is MP4 and MP3 from digital video and audio recorders
53 minutes, 9 seconds

Merideth Taylor ([00:01](#)):

And push the start button. This says record. All right, so my name is Merideth Taylor and I am with the Unified Committee for Afro-American Contributions, and we are conducting an oral history project. And today, we are interviewing Mr. Howard Young at Mulberry Fields. And today is October 18th, 2024. Thank you so much for agreeing to talk with us today, Mr. Young. So I understand that you were born at Mulberry Fields, on the property. Is that true?

Howard Young ([00:47](#)):

That's right. Yes, I was. Yes.

Merideth Taylor ([00:48](#)):

Oh. Well, tell us about what was the situation then? Were your parents-

Howard Young ([00:52](#)):

Well, I was born, actually, I was born at Mulberry Fields. That's true. But-

Merideth Taylor ([01:00](#)):

. . .or was it called that back then?

Howard Young ([01:01](#)):

... it was at, I would say, Mulberry Fields and the doctors with midwives and stuff like that. Ms. Sophie Clayton was my family doctor. She took care of all that and all. And of course, mama, after she got to the point that she got well, then she went and started taking to see Dr. Bean. We started going to Dr. Bean. And from then on, it was just Ms. Sophie Clayton, Dr. Bean, and whoever else. They took care of people like that.

Merideth Taylor ([01:55](#)):

What were your parents doing here at Mulberry Fields?

Howard Young ([01:59](#)):

My parents? My dad was a farmer and he had planted the gardens and took care of the gardens and planted all the plants in the garden. And he also took care of the... They had rail fences and they worked around the rail fences, planting flowers and stuff, did all that. And mostly anything came along, he could do it. It was very nice to work with him because I worked with him myself. I hadn't planted his garden. And he was so particular. Like when you're planting potatoes, for instance, he always made sure the potatoes were planted with the eyes back down like that all the way. And he checks. He would check right behind me all the time. And when they came up, they was beautiful. And we had potatoes, beans. We planted everything. Corn, potatoes, beans, corn, whatever you could think of, we planted and it grew nicely.

Merideth Taylor ([03:13](#)):

Who else was living here at that time on this property?

Howard Young ([03:18](#)):

Mr.. Chloe (?) Jarboe. He was a farmer and he lived here. And of course he took care of herd, cattle, sheep, hogs, and horses. And cattle, sheep, hogs, horses, yeah, he had all of them. And he did most of the farm work.

Merideth Taylor ([03:48](#)):

And were there others living here?

Howard Young ([03:50](#)):

Well, yeah. In time, other people came because their family had people. And then of course, Ms. Faye, she was the one that made sure everything ran right. But she didn't stay here in one time. She only stayed when it was warm. Once it got to be, I would say October, by this time of month she was headed back to Florida. She had a home in Florida, big home in Florida. And she went down there and stayed when it was warm at because she didn't like cold weather. So Mr. Jarbo took over then. And he ran the farm until it started getting warm. Then she would come back and give us a little or whatever she to do with her place.

Merideth Taylor ([04:52](#)):

And tell us more about her. Was she the owner?

Howard Young ([04:55](#)):

Miss Faye was, yes. Yes, she was the owner, yes.

Merideth Taylor ([05:01](#)):

Was that a last name, or...

Howard Young ([05:02](#)):

Yeah, Miss Faye. Yeah. That's all I ever knew was that.

Merideth Taylor ([05:04](#)):

Miss Faye.

Howard Young (05:06):

Colonel Faye's wife. That's her.

Merideth Taylor (05:08):

Colonel Faye?

Howard Young (05:09):

But I don't remember him. He was dead before I started working for him, so I don't know nothing about him.

Merideth Taylor (05:19):

So how would you describe life with you and your family on the farm back then when you're growing up?

Howard Young (05:26):

I think it was great. I grew up, I worked all the time. I did well what they told me. And this was a beautiful place, more beautiful then than it was now because we had all out there (gestures toward the St. Mary's River), you wouldn't believe it. It was a canopy that covered up all the way across the whole bottom down there. And we worked down there planting flowers, trees, dogwood and all of that. And they had these trees, which was they had these white and pink dogwood trees, and they had these bugs used to get on. And my job was to catch them, put them in a can, and get rid of them. And I used to go down there and catch them in the can, put them in a can and catch them.

(06:28):

So one day every can I caught, I got a quarter for it. And so they had coffee cans back in them days, cans like that back in them days. And so I got six cans. That was six quarters. That's the first money I ever made in my life. I was only 13 years old. And I was so happy, I cried. (laughs) And she said, Ms. Faye said to me, "Howard, I'm broke now. I ain't got no more money." So I started crying and she say, "Oh no, don't cry. Don't cry. I didn't mean that. I was just kidding you. I got plenty of money. I got plenty of money. Don't worry about it. Got plenty of money." She said, "I got a lot of places and all, I'm in all business. I got all kinds of houses away from here and around. Way out town, I got houses. No," she said, "I'm well off." But she say, "But I was just kidding with you." But she say, "But you doing a wonderful job with me catching all these business around the trees."

(07:45):

Because they were killing the trees. They had dogwood trees and these all. I don't know what kind of bees, kind of bugs they were, but they was about that long and they had horns on them. And they would just root up the ground and eat all around the tree, and in time the tree would die from they eating it like that. And so I just kept catching them all the time. And then finally, finally, we did get rid of them because we got traps and we got... Then they came along to started having these, what's it called? Japanese beetles. And we had to get things for them. So we got these things for them and started catching them. And it took care of a lot of problems that we had down in that canopy, big canopy down there.

(08:42):

And she had all kinds of flowers, goldfish and a fishpond. She had a great big fishpond over that way. (Gesturing out towards the grounds) And over this way, she had a small one. But this one over here had big frogs in it and mayweed (?). I used to sit there and look at them. They would stand up and be like that, big frogs. They would jump in that pond and splash, make a big splash in the water, and it would scare me because I had never seen nothing like that before.

[\(09:25\)](#):

And she said, "Oh, that's nothing." She say, "Just sit here with me." I just sit there with her a lot. And then she said, so then at first she said, "Well, we done did enough here. Let's go to the small pond. That was over on this side." So we went over there on that side. She had a small pond, the small goldfish in it. And we went over there. She gave me this little, she had opened up this little box and gave it to me and say, "Give them a little fish, little food." So I went down the water, gave little food. They would come up there and get it like that and all and everything. And then I was looking at that, we sat there and looked at that and she said, "Well, that's enough of that." She said, "Let's go up to the house." I said, "Huh?" She said, "Let's go up to the house." I said, "Okay."

[\(10:28\)](#):

Went up to the house and she had a gentleman that she called Mr. Peck. He was a chauffeur. So we got ready. She say, told him she wanted to go to Leonardtown. And so she said, "We're going to Leonardtown now." I said, "Okay." I said, "I'll see you later. Now, I'm going back and help my dad." She said, "Oh no, I want you to go along with me." And so I said, "Oh no, ma'am. I can't do that. My dad want me to help him." She said, "No, no. You're going to stay with me. I want you stay with me." So we end up getting in her car. Mr. Peck backed the station wagon out. And we got ready and went to Leonardtown.

[\(11:14\)](#):

So we went to Duke's store in Leonardtown, and we got up there. She said, "Anything you want, I'll buy it for you. I don't care what it is." I said, "No, ma'am. I don't want nothing." And she kept having me, kept having me. She said, "Well, I got to get you something." I was like, "She's so nice." And she said, "I like you a lot," she said. So then after that she said, "What do you want? What do you want? I'll pay for it. Don't worry about that." So I say, "DoubleMint chewing gum." So I got a pack of Double Mint chewing gum. She paid for it. Me and her sit in there and talk and all then she says to me, "Well, you want something to eat? I'll buy you whatever you want." I said, "No, ma'am. I'm not hungry."

[\(12:07\)](#):

So then after that, we started to go riding again. So we goes out and we get in the car. She said, "Well, I think we want to go back home now." So I said, "Okay." Went back home and then Mr. Peck put us all out. And then I ended up going up in the garden where my dad was at and helping him. But always, she always found me every morning. And I don't care what I was doing. I had to be with her the whole day long. She was such a nice, lovely woman, the best I ever seen in my life. And that was good times because I never had that kind of experience in my life. And it was really great.

Merideth Taylor [\(13:01\)](#):

You've been gesturing out towards the water, out towards the river, talking about the trees and talking about the ponds and all of that. And I just wondered, did you also go down to the river? Did you go there?

Howard Young [\(13:18\)](#):

Oh, yeah. Long as I grew up, see, as I grew up, I cut the grass, the whole place. I used to cut the grass after I got up in age, of course. And so I cut the grass everywhere, all around. All the places that needed to be cut, I cut it. I kept everything clean. I kept the roads up. I kept the whatever. It was all up to me and I did it. And then Debbie (Deborah Henry, farm manager), of course, she helped me a whole lot. And then came in the gentleman down the highway there, he came in and he started helping us, which was a great help. And we did whole lots of things after that.

Merideth Taylor ([14:06](#)):

Was that with the Janssons?

Howard Young ([14:09](#)):

No, that was, Ms. Jansen, they had it then. They had it. Then after Ms. Faye died, Ms. Jansson and them, they got it. Ms. Jansson and Mr. Jansson, they got it. And then of course it just went on from there.

Merideth Taylor ([14:27](#)):

How did things change then? Can you say?

Howard Young ([14:33](#)):

Well, so we did a lot of the farming, the mason saw came in of course and they helped us farm. And we did the farming and we did whatever needed to be done. Excuse me. We end up building this barn. There's a barn right over there which is 40 feet tall. That was sheep barn. Not the sheep barn, the pole barn. And we ended up building that. And they put corn on each side, excuse me, and tobacco in the middle. And everything was full of crops, corn crops and tobacco and all of that was in there.

([15:29](#)):

And plus, I took every grass and all, of course, cutting all of that. And I cut everywhere. Whatever needed to be cut out there, any all around the whole place, I did it all with help, of course, that I needed. We got help. Ms. Jansson, that's one thing about her. She would get whatever you want. You tell her you need two or three men to do this, you need a couple of men to fix the porch, she kept the porches, the place fixed up. Fantastic. It was really, really good. And I love working here. It was nice.

Merideth Taylor ([16:13](#)):

Feel free to get a drink of water anytime you want.

Howard Young ([16:18](#)):

Well.

Merideth Taylor ([16:20](#)):

Can you describe what a typical day, what was it like? Describe a typical day.

Howard Young ([16:33](#)):

Well...

Merideth Taylor ([16:36](#)):

You talked about when you were a child-

Howard Young ([16:40](#)):

A child?

Merideth Taylor ([16:41](#)):

... that you, yeah, where you knew Mrs. Faye and you went up to Leonardtown. But what was a typical day like when you were a child? What was a typical day like when you then took over and were doing all the work? Just starting at the getting up.

Howard Young ([16:59](#)):

Well, when I was a child, like I say, mostly I stayed with Ms. Faye all day long. We just walked around, looked at the place. I would do small things. I didn't do nothing big. I just did small things. And we just looked at what the men was doing, and whatever I could help with, I would help them to do whatever I could. And it just stayed busy all the time. And it was good and the work was wonderful.

Merideth Taylor ([17:36](#)):

And then when you took over when you were a little bit older, did you get up at the crack of dawn? Did you fix your own breakfast? Just what was the day like?

Howard Young ([17:43](#)):

Well, in the morning, well, my mother fixed breakfast and my dad, and we always had wonderful breakfast. They was so good. That food smelled so good, man. They would wake you up, get yourself cleaned up then come up to the table and eat your breakfast, get the wooden stuff in or whatever. Get all that in. Go down the spring, get all the water, because we had a spring back in the days. We had never had no running water or nothing like that and all our water came from troughs in the ground. And we had a spring. We even had springs to put our milk in for to keep it cold. And everything we needed to keep cold, we kept it in the spring. We had a big trough. We kept it in and we made sure that the water run all the time and they had spring keepers there. And the spring keepers kept the water clean and they kept all the runs cleaned out and all. And they did a wonderful job.

([19:05](#)):

And I used to catch them myself and put them in a little can and keep them and then clean out everything and then put them back in there. Made sure every time all of them went back in there and none of them stayed out. And it just ran good all the time. I did that for years, yes.

Merideth Taylor ([19:25](#)):

Well, what about school? Did you go to school?

Howard Young ([19:30](#)):

Oh yeah, I went to school. Yeah.

Merideth Taylor ([19:30](#)):

Tell us about that.

Howard Young ([19:31](#)):

Well, school. First grade, Ms. Mercer, Ms. Jameson. That's where I went to school at. They used to call it Great Mills School, old Great Mills School. That's what they used to call it. And I went there. Ms. Mercer was my first grade teacher, second grade teacher, third grade teacher. Then it came Ms. Jameson, fourth grade, fifth grade, and sixth grade teacher. That's where I went to school at and the school was great. Ms. Mercer was a very nice teacher. Ms. Jameson was too. Ms. Jameson used to come down the back road there and pick us up. And she took us to school every day, five days a week. And it was wonderful. It was real good.

Merideth Taylor ([20:35](#)):

How far did you go in school?

Howard Young ([20:37](#)):

In school, till 11th grade. And after 11th grade, because I had to work, and so I just started working, taking care of me and getting my papers and books and everything I need for school. And I helped take care of my sister, which was named Evelyn, my baby sister. I had to take care of her. And I bought stuff for her and I bought stuff for me. I bought clothes for her and I bought clothes for me. And I made sure that we had everything we needed my school opened. As soon as I got out of school, I just worked, worked, worked right till school opened up, the whole time.

Merideth Taylor ([21:23](#)):

What were your family relations like, like that with your sister? How did you get along with... You had brothers and sisters?

Howard Young ([21:30](#)):

Oh, yeah. Yeah. My old brother was named Nelson, and then I had Jimmy. That was my next brother. Me and him was close. Nelson and I, we wasn't that close with because he was a lot older than I was. But Jimmy, he was bodyscat (?). That's what he always said, bodyscat. He had that word. Me and him were close. We used to go shoot pool right down at Happy Land Bar. And that was a good place to go. And we always went down and shooting pool and all. And we would always get our 12-pack, or eight-pack of beer, and we get that set out under the tree. You had a great big lotus tree down there that we all used to sit under and just talk amongst ourselves and all. And we would talk about this family, that family and all like that. And I met a many good person down there and we had a real good time. And it was wonderful place to go.

Merideth Taylor ([22:55](#)):

It was truly happy, Happy Land.

Howard Young ([23:01](#)):

Oh, yeah. Happy Land. Happy Land. It was just like the way it sound.

Merideth Taylor ([23:03](#)):

Well, let me just switch gears a little bit and ask about what you know about... Do you know a lot about the history, the older history of this site? Do you know back into slavery days?

Howard Young ([23:14](#)):

Which site is that?

Merideth Taylor (23:15):

About that Mulberry.

Howard Young (23:17):

Mulberry Fields?

Merideth Taylor (23:18):

Yeah, at that time. Was it called Mulberry Fields when you were born?

Martin (23:22):

Yes, Mulberry Fields.

Merideth Taylor (23:23):

When you were born?

Howard Young (23:23):

Yeah.

Merideth Taylor (23:25):

You didn't change?

Howard Young (23:26):

Yeah.

Merideth Taylor (23:27):

I don't know if you remember. Did you meet a poet, Lucille Clifton? She came here and she has a poem about Mulberry Fields, and it's about a slave cemetery.

Howard Young (23:42):

Oh yeah, I know about slave cemetery, but I don't know when it was put down there because I was long... That was before I was born. But that whole wall that goes across that bottom down there is tombstone from the slaves. And of course, me and Bruce (Jansson), we used to talk about it a lot. We never could understand why Ms. Faye wanted them tombstones took off the slaves down there and made a wall out of it. We never could understand that. That was, I couldn't imagine why she did that. And he couldn't either. And he said, "I never will forgive her for that because that's something that you don't move. That was for the slaves. That was their resting place." She took them and brought them up here and made a wall out of it. What sense did that make?

Merideth Taylor (24:51):

And that was Bruce Jansson.

Howard Young (24:53):

Yeah, Bruce. My buddy, Bruce.

Martin ([24:58](#)):

That was her son.

Merideth Taylor ([24:59](#)):

Yeah.

Howard Young ([24:59](#)):

That was her son. That was Miss Jansson's son, yeah.

Merideth Taylor ([25:01](#)):

Well, in the poem she also refers to markings on some of the stones.

Howard Young ([25:07](#)):

They had markings.

Merideth Taylor ([25:08](#)):

I wonder with that-

Howard Young ([25:09](#)):

But I don't know what they was. They had markings on. You could see the marks, but what they was, I don't know.

Martin ([25:19](#)):

They took them off.

Howard Young ([25:19](#)):

I cannot say.

Merideth Taylor ([25:23](#)):

Did you agree with Bruce that that was not a good thing to do?

Howard Young ([25:29](#)):

Yeah, definitely. No doubt in my mind, yeah.

Merideth Taylor ([25:32](#)):

How did you feel about the fact that this was a plantation that had once had enslaved people?

Howard Young ([25:39](#)):

Well, I felt like this. If I myself had anything to do with it, I would've never touched them. I would've left them there where they was at because the slavery thing, that was done before I was born and they should stayed where they was at instead of bringing them and putting them and making a wall out of it.

What sense did he make the wall? I never could figure that out. He could never figure it out either. It used to hurt me to hear him talk about that because for the simple reason, me and him felt the same way.

Merideth Taylor (26:23):

Do you want to say anything more about your relationship with him?

Howard Young (26:26):

Oh, me and Bruce, we were close. We still is close. We called each other all the time. And I'll tell them I'm over a few of these. That's when I was working here. Not now because I am retired. But when I was working, I would call and talk to him, tell him about the field, tell him about the grass, tell them about the fences or roots or whatever was going on. I would always tell him about it and we stayed in contact good.

Merideth Taylor (26:58):

So what do you think about the fact that that the place is for sale now?

Howard Young (27:04):

Well, I feel this way. If they want to sell it, that's up to them. I got nothing to say. But I don't think they going to get what they want for it because they want way too much money.

Martin (27:28):

It's a gold mine here. You just don't know.

Howard Young (27:28):

But you see, it's like this. If there was any way that the people could get the money back for this place, it would be all right. But they got so many stipulations in here about this place that you can't change, see. So therefore I don't think they're going to get it. I really don't. Thirty million? That's a whole lot of money.

Merideth Taylor (27:59):

Did you feel like you were well compensated when you were working here?

Howard Young (28:03):

Oh yeah, yes. Good to me. Bruce, Douglas, they were all good to me. Eric, he was good to me, great. So them three brothers were really good. Eric was my buddy though. He died. He was my buddy. I was so sad the day he died. Hurt me so bad.

Merideth Taylor (28:34):

Well, did you ever travel away? As a young person or later in life, did you move away or travel?

Howard Young (28:41):

No, I stayed right in St. Mary's County. Sometimes we would go to Annapolis.

Merideth Taylor (28:46):

I'm sorry, yeah. One person at time. Okay. Sorry, go ahead.

Howard Young (28:56):

Sometimes we would go to Annapolis to sing, gospel singing. We would go to that, which was great, go to Annapolis and hear some gospel singing. That was really great and all like that. But I never did go way out to the big states or nothing like that. Always stayed in the county.

Merideth Taylor (29:22):

So this is where you lived?

Howard Young (29:22):

Oh, yeah.

Merideth Taylor (29:22):

Right here?

Howard Young (29:22):

Yes, yes.

Merideth Taylor (29:30):

Well, so what about courting? Did your parents let you court? How did you meet them?

Howard Young (29:35):

Yeah.

Merideth Taylor (29:35):

How did you meet them-

Howard Young (29:35):

I met my wife Martha, and I went to Leonardtown one night and seen this pretty young lady standing up to the counter. And so I just eased over there and fool around little well, kept looking at her smiling and she was smiling back at me. And nobody talking to us. I just went over there and start talking to her. And next thing I know, I was sitting down by her. And then after that, I asked her did she want to dance. She said she did, so we got up and danced and I told her what my name was and she told me what her name was. And then after that, I asked her where does she live and all and where does she go to school at and all of that. And she said to me that she went to Banneker School. So I said to her, I said, "Banneker School's a lovely school."

(30:43):

And she was telling me these other schools that she went to and who she knew and who I knew, all she knew and all like that. And she asked me did I know so-and-so and I told her no. Some of the people she would asked me, I would know, some of them I didn't. But all in all, we got together, friends. And then after a long while, I got to make a date, made a date with her and went out.

[\(31:13\)](#):

And then after we started dating, and next thing I know we were talking about getting married. I couldn't believe it. (laughs) It happened. I said to myself, "Am I really ready for this?" And I had to go on and think. I said, "Well..." I went on and thought about it for about a good solid month before I decided to do anything because that was a big step to me. And I was a poor person. I didn't have nothing. So I had a job of course, but according by having money, I didn't have none. But I had a place to live. Yes, I had a place to live, but I was living home then.

[\(32:00\)](#):

So I thought about it and then after that, I said, "Well, I guess I better wait till I can get a place to live." So I talked to the boss man here and he said, "Well," he'll see if he can bring a trailer in and put it in here and fix it up for me and have me a place to live. So that's what he did. And then I ended up getting that trailer all fixed up and after got that fixed up, then I talked to her. We went to Holy Face Church and talked to the priest and all. Then we got married and that's where we lived in that trailer right down there to your left, down in the woods down there. That's where we lived. That was where I lived at in the trailer.

[\(32:51\)](#):

Mama and them lived down the bottom (a distance away on the property). We lived up top (Riverside of property) where we had very good gardens down there, fantastic. I grew the biggest watermelon I ever grown in my life. The watermelon was so big, I had a great big pine tree, still there right today. I brought it and set it by that pine tree and we took pictures of it. It was so big that when I did cut it, we had so many people come from Happy Land, Valley Lee, Callaway all came to our house that Sunday. We cut that watermelon and everybody had a piece of it and it still was plenty left.

Martin [\(33:44\)](#):

So big.

Howard Young [\(33:47\)](#):

It was packed.

Martin [\(33:47\)](#):

We didn't win. . .

Merideth Taylor [\(33:48\)](#):

Okay. Well, we have some other people here who were dying to ask you some questions. So you have some questions you would like him to talk about?

Martin [\(34:01\)](#):

Oh, yeah. Well, yeah, because he knows a lot.

Merideth Taylor [\(34:05\)](#):

I'm sorry, but just so when somebody's going to be transcribing this, they need to know who's talking. So when you ask a question, just say your name so they'll recognize the voice.

Martin ([34:14](#)):

Okay. Martin.

Merideth Taylor ([34:16](#)):

This is Martin.

Martin ([34:18](#)):

Yep. All right, now you want him to answer the question, right?

Merideth Taylor ([34:22](#)):

Uh-huh.

Martin ([34:23](#)):

Okay, yeah. Now, tell him about the orchards.

Howard Young ([34:26](#)):

Orchards? Oh, yeah. We had orchards. We had apples, peaches, pears, grapevines, grapes. We had, let's see, plum trees, peach trees. We had all of them and a lot of fruit.

Martin ([34:50](#)):

And the building behind the orchard?

Howard Young ([34:53](#)):

Building behind the orchard? Well, it was old. You talking about the building right there?

Martin ([35:01](#)):

Over behind the orchards.

Howard Young ([35:01](#)):

Behind the orchard.

Martin ([35:01](#)):

Yeah.

Howard Young ([35:04](#)):

Over there was, they used to have this building that stood up, a big chimney there, and chimney. But that's mostly what was, a great big chimney. And then the foundation of course was there and the rest of it was all gone because over time it goes down. And there was a lot of bricks there and the bricks matched this house right here.

Martin ([35:34](#)):

And what have they done?

Howard Young ([35:35](#)):

Which they had used some of these bricks. This gentleman, about maybe eight or nine years ago on that front side of that house, he went over there and found some bricks and there was same bricks that they had right here.

Merideth Taylor ([35:50](#)):

Do you know when this house was built?

Howard Young ([35:52](#)):

No. No.

Merideth Taylor ([35:54](#)):

Okay.

Howard Young ([35:54](#)):

But they know. They know. I just don't. Forgot it over the years.

Merideth Taylor ([35:59](#)):

Okay. Neither of you have questions?

Alma Jordon ([36:06](#)):

Oh, my name is Alma, Alma Jordon, and I just want to ask more information about your family.

Howard Young ([36:16](#)):

Okay.

Alma Jordon ([36:17](#)):

Tell us about your family. Tell us about all your brothers and sisters and growing up here. You mentioned your two brothers.

Howard Young ([36:25](#)):

Yes.

Alma Jordon ([36:25](#)):

Your parents and-

Howard Young ([36:33](#)):

I had Nettie was my oldest sister. No, Mary was my oldest sister. Then it was Nettie, Alice, Rebecca, and Evelyn. They was my sisters. And then my brothers was Jim and Nelson, and that's what it was.

Merideth Taylor ([36:59](#)):

How'd you all get along?

Howard Young ([37:01](#)):

Good. No problem.

Merideth Taylor ([37:04](#)):

What about working?

Howard Young ([37:05](#)):

Everybody worked. Everybody did whatever they had to do to live. It was a good place to live.

Merideth Taylor ([37:15](#)):

And then when you had your own children, how many children did you have and how did you all get along?

Howard Young ([37:21](#)):

We got along good. I have two girls, one boy. And I got then Deloris as my oldest girl. She's the greatest. Stephanie is my baby girl. She's the greatest. And then I got Jay as my son. He is the greatest. And all working, all got jobs. And they're doing good so far, thank God.

Merideth Taylor ([37:54](#)):

That's great. How did you... And you and your wife?

Howard Young ([37:56](#)):

We did good.

Merideth Taylor ([38:02](#)):

When you look at your family that you grew up with and the family that you had with your wife, what do you think the biggest differences are in the times from between those two in St. Mary's County? What were the times like then when you were growing up versus the times like now? And are they better or worse?

Howard Young ([38:24](#)):

Well, things goes up and down because at times, things cost more and you wonder how you're going to make ends meet. But somehow we always managed to do it. One way or the other, we made things come together and we raised money and had little parties and all. And our friends come around and we're all pitched together and did it, whatever it was.

Merideth Taylor ([39:00](#)):

Do you think times in general are better now or worse or the same?

Howard Young ([39:06](#)):

Well, I would say, to me, I think things are worse now because a lot of these problems that we have is with young people. And I just don't understand our young generation because most of them, all they want to do is get on computers and stuff like that. And whatever they see on there, they want to try to do it themselves. End up killing each other, and it's ridiculous. I don't agree with that. I never did.

Alma Jordon ([39:50](#)):

What do you think, Mr. Young, of race relations then and now? How would you compare them?

Howard Young ([39:57](#)):

Well, far as I'm concerned, I think the race problem is a big problem. But if we can get the people together and get them all to work out, I think there's got to be a way that we can make this thing work. But see, you got to have, because it's a party on each side, but you got to have different ways of making things work. And I think that a lot of people would like to have it so, well, we'll do it this way. And then the other side want to have it that way. And then you vote on it and see how you come out.

Merideth Taylor ([40:58](#)):

Do you think that there are still some people today that were like Mrs. Faye that -- it sounded like you were saying that she didn't want to honor the past in a way? If she didn't want to honor the graveyards, she wanted to do away with the stones. Is that wanting not to deal with that past, do you think?

Howard Young ([41:23](#)):

Well, that's something in the past, that's something they did. Like I say, I didn't agree with it. Bruce didn't agree with it. But there's nothing we could do about it because it's done now, so I guess you learned to live with it.

Merideth Taylor ([41:45](#)):

Okay. Well, I think Martin had some more things he wanted to ask about. What about: Did you have a mail route?

Howard Young ([41:53](#)):

Oh, yeah.

Merideth Taylor ([41:59](#)):

What was that? What'd you do?

Howard Young ([41:59](#)):

You talking about when I lived here?

Merideth Taylor ([41:59](#)):

I don't know.

Howard Young ([42:00](#)):

What mail routes you want?

Martin ([42:01](#)):

The farm itself.

Howard Young ([42:03](#)):

Farm itself?

Martin ([42:04](#)):

When it was horse and buggy.

Howard Young ([42:04](#)):

Horse and buggy time. Well, they had all.

Martin ([42:07](#)):

Tell me where it's at.

Howard Young ([42:11](#)):

It is a route that you go wherever you see these great big trees. It went straight down to the woods, right straight on down. And you go down and you see wherever these big trees at, and you follow them all the way out to the state route. And that's where you run into. That's where the state route came, from the state route on in this way through the woods. And that was back in the day.

Martin ([42:43](#)):

Where'd it come out at?

Howard Young ([42:45](#)):

Come out right here?

Martin ([42:46](#)):

No. Where'd it come out on the road out here? What? Route what?

Howard Young ([42:51](#)):

Route 249.

Martin ([42:56](#)):

Okay.

Howard Young ([42:57](#)):

Yeah.

Alma Jordon ([43:01](#)):

Mr. Young, were your family involved in a church locally or religious? Were your family religious at all?

Howard Young ([43:10](#)):

Oh, yeah. We went to St. George's Church. My dear brother, Francis Brooks, well, he worked there too. And so he used to talk about St. George's all the time. And I'm saying to myself, "What is this he's talking about St. George?" Then he says, "St. George's Church." I said, "Oh wow, that's something I might be interested in." And then he says he goes to St. George's church. And so he got talking to me and said,

"Hey, how'd you go to church?" I said, "No, I don't." I said I would love to, but well, I hadn't been going so I don't go. So he says, "Would you like to go to church with me?" I said, "Did I what?" So then after that, he said, "Well, I'm going to church this Sunday at so-and-so time. Be over my house and we'll go to church." I said, "Okay. I got over his house, wind up going to church, and I've been going to church ever since. St. George's Catholic Church in Valley Lee. Wonderful church. I love it. I've been there for years.

Merideth Taylor ([44:33](#)):

And you still go?

Howard Young ([44:35](#)):

Still goes. Always. Always.

Alma Jordon ([44:40](#)):

So did your family join that church, or...

Howard Young ([44:43](#)):

Yes.

Alma Jordon ([44:43](#)):

... was the whole family involved?

Howard Young ([44:45](#)):

Well, not my whole family now. You see, Martin got his church. My daughter-

Martin ([44:53](#)):

No. Oh, you're talking. . . I'm sorry.

Howard Young ([44:58](#)):

My daughter, she has her church. Her and my son-in-law, George Hill, they got their church. So my other daughter, now they can't make their mind up where they want to go to church at. So we tries to tell them this and that. But I guess some people, you just got let them go on and. After a while, maybe they'll figure out something. But I haven't been able to get nowhere with them so I said I'm just leave it like it is. Maybe.

Alma Jordon ([45:37](#)):

So your siblings all your siblings, did they go to St. George's Church?

Howard Young ([45:42](#)):

Well, just me and my wife, we go to St. George's Church. But see, my siblings, they don't go to St. George's Church. They go to different churches. Some of them don't go to church at all. So that's what I'm saying.

Merideth Taylor ([46:00](#)):

But it sounds like religion has been very important in your life. Is that right?

Howard Young ([46:04](#)):

Oh?

Merideth Taylor ([46:04](#)):

Religion's been an important part of your life?

Howard Young ([46:07](#)):

Oh yes, definitely. Definitely.

Merideth Taylor ([46:10](#)):

Have you done everything in your life that you wanted or planned to do? If not, what was it?

Howard Young ([46:16](#)):

Well, let's see. Everything in my life?

Merideth Taylor ([46:21](#)):

Yeah. Is there anything that you planned to do or wanted to do that you haven't been able to?

Howard Young ([46:27](#)):

Well, I would like to see different changes, but who knows?

Merideth Taylor ([46:37](#)):

Like what?

Howard Young ([46:38](#)):

I would like to see all my kids get in some kind of church. I don't care if it's Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, or Protestant or whatever. As long as they get in it, don't just stay no religion. God loves us all and we all should come home to Him one way or the other. And we should come home by being in some kind of church. I don't know which one it's going to be or how. That's the way I feel about it.

Merideth Taylor ([47:17](#)):

Is there one more question that you wanted to ask?

Martin ([47:20](#)):

Oh, no. This is Martin. Now, you said we didn't go to church. We went to church every single Sunday when we were little. And you got a car, remember?

Howard Young ([47:27](#)):

Right.

Martin ([47:27](#)):

So we had to go to church every single Sunday.

Howard Young ([47:30](#)):

Oh, yeah.

Martin ([47:34](#)):

Every day.

Howard Young ([47:37](#)):

We may, yes.

Martin ([47:38](#)):

So we grew up in church, from Catholic, St. George all the way. He's talking about his kids now. But when we was coming along, we had to go to church every single Sunday.

Howard Young ([47:48](#)):

That's right. Definitely.

Merideth Taylor ([47:48](#)):

Is that right?

Howard Young ([47:51](#)):

Definitely

Merideth Taylor ([47:51](#)):

Got that.

Howard Young ([47:52](#)):

Yes, yes.

Merideth Taylor ([47:54](#)):

And you told us, I think you mentioned health. Did you have any home remedies when you were growing up? Have you? Or as an adult, did you use any home remedies to take care of medical problems?

Howard Young ([48:08](#)):

Oh, yes. Yes. When I was a little boy, my grandmother was a plain-eyed Indian. And she took me out in the woods and said, "Son," she used to call me son all the time. She didn't call me Howard. She called me son. She took me out the woods and she said, "I got a pouch here. I'm going to show you what to get out the woods that's good for you, medicine style." And she went on the left-hand side of this great big pine tree. It was so big and so tall, I couldn't believe it because I was a young boy and I was only 13 years old. I couldn't believe it. Because I walked in the woods before, but I never paid no attention to the trees or nothing like that.

[\(49:05\)](#):

And so she said to me, say, "This side, you see this white stuff running down?" I said, "Yes, ma'am." She said, "Look, this is what you use for medicine. You take these pills, take this stuff that's run down, roll them up in a little pouch, a little pill form thing, and put them in the pouch." She put 21 of them in there and she say, "This will cure any cold that you have. Seven days a week, I guarantee the cold would be gone."

(49:42):

So I took them, she put them all in the pouch, gave them to me, and said "Another thing." She said, "Have you ever heard of cherry trees?" I said, "Oh yeah, these young cherry trees?" I said, "They're beautiful. They're nice." I said, "I love cherries." She said, "Well, wild cherries is the same thing," she said. She said, "Look, you can take cherry trees and you'll make a syrup out of it and that's what she called cough syrup. And you take that and you make medicine out of that and it'll cure any cold that you got. Between that and taking them little pills, you'll be good as new, just the same as going to a doctor." And that's the way it worked.

Martin (50:39):

This Martin. I got a question.

Howard Young (50:41):

What's that?

Martin (50:42):

What did she get off the cherry tree. What did she scrape off?

Howard Young (50:44):

She's used the bark.

Martin (50:47):

Okay.

Howard Young (50:47):

Yes, yes.

Martin (50:48):

And what did she do with it?

Howard Young (50:50):

Huh? She made it cold syrup.

Martin (50:52):

No, but she boiled it, right?

Howard Young (50:53):

Oh, yes. Yes, definitely.

Martin ([50:55](#)):

Making sure.

Howard Young ([50:56](#)):

Definitely.

Merideth Taylor ([50:57](#)):

The bark?

Howard Young ([50:58](#)):

Yes.

Merideth Taylor ([51:00](#)):

Did your parents also use the home remedies? Your grandmother's and your parents?

Howard Young ([51:07](#)):

Yes.

Merideth Taylor ([51:08](#)):

And did you keep that up yourself?

Howard Young ([51:10](#)):

We did it until we got able to go to the store and get stuff, until we was able to go to the store. And you go to a drug store, start going drug store and get this, getting that and what will work for you. That's what you got.

Merideth Taylor ([51:31](#)):

So is there anything else that you would really like to talk about, to tell us about that we haven't asked you?

Howard Young ([51:38](#)):

Well, I don't know what you really want to know unless you asked me.

Merideth Taylor ([51:47](#)):

Well, we wanted to know all the things you told us.

Howard Young ([51:51](#)):

I just have to tell you what I can. I'll put it that way.

Merideth Taylor ([51:54](#)):

Well, we just want to know your perspective on life. That's what we're looking at.

Howard Young ([52:01](#)):

I love it. My life was good. I worked hard all the time and raised my family, had lots of friends. And, I mean, it was just good. It was a good life.

Merideth Taylor ([52:17](#)):

Do you have any regrets?

Howard Young ([52:17](#)):

No regrets.

Merideth Taylor ([52:18](#)):

No regrets.

Howard Young ([52:19](#)):

No regrets.

Merideth Taylor ([52:23](#)):

Okay. Anybody else? That might be a good place to stop. What do you think?

Howard Young ([52:33](#)):

Whatever you say.

Merideth Taylor ([52:33](#)):

For now.

Howard Young ([52:33](#)):

For now? Yeah.

Merideth Taylor ([52:38](#)):

I'm sure you have a lot more stories about things that-

Howard Young ([52:40](#)):

Oh, I do.

Merideth Taylor ([52:42](#)):

But we probably can't capture them all in one day.

Howard Young ([52:45](#)):

No, it takes a while. (laughs) Nice talking to you all.

Merideth Taylor ([52:54](#)):

Well, it was great talking to you.

Howard Young ([52:55](#)):

This transcript was exported on Oct 20, 2024 - view latest version [here](#).

It's good.

Merideth Taylor ([52:56](#)):

Thank you so much for sharing this.

Howard Young ([52:57](#)):

You are welcome.

Merideth Taylor ([52:57](#)):

And thank you, Martin.

Howard Young ([52:59](#)):

You're so welcome.

Merideth Taylor ([53:00](#)):

And Martin is...