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# Oral History Interview: Josephine R. Gorby

Josephine R. Gorby

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NB: The person being interviewed is Josephine Gorby. She lives at Proctorville, Ohio. Her birthday is February 24, 1908, and today's date is July 2, 1974, and the person doing the interviewing is Nancy Bowen. Okay, so, you want to start with what you were telling about being born?

JG: Yeah.

NB: Go ahead.

JG: Well, the night I was born, my mother swept the yard off nice and clean that day. See, she felt fine. So, along in the night, she got sick, and my daddy had to take her to the doctor. And, since there were very few doctors in this area, he had to go to Huntington after a doctor. So, my grandpa went with him. They took a horse and a buggy and went to get the doctor. And, when they got back, I was ready to be born, and when I was born, I weighed two pounds.

NB: Two pounds! Is that all?

JG: That's what the doctor thought I weighed, two pounds. They didn't have any way to weigh, but that's what he estimated I weighed, and I was so small that he kept me on a pillow. And, the doctor was Dr. W. O'Neil (inaudible). What else you want to know?

NB: Well, now just go ahead and start from there about where you went to school [JG: Oh.], different things that went on while you were.

JG: We lived on Black Creek close with my, ah, great-grandma, and, ah, I had one older brother at that time since I was the second child in the family. She was (inaudible) the beech tree was in the yard, rock us. She'd rock one on one knee and one on the other.

NB: Now, he's two years older than you are?

JG: Uh huh, he is two years older than I am. So, ah, well, when, ah, let's see. When I was two, then another sister was born, Marie, and then when I was four another sister was born, Helen. Well, then we stayed with my grandmother until, oh, I guess Paul, ah, must have been about, ah, maybe six months old, and

we moved to Rome on the Ed Miller Farm in a big brick house, and my daddy worked for Ed Miller for a dollar a day on, they had a dairy and had raised corn, hay, and all that sort of stuff.

NB: Is that up the holler here or is that.

JG: That's right up here.

NB: Oh, okay.

JG: It's where Bell Court is now out and, ah, Lynn Drive. So, we stayed there until, let's see, Arthur was born there, and, ah, I guess that's all. Well, anyway, he, ah, decided they wanted a place of their own. This place over was for sale so they decided they, decided they would buy it, an old five-room house had a little barn and one outbuilding. So, we stayed there until I had, ah, let me think, until five other children were born. When I was six years old we still lived up on the Miller Farm, and I started to, ah, the little school in Rome, and my teacher, my first grade teacher was Myrte Cooper, and the next year, my second grade teacher was, ah, Sam Carter.

NB: You had a man?

JG: Uh huh, I had a man.

NB: Is that the school that's down, was down here where the cemetery is now?

JG: Uh huh, and, ah, when Merle went, started school, he went to school in a two-story building. They had the lower grades downstairs and the upper grades upstairs. And, that building burnt, and then they had to come to the Methodist Church for school. So, when they built back, they built two small buildings. Built one for the lower grades and one ofr the upper grades. So, while we lived over on the hill, we all, we all in school except the real younguns, and I (inaudible). Now, let's see. Well, what was the year we moved from there? Well, anyway.

NB: You still lived over there when you went to college, didn't you?

JG: In high school, yeah, we lived over there for I don't know how many years, and really I've forgotten how many years we lived there. But, ah, anyhow, when we were in high school, my first year in high school, I went to Athalia. We didn't have any high school at Rome, and they hadn't built the school, so, ah, I went to high school up to Athalia. And, Rex Ford drove a truck that had these, ah, flapping curtains on it that you put, you put down on a and turned a knob or something to fasten and the doors didn't fasten so they flap, hot or cold, rain or shine, they flap. So, I went to school up there the first year and, ah, and Louise and Helen and them or Louise went on up to the high school, so we started in the next year down at Proctorville because school wasn't finished out here, and, ah, so we started to high school in Proctorville, and we walked from here down to there. No paved roads, no paved roads. We just walked in the mud.

NB: Did you all have a car at that time?

JG: No car. Had horse and wagon. And, when it would be real bad, Dad would take a sled and a horse and sled us off the hill onto the snow. While we was at school, he would come get us because, see, at that day and time, we didn't have boots like we have now, so he would come and get us with the horse and sled, and believe me we had snows then! We don't have snow here now like we did then. We be at school, and it would be snowing all day. Well, then he'd come and get, and we'd get up be a big snow on. Why, and he'd take us to school so that, ah, we went Proctorville, and I went four years to Proctorville school and graduated in 1927.

NB: Did you play basketball?

JG: No, not very much.

NB: Mom said you played a little bit.

JG: Yeah, I played some basketball, but very little. One time, I remember we went to Chesapeake, and, ah, we, ah, we played down there and the building that was upstairs, and I got to play a little bit. And, we played in those big bloomers, big black bloomers, and a navy blouse come down over them, and then they had sleeves, so I didn't play very much. Helen and Louise played most of the time. In fact, they were two

of the star players on the girl's team. But, then when we went to Proctorville, they had a girl's team down there, and I substituted, but I never did get to play, so I finally dropped out cause I was afraid, and, ah, it sorta got to me I couldn't play, cause I was afraid I couldn't play, you know, and, ah, then from the school, let's see.

NB: Did you work any around the house or on the farm?

JG: Oh, yes, I worked. We worked all the time. We always had jobs to do. When we come home from school, we knew that we had work to do. We had, we didn't have any place else, we didn't have any place to go when we were smaller, because we never even thought about going to anybody's house or going home with kids that much, because we had work to do when we got home. Especially if it was in the spring or in the fall, cause Dad laid crops, you know, for us to eat. Dried beans, we had to thrash them out, and, ah, oh, tomatoes, I helped pick them. And, then when we were in high school, we worked for, ah, Mr. Eaton out here, Guy Eaton, and picked berries. Oh, we picked red raspberries, we picked, ah, currents, and we picked cherries, and we picked, ah, ah, strawberries, and gooseberries and made our money to buy our clothes, because Mom and Dad didn't have it. I mean, back in them days, times, people just didn't have a lot of money. So, we hired to work, and we had, you know, to have clothes. We worked in the summertime to get our clothes for the wintertime, and, ah, I remember people wearing those big long sweaters, so, ah, we got us a sweater to wear to school that winter. We walked back and forth to Proctorville, cold winds and everything. And, ah, my best friend that winter I went to school was Etha Darling, and I used to stay all night with her once in a while, but not very often, because we had to come home. We had something that, and then she'd go home with me. But, when it got, come to going to town and places like that, we never did get to go very much. We didn't have anything to go with, so people didn't go to town like they do now.

NB: You went to Proctorville, didn't you?

JG: Went to Proctorville to school, and that was it.

NB: Proctorville had a little more in it than it does now.

JG: Yeah, yeah, but we went to Huntington. When we went to Huntington, and we had to cross on the ferryboat, and then you went over and got a streetcar in Huntington to go downtown. I think, I think we paid five cents on the streetcar, to ride the streetcar downtown, five cents probably. But, ah, then I started to school over at Marshall. I'm trying to think how I got there that first year.

NB: Did you ever ride with somebody? Mom said she rode with somebody when she went.

JG: She did. See, we lived over on the hill when I started. I went that one summer. Well, anyway, I went to Marshall one summer, nine-week term, after I graduated from high school in 1927, and went to Marshall nine week. And, that fall, well, I can't, it was, I had to work or do something to get some money ahead, so I could go to school that fall, but instead that's when I went to the mountains to teach up in McDowell County. Ah, this friend of mine was up there, and they was another man was supposed to take the school, and I had told this fellow that I might if you could teach them with nine weeks, nine weeks of training. So, they needed teachers bad in those mountains, so I had told him. So, he called, and, ah, we didn't have a telephone, but we still lived over on the hill. He called here at Mr. and Mrs. Ellis', and they come and told me said he said, called on Saturday and said if I'd be there on Monday morning that I could have that school. This man was supposed to teach that didn't show up, and it was two weeks passed school time. So, I thought, well, I'll go. Well, Dad went with me.

NB: Had you already started to Marshall that fall?

JG: No, I hadn't started yet, so anyway school started before Marshall did or something. I don't remember, but anyhow what it was Dad said he wasn't going to let me go up there by myself, so we, he went up on the N and W train, went down to Kenova, and I guess Merle must have took us down. He had a car. And, ah, went up there to, ah, we went to Yeager, and then we had to change trains at Yeager. Ah, went up Dry Fork River to Bradshaw, West Virginia, and this fellow was there when we got off the train. He was there to meet us, and, ah, we went up to the foot of the mountain. Let's see, I believe he had an old car up there then and went up

the mountain back as far as you could take a car, because you had, it was just a horse path, a mule path; however, you had to walk. So, we walked up to where the people that kept the teachers, always kept the teachers up at their house, and their name was Wimmer's (spells) W-i-m-m-e-r. And, it was a man, and a woman, and a boy, and a girl. That was all. So, them's the people that I stayed with. So, then Dad, he came back that evening. He caught the next train back and came back that night. And, I stayed until October. And, the school was right up on top of a hill from the house. The house was down sort of down a little bit, and you had to go up another mountain, they called them mountains, up there to school. So, on Monday morning, I went up to school and here come this other teacher. He wanted to know what I was doing there, and I said, "Well, they told me to come up here and teach this school and if you can't, you come down to Yeager and talk to the school board. They might have someplace else for you." So, he said, "Well, I'm supposed to be here." And, I said, "Yeah, you were supposed to been here two weeks ago, and you weren't here." So, he said, "Okay." So, I stayed there, and they were building a little new school, so I stayed there the first month of school in that building. Had 19 children in all grades. Had one girl in the eighth grade, and she helped me with the others. I didn't have very many in any grade. I just had two in the first. But, anyway, then I had to walk about a mile down the mountain to the other school the rest of the winter. Didn't have any janitor, so I decided this boy that, ah, was there, he was about, I think he was 10 or 11, so I told him if he would go of a morning and build a fire in the stove and, ah, get the and unlock the school building that I would clean it up of an evening and, you know, dust and everything, and then I would give him half of the janitor's pay which was \$4.

NB: A month?

JG: Uh huh, \$4 a month. So, I gave him two, and I got two. So, I stayed there then that winter.

NB: What was the name of that school?

JG: Wimmer School.

NB: Wimmer.

JG: (Spells) W-i-m-m-e-r.

NB: Same as the people.

JG: Same as the people, and that's probably the reason, because so many of them went, went to school there. Well, so then in October, as I said, I came home, and then I got awful homesick when I was there the first night. Their eats was so different than ours. And, ah, they were just different people. But, I had my own bedroom, and their house, part of it was in West Virginia, and slept in Virginia which I did. And, ah, but they were good people. But, they just had, you know, just ordinary food to eat. I mean, after so long time, it got to taste pretty good, because she made cornbread with water. They called it pone bread, and then, then she made pies. They stacked them, and they always had, they stacked them on top of each other like they, they made fruit pies. That's the kind of pies she made. They always had the preacher on Sunday for dinner, because they went to church, and, ah, if I remember it right, I think they were all Baptists. And, then they had to have groceries. This old lady, which maybe she wasn't too old, but she seemed old to me, she had one of these riding habits, you know, skirts NB: Uh huh. that, that, well, she got on her horse, and she went over to, ah, Grundy, Virginia, to get the groceries. And, it would take her all day. And, she would take what we call a coffee sack, and, ah, one would be on one side, and one would be on the other across her saddle, and that's the way they got, she went got the groceries. And, they raised cabbage, and rutabagas, and, ah, turnips, and all that kind of stuff, and then they holed it up. They kept it, dried beans.

NB: What do you mean holed it up? Put it in the ground?

JG: Put it in the ground and cover it with the dirt, yeah. So, ah, anyway, they had plenty to eat for the fall, and then I, when I had to take my lunch, so I had to be there at, ah, noon hour with the children, and she packed, would pack my lunch, and they didn't have, she would make biscuits for breakfast, and then she'd make them up for my, to have my lunch in (inaudible). So, she would ask me what I wanted, and I said, "Well, just put me some beans in there, and some bread, and a little bit of jelly or something." And, she would put, and you don't know what a lard tuppin is, do you?



NB: I think I've seen them; I'm not sure.

JG: It was what most people, well, your lard bucket, and she packed my lunch in that, and the boys, and the girls, and we carried it to school. That's what we ate out of.

NB: Mom said you had sop, and she said to ask her what sop is.

JG: Well, that's, that's what we'd eat. Sop is meat grease. It's where you fry ham or bacon and then, ah, let run, you know, the grease that's in the, in the skillet [NB: Yeah.] and, ah, taste pretty good, I mean, you know, the way.

NB: What you eat it on, biscuits?

JG: Yeah, you can eat it on biscuits, cornbread, but I never did eat too much of it, because it was too greasy, but I could eat it. I've eat sop at home as far as that, but they called it sop where we called it, released, you know, from frying the meat like bacon and ham. First time I had to buy some ham, because they had their own meat. They killed their own hogs, and they had their own, own meat. Things are different than they are now the way they cured it and everything else. But, ah, so then the next year, they hired me back next spring, and asked me to come back. So, I, that summer, though, I went back up there for a visit to see and, ah, see about the, the school and everything. I went by myself, so, ah, on the train. I don't know how long it took the trains. Seems to me like it left over here, oh, in the afternoon sometime and got up there late in the evening. But, anyhow, and I went back the next winter and stayed up there, and I got acquainted with a lot of the teachers that taught down in Bradshaw, and we'd go over to Bluefield, and Princeton, and Welch, and, oh, different towns [NB: Uh huh.], and, ah, so I stayed all the next year, because the week. I didn't spend very many week-ends up on the mountain, because that, ah, most teachers want to have the kind of weekend they want, and we'd come down to Yeager on that, ah, first trains, and, ah, get on the other one and go up to Welch or over to Bluefield, and then I got acquainted with this fellow go up there, and he had a car, so when we'd go Princeton, and Welch, or Bluefield, so we would go over there sometimes on Sunday. But, I always went back on Sunday evening, or he would take me up to the foot of the mountain on, ah, oh, Monday morning early, and then I'd walk

up, walk up to school. But, ah, there was three people from down here teaching up there at the time (inaudible), and then, ah, (inaudible), and she was teaching up there. But, that last year after I came home, they asked me to take a first grade at Proctorville school, so I took a first grade down here the next year.

NB: Didn't Louise go up with you one year?

JG: She wasn't with me. She was down there close to Yeager, but we weren't together too much, because, well, we just didn't have any transportation. That's, that's the whole thing..

NB: What, what did she do, go one year after you went?

JG: I think she taught up there but one year. I can't remember. I'm not sure now.

NB: Did you go to school that next year?

JG: Cause I was only up there two years. Yeah, I went to school in the summertime to, ah, the next summer after I got a little money ahead. I taught for \$85 a month the first year and paid \$20 a month board, so that wasn't too bad then cause things weren't high like they are now. And, ah, the kids were well-behaved children, because, you know, they were just mountain people, and they, when they went to school, they were supposed to go to school and behave themselves. Well, ah, but, ah, and they had textbooks. They bought new textbooks when we got the new sch--, when they got the new school done. It was a nice little building. When they got it done, they got new textbooks and things. And, we had reports to make out every month and we had a register, we had to keep a register. And, they had a supervisor, and he would come out once in a while and see what was going on, so, ah, they, ah, but they didn't come, he didn't come very often, and I never did see any school-board members around. And, I, I, I don't even know how I got my first certificate. I don't. I, ah, I didn't write for it, but they must have it up there. They was hard up for teachers, so they put it in there, I guess, but, ah, and the first year, year I was up there, Nancy, Mom and Dad moved in on the Miller Farm.

NB: In the old brick.

JG: In the old brick where, where Miller Farm, and then Bill was a year old, so, ah, and he ~~na~~arly cried his eyes out he got so homesick. That's what, got homesick, and I can understand that. And, ah, so, ah, then John was born in the house and, ah.

NB: Now John was born about the time Mom graduated from high school. He born in 29? That was the year she graduated.

JG: Let's see. Bill was born in January of 28, and then John was born the next year in October. Was it October? No, November.

NB: Let's see, what year was it you came back to Proctorville then to teach down there?

JG: Thirty one, 1931.

NB: Now, where was this school down here?

JG: Where it is right now.

NB: (Inaudible). Is that out on Perry Road?

JG: Yeah.

NB: Now, that was the high school, too.

JG: Uh huh, old high school in there, too, same building. And, then, ah, and the, they had this new school up here at Tom's Creek, the Rome High School cause it was built in 25, 26. They went in it the fall of 26 and had their graduation, and Thelma Eaton was one of the teachers and Mr. Weiss, I believe, and Frank Kaiser.

NB: Thelma Eaton must have just gotten out of school then.

JG: Who?

NB: Thelma Eaton must have just gotten out of school.

JG: No, now she'd been teaching up there.

NB: Well, she was still over there when I went to high school.

JG: I know, she taught a good many years. She was out a good many years, too. So, but then I taught at Proctorville for two years, and then they let me out, the school board did. You didn't have to sign a contract then. They let me out, and I was out then for two years and didn't have a job, so I went back to Marshall and got my senior normal, and, ah, then after I got my senior normal, I asked for a school up here.

NB: Now, how many years were senior normal, two or four?

JG: Two, two, and then I asked for a school up here in Rome.

NB: Now, wait a minute. The districts were different then than they are now.

JG: Uh uh, Proctorville districts are different.

NB: What schools were in Proctorville District?

JG: East Proctorville.

NB: Just east Proctorville area.

JG: (Inaudible). That's all.

NB: (Inaudible).

JG: (Inaudible) up here.

NB: What schools were up here?

JG: Oh, ah (inaudible), Miller, and Rome (inaudible).

NB: And, then you had the Hill schools.

JG: No, they were in Rome special. That was a different.

NB: I knew they were a different district.

JG: They were their own special, and they had their students few buildings out there.

NB: Did, ah (inaudible) have their own school?

JG: (Inaudible) was in Union. I'll have to think about, seems to me like (inaudible). But, I substituted in (Inaudible) and, ah (Inaudible) then next year they put it in effect and that was when. That was in 1935, I believe, because I know in the spring of 36, that was the fall of 35, in the spring of 36, we had high water.

SIDE TWO

JG: Got so high up there we had to turn out school. Couldn't get to school cause the way the roads were, and, ah, so then, let's see.

NB: That still wasn't the bad one, 37.

JG: No. Then, the next year, then the next year, I went back to Athalia in the first, I had the first four grades, and I went back to Athalia, and, ah, that was the year of the 37 flood. And, we were out of school then, because it was clear up, way up to, halfway to the windows in the schoolhouse. And, all the books were, were nearly ruined. One of the teachers that lives in Athalia at that time she went and got some of the books out, some of them in the upstairs, cause the water was in their house. And, when the water went down, and we went back to school, we didn't have hardly anything to do with. The floors were all warped; the doors were warped. We had a divided room, and we were divided by folding doors. We were divided at school, folding doors, so, ah, the doors were warped, the floors were warped, the seats were all coming apart and everything, and it was all damp and musty and everything. But, anyway, they cleaned it out, and we went back to school. Then, the next year, they brought Federal Creek in from up, up to Miller, and Helen was transferred in there for the upper grade, and I was moved up to the lower grade, and it was, it was really a mix up now I tell you. She was supposed to have the children off of Federal Creek, and I was supposed to have this one off this Rome. Instead, I had this lower grade, and she had the upper grade. And, we was supposed to kept records, and she was supposed to kept records. All the Federal Creek kids, the ones out there, and I was supposed to kept them from here. Only didn't do it. Didn't tell us that. Then when school was out, Patrick McCormick was principal, and so he, he said we kept them wrong. Nobody had told us any different. How we know it was supposed to keep

records. So, he had that all to straighten out that summer. So, the children, then the next year.

NB: Well, now, the water was in your house, too, wasn't it?

JG: Oh, yes, we went through that 37 flood.

NB: Where did you go, cause Mom said it was clear up on the doorknobs. Where you have to go?

JG: We went to, ah, up to Mom's brothers that lives on Patty Creek up in the holler all but Dad, and let's see, Dad and Lester. Mom took Dale and John, and I went, and Betsy went. Anyway, the boys and Daddy stayed in the house. They stayed in the upstairs. They had a boat, so they could get in and out with that boat, and, ah, they stayed upstairs and cooked for themselves and wasted up more food.

NB: How, how did they cook if they had no stove?

JG: They put a stove up there, a cook stove upstairs.

NB: Did they move everything from downstairs upstairs?

JG: Had to move everything from downstairs. I think they had three or four families in there at one time. What we did, we, ah, didn't think we had to move, see, but the water started to coming in that morning, and we had to get the furniture and everything upstairs, and by noon we had to get out in the boat.

NB: Hmm.

JG: So, ah, we went out in the boat, and then we stayed away for a week. And, on Sunday, we went back. What a mess. So, then, we stayed there until 38, let me see, I don't know if it was the fall of 38 or must have been, because we went over (inaudible) until 1947. And, we moved here out of high water three times while we lived there, so we finally decided that was enough.

NB: Well, that's pretty high over there. It's, it's not down on the ground.

JG: Well, we had to get out. What it did it backed up in that low ground. See, we had to get out before it got in the house.

NB: Oh.

JG: Which it never got into the house until 1937, and it never got in it anymore after that, I don't believe, because we had high water in 1948, but I don't think it got in that house.

NB: Well, now, who's Mr. Brammer that you went to live with?

JG: That was a neighborman out there that he lost his wife in 19 and, ah, 37 after the flood. She died. And, ah, he lived alone so he asked the people that had bought his farm where we lived. Dad just had it rented, so Mr. Brammer said, "Why don't you rent my farm?" And, ah, so that's what we did.

NB: Where is that?

JG: Where is it?

NB: Uh huh.

JG: That big white house where Miss Moore lives now, Olive Moore. You don't know where it is? It's one of them houses. Do you know where that, ah, it's on Route Seven, and, ah, well, it's not very far from the old brick just sort of catty-cornered, two-story white house.

NB: Oh, it's down near the river, the brick.

JG: Yeah, yeah.

NB: Oh, okay, I know about where it is.

JG: And, ah, we stayed down until 1946. Well, in the meantime, though, the wars all broke out. You see, we, we had First World War, and then we had the Second World War, and we had the Viet Nam War, and the Korean War. Well, we thought that when we lived over on the hill. I'm kinda going backwards on this because.

NB: Well, now, I wanted you to go back and get the flu epidemic, too.

JG: All right.

NB: Then, wasn't that the First World War?

JG: Yeah. And, the First, First World War when all the boys had to go. It started about 1914, and they just called them just like they do now. First one group and then another group. So, ah, Dad didn't have to go, because he was in one age group, but he didn't have to go cause he had so many children; but he would have been called in the next group that would have gone in, 1918, but the war closed then in November, so he didn't have to go. But, during that time, we had this awful flu epidemic, and so many of the boys were in camp that died, and some of them got along, and some of them didn't. We were all down sick at one time up there on that hill in that little five-room house but Mom. We had cattle at the barn, had horses at the barn, and she had to take care of them. And, she was sick with the flu, and I have seen her have to go to bed three times while she would be trying to cook a meal. Well, old Dr. Forth that lived in Proctorville was the doctor that practically doctored everybody. He come up to the house. He had a horse and buggy, and he went to the house, and he doctored everybody. But, anyway, he took care of about everybody that had the flu, because there wasn't too many people around at that time. I mean, you could count the houses around. You knew everybody that lived around. But, anyway, he took care of us, and we all got over it, but we were awful sick (inaudible) this spring. So, ah.

NB: Is that when you had to cover your nose. Is that the time? Mom said something about you had to put a handkerchief over your nose when they, when somebody would pass by.

JG: Oh. I don't remember that.

NB: You don't remember that. I don't know what she was talking about.

JG: I know we wore that around our, our, ah, string and wore it around our neck. Said that would keep you from taking it anymore. So, but they closed all the schools down. I remember that. And, the boys died so fast in the camp, that they'd bury two or three down here in Rome Cemetery everyday or two that they'd send, send back. And, ah, I



remember that down on Grandpa went to see Uncle Harlowe that, ah, he was so sick with it, they went to Camp Sherman to see him which was out in Ohio. And, ah, when they got there, they asked to see him, and they said that he was rolled out with the dead. So, he hollered and said, "No." Said, "Ma," said, "I'm in here." Said, "I'm not dead yet, but I'm awful sick." So, they got him out of there and got him doctored up, and he got all right. But, they was an awful lot of them that didn't and would die. And, then, ah, we talked a while ago about, ah, the small pox. We did have a scare about small pox when we was down on the hill, and we went to Dr. Forth and got a vaccination.

NB: I know Mom said she was a pretty big girl before she got hers.

JG: Yeah, yeah. And, ah, he was in that office, he had his office down there at Chesapeake where the jail house is. And, I know that, ah. (Inaudible) and now he had the first car, and it was one of them there little tiny Fords, Model T's. Then he had a truck. Dad bought a truck (inaudible), and he used to go to Marshall with the horses a long time before that. Grandfather would have horses.

NB: Did your father ever drive a horse?

JG: No.

NB: I can't even.

JG: He tried to, and he started out to Aunt Renie's and Uncle Jim one, one Sunday and on that Hill, the truck started going backwards, and he didn't know what to do. Model T now (laughter), and he didn't know what to do with it. It liked to scared him to death, so he, ah, he never would drive after that. He never did try.

NB: Davis' have it. Davis' have that Model T, because I saw them out there the day they bought it.

JG: Yeah, and, ah, when we moved in on the river, Merle had a car. We used to, ah, I didn't learn to drive for a long time, but Helen could drive, and then she got her a Chevrolet, and we used to go places in it all the time.

NB: Was it that 39 or 41 that she had, was it.

JG: (Inaudible).

NB: Was it red, was it red?

JG: Oh, no, no, this was a much older model than that.

NB: It was one before that one?

JG: Yeah. She had an old one. (Inaudible) out there on the hill someplace.

NB: On Patty Creek.

JG: Yeah, she taught there, and, ah, Louise taught on Patty Creek. We all taught up there but, ah.

NB: Did she and Louise ever teach together? They didn't did they?

JG: No, uh huh. No, then I taught, then I was moved down here. I taught 11 years down here, well, then they moved me to Proctorville.

NB: Were you down here when Garnet Bragg was down here?

JG: No.

NB: She was before you.

JG: She was before me. See, ah, Ruby Williams taught with me down here, and, ah, Irma Knight was so nice, Mildred, Mildred Doulton in the upper grades. They taught at the upper grade, and, ah, let's see, who else? Oh, Loren Pemberton, he taught down here.

NB: You must have had a grade a piece then.

JG: Huh uh.

NB: You still had.

JG: No, I had the four, ah, lower grades, then they had the four upper. See, each year, I mean, maybe somebody didn't want to

teach next year, and they got another teacher, see.

NB: Oh, I thought maybe there was as many teachers as there were grades.

JG: So, then, they, they, ah, moved the fourth grade down there. They got so many children down here. I had 52 one year, and I couldn't handle them in that little building, because so many of them, they had to sit close to the, ah, stove, so, ah, I asked the board if they couldn't move that fourth grade to Proctorville since Freda Hall only had, I think, it was 18 or 20. And, I had enough maybe room for about 30, but anyway, I asked them if they couldn't take that grade down there. But, I had so many in that room that I didn't have any place to put them. So, they took the fourth grade down there. Then the next year, they moved all the children up into Proctorville.

NB: What year was that?

JG: Let's see. I taught, we moved here in 47, and I taught down here, finished the year out down here in November, and I taught that year out. I believe we moved into Proctorville in 1948 if I'm not mistaken. But, in the meantime, in the summertime, I went back to Marshall and in 1950 I got my AB degree.

NB: It took you a while, didn't it?

JG: It took me a long time, because it's, ah, I mean, you know, but I had more credits than I needed, but I'd taken some things that I. Well, I started out in the rural school then I changed over to the lower grades, so, you know, I lost some of that work. So, ah, then I stayed in Proctorville seven years more, so then they built the new high school, Fairland High School and moved the kids out of that building up there and put the grade school up there. So, then they asked me if I would want to move up there or did I want to stay up in Proctorville. And, I said it didn't make a bit of difference to me. The only think you had teachers down there that, ah, lived right across from the schoolhouse that didn't have to drive, and I had to drive one way or the other. It didn't make any difference. So, they came to school and asked me, so I said, well, it didn't matter wherever you put me.

I'll be satisfied with it. So, after they decided that night that I would be up here a while. The next morning I (inaudible).

NB: Did you move up here then?

JG: Huh?

NB: Did you move up here then? I don't remember that. I was in the fourth grade. I don't remember you moving up here.

JG: Never remember me moving?

NB: Uh uh. You had me in the third grade, and I don't remember you moving up here. You moved that next year. Huh.

JG: (Inaudible). He had moved me up on that second floor.

NB: Yeah, that's where I got you.

JG: And, they moved me on year clear up on the third floor. I was up on that third floor.

NB: That last year before you got in the new building you were up on third, too, till December.

JG: Oh, yes, but I mean, when I was really teaching down there.

NB: Yeah.

JG: See, but that, see, when, ah, when they finished that first building up here, you see, that year that we all moved up here. And, they took the school away from down here, why, ah, we taught down there until, when, November?

NB: November.

JG: We moved in Christmas vacation. I remember that, and then I taught 13 years out here.

NB: Well, tell me a little bit about the church down here, because now I can barely remember when I was little they had two big pot-bellied stoves, one on each side, and I can't remember. They had one section of pews down the middle, and then they had over here, and over on each side. Now, was that, how

long was that? Had that been that way, or did the men and women used to sit on each side?

JG: Now, that's been that way ever since the church's been built in 1854 (Rome Methodist Church).

NB: They had one section down the middle [JG: Yeah.] of seats and then one.

JG: And, then one on each side, and those seats were nailed to the wall.

NB: Back in the back.

JG: No, they weren't back in the back.

NB: They weren't clear in the back.

JG: You see, they were put in like this, and this flat piece here was nailed up of the wall. (Inaudible) there had to do a lot of repair work and panelling.

NB: Well, when did they close the balcony in?

JG: Oh, we did that about, ah, oh, I don't know. Hasn't been too long (inaudible). Well, I'm trying to think what preacher. Must have been when Jack Frame was here.

NB: Well, now, that's when they did the remodeling. But, now, what happened before that? Now, you went there all your life, haven't you?

JG: Yeah, but, ah, I went to Sunday School down here for ever since it, was was a little tiny children cause Mom always seen that we went to Sunday School; and I can't remember very, too much about things when I was real little, but I do know that when we were, got a little bit bigger, why, we were in Annabell and Clara's Sunday School Classes for years. I mean, they taught the classes, and, ah, we had, had all those other schools right in the sanctuary where the sanctuary is now, and each, ah, person would take their class and go to the corner or over in a section, and the men always went on this side over here. In the back, they had their class, and then we had ours up there in the middle section on the, ah,

well, over here on the wall, it would be on the left as you go in, and there was somebody out, they had the little tiny children up on the rostrum, and, ah, I forgot what I was going to say. Oh.

NB: Now, that was still the same way up until I was about five or six years old. Well, now, didn't they used to have the balcony fixed for slaves? Wasn't that why that balcony was up there?

JG: Yes, yes, but not since I can remember, I mean, in my time. They fixed it for the colored people so the colored people could go to church there, and the colored people would sit in the balcony. But since I have been in the church down here, I can't remember any colored people ever coming to church down here. If they did ...

NB: I remember Mr. Hill used to come.

JG: Well, I mean, but they were <sup>NB:</sup> You mean a long time ago. they were isolated from the white people, see, they were isolated at the time when they did.

NB: But, when that was built, that's why it was built for.

JG: Yeah. Uh huh.

NB: Did it, wonder if anybody around here had any slaves? You ever hear anybody talking about it?

JG: No, because, see that was back in the Civil War times.

NB: That church was built back in 1854, so.

JG: Yeah, I know it, but we weren't born then.

NB: Well, I know that, but I mean I just wonderēd if anybody told you anything about it that you could remember.

JG: Well.

NB: Now, I can remember them telling about that was put up there. That's why that balcony was up there.

JG: Yeah, but I don't know. I believe slaves that were ever in it.

Only place I know that there were ever any slaves ever, ah, that was hid out colored people that was down in Proctorville in that old big brick they used it for Sunday School Room in the Baptist Church. That old big white.

NB: Oh, they had an apartment building for a while, didn't they? Is that the one, that gray?

JG: Yeah, yeah. Sort of white-gray. They used, they used, they said used to come across the river in a boat, and then they would hide in there.

NB: Well, isn't there on down below Proctorville there, too? That big old house that sits over on the hill. Did they use that, too?

JG: I don't know. I do know (inaudible) told me. I don't (inaudible) it true because it's just, you know, hearsay. People just handed it down. But, this, this park, Nancy, up in here has been built since you were born. You know that been filled up in the last.

NB: (Inaudible) How about when we first (inaudible).

JG: Now let's see what else (inaudible). Just to sit down and think it all out at one time is, ah.

NB: Well, do you remember the bridge being built, the Sixth Street Bridge?

JG: Yeah.

NB: When was it built?

JG: It was built in 1924. That was when Junior was born.

NB: Did you ever use it when you went to Marshall or did you ride the ferryboat?

JG: No, not when we went to Marshall (Break in tape). After the bridge was built, then people started moving to Ohio from West Virginia cause it was more convenient, built houses but not too many at that time. But, ah, then, ah, a lot of people from over there would come to the fair which was a

very important thing. Once a year, once a year, the fair was a big thing. And, I can remember, the only thing I can remember when I was little about the fair, everybody would go. We didn't have any of these stands where they'd serve people eats. Everybody had to take their own dinner. They had ice cream, and they had, oh, lemonade, watermelon, things like that, but they didn't have hot dogs and hamburgers. So, everybody took their dinner and everything. Different families would sit together, and spread out their dinner, and everybody could eat out on the lawn. And, ah, they had this merry-go-round, and Mom and Dad took us to ride on the merry-go-round, and I got to going around and around instead of getting on the merry-go-round, and I got sick from riding the merry-go-round. And, you know, them things makes me sick now, around and around, that I can hardly stand it. But, they had their exhibits just like they do now. The fair just like it is now, and, ah, everybody took things and got prizes if you'd entered something at the fair. And, ah, it was, ah, oh, it was just a big thing, because there wasn't too many things then, and everybody went to the fair.

NB: Was that the 4-Hers?

JG: They had the 4-H Club, Club, so we were in 4-H, and one year we all took our things we made to the fair, so I made a dress and this (inaudible), so I got first prize that year, and I got a trip to Columbus; and it was in the fall after school started, but, ah, I went from Athalia, and the lady at Athalia, her name that was the leader up there, she went with us, Mrs. ah, Flynn. She went with us girls, and we stayed at the hotel. They didn't have motels then. We just stayed at the hotel, and we went (inaudible).

NB: How old were you then?

JG: I must have been, mmm, about 14 I expect or so 12 or 14, but I was in high school.

NB: Did you win up there?

JG: Uh uh.

NB: I don't think anybody from down here ever wins.



JG: No, you hardly ever win anything up there.

NB: Did you go to camp?

JG: No, I never did go to camp. I didn't like to go to camp, but ah, but, ah, I don't know if Helen did or not ∩NB: Mom did.; and I never said anything about going to camp. It was always damp.

NB: Where did they have their camp?

JG: Well, I really don't know.

NB: It wasn't up in Jackson County like it is now.

NB: No, it seems like it was that they had it away someplace. They go and stay for a week but, ah, well. I, I used to help Mom in the house a lot. I didn't care, ah, about going to too many places and things like that. So, they played basketball (inaudible), and I didn't go. (Inaudible) from Proctorville used to take a bunch and then one of the teachers and her boyfriend used to things, come up here and get us and take things down to the hospital. But, ah, when we went to the fair, we had to walk. Mom prepared all day the day before, dinner to take to the fair. Our aunts, and uncles, and everybody would put their dinner all together, and everybody eat their supper and have their reunion. That's what it was.

NB: How many days did it last?

JG: Well, I guess, it lasted four or five. Anyway, it started on Tuesday and used to stay until Friday.

NB: So, it was really long.

JG: And, ah, oh, I've been on several trips. I went to the World's Fair in New York one time, 1939, and I went to Niagra Falls once.

NB: How did you get to New York in 39? Did you drive or?

JG: I went (inaudible). No, I didn't drive. I didn't have a car till, well, I can't tell you when I got my first car, but the boys in the Second World War then in December of 19, let's see,

ah, must have been December of 41. Anyway, war was declared (inaudible).

NB: Pearl Harbour, December 7, 1941.

JG: Pearl Harbour. So, the boys knew they was all going to have to go, so we went in there in December of that time. (Inaudible) going to have to go, so I'm just going to go and join up. So, on the last, I forget now what day. Seems like the 23rd day of December, and he went into service in 1941, and, ah, he went down to Fort Knox. Took some things down there to Fort Knox. He went to Sunset, Florida, and, ah, stayed down there. And, ah (Inaudible) had to go, and Junior had to go. Junior stayed out longer than any of them, because he was in high school at that time, and they let him stay out to, ah, help Dad out on the farm. Then Merle had to go, and Junior finished his last year of high school in service. And, ah, but, ah, they all had to go into the service.