City of Alexandria

Office of Historic Alexandria

Alexandria Legacies

Oral History Program

Project Name: *Alexandria Legacies*

Title: *Interview with Elizabeth Douglas*

Date of Interview: *March 28, 1992*

Location of Interview: *Elizabeth Douglas's house, Alexandria, Virginia*

Interviewers: *Patricia Knock, Dr. Henry Mitchell, and Bradford Henderlong*

Transcriber: *Jacqueline Schmidt and Wendy Miervaldis*

Abstract: Elizabeth Douglas was born in 1919 and has lived in Alexandria, Virginia, her entire life. She was interviewed by Patricia Knock and Dr, Henry Mitchell, volunteers with Alexandria Archaeology. They discussed the adventures and hardships of Elizabeth's youth and schooling in Alexandria and Washington, DC. They also discussed everyday life in Macedonia, as well as some of its more notable residents. Elizabeth gives us her family history and tells us about her favorite childhood games, favorite foods, and unusual pets.

This transcript has been edited by the interviewee and may not reflect the audio-recording exactly.

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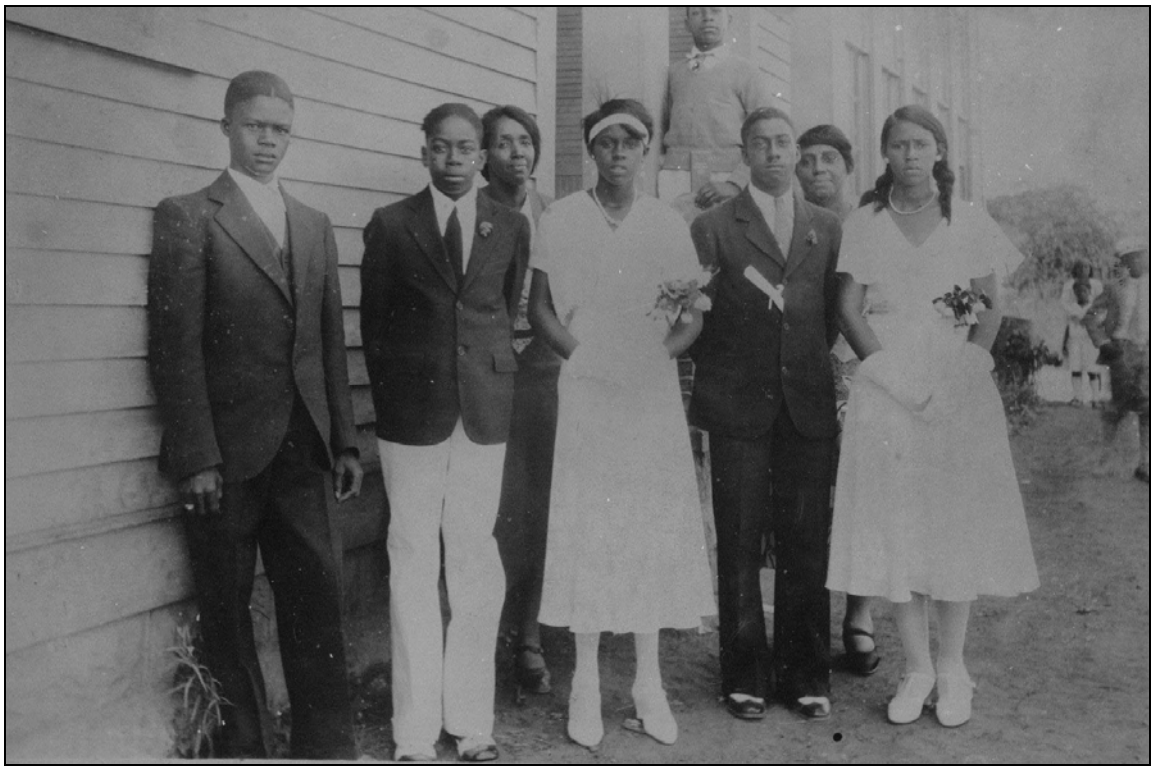

Seminary School Students, 1930s
(from left to right) Lewis Douglas, Archie Casey, Beatrice N. Terrell,
Elizabeth V. (Henry) Douglas, Allen Wanzer, Mrs. Geraldine Stevenson, and Rebecca Rust
(Courtesy Elizabeth Douglas)

Introductions

Patrica Knock:	First of all, I want to thank you for taking part in this oral history project. When I came last time, we talked a little bit about the Legal Release Forms and some concerns that you might have. I called Pam Cressey, who is the Head of Alexandria Archaeology and she explained the legal document to me. I'm going to take a few seconds first to explain it to you. What we will be asking you to sign is called a Deed of Gift. When you sign that you're giving us, the city of Alexandria, the legal permission to use your words and also to use them in a printed publication and to use them for research purposes.

P.K. continues:	The process is this: We first tape the interview with you and then the tape is transcribed. Some city typists type it up and then we give the words back to you. You have the chance to read through what the words are on the tape. You may allow all of it to be used or you may allow only parts of it to be used, that's up to you. If you give the city that Gift, then we can use it. For example, I would be using parts of it in the Fort Ward project. Also, they talked to me about doing Mud Town and so some of that might be used in that project. City of Alexandria publications are sold at cost of production so there would be a price charged for them but it would only be to cover paper and printing and that sort of thing. We, meaning Alexandria Archaeology, are a non-profit agency so we wouldn't be selling those at a profit. If we would use your words we would, of course, give you copies and copies for the Church. What we really hope to do is make a straight transcription of your words and use that as a reference in the libraries, to give the libraries a copy of it along with the transcript. The tape that we're doing today is for the Black Heritage Cultural Center. Harry Burke couldn't attend. His machine is in the repair shop and he had a Parker-Gray Alumni meeting so he couldn't make it today. I know I said he was coming. Do you have any questions about that?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No. I don't mind them using it.
P.K.:	This legal part is something that I had to learn about when I started. I didn't really understand it completely but now I think I understand it enough to explain it well enough to you. Did you finish the biographical data form that has your name, birth date, or do you need another one?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, I have it in there on the table.
P.K.:	Okay, that's good.
Childhood Memories	
P.K.:	I know when we started this it was at the Oakland Baptist Church 100th year Anniversary and I remember you standing up there, speaking so eloquently about this area and about the church. But the first thing that I would like you to do, if you can just sort of maybe close your eyes and block out everything that's here and become a little girl again. That's what I would like you to do. And if you were maybe getting up in the morning, just waking up. I guess your dad had a farm, didn't he?

Elizabeth Douglas:	No.
P.K.:	No. This house, this is your house, right?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Yes, all across. He had all this, clean across there to where the other house is up there. Of course, this house just about set in the middle of the street there.
P.K.:	Oh, did it?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Yes, see this house has been moved back. It has been moved and the sidewalk was added, too.
P.K.:	I see. Well, this house had out buildings also?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No. You mean outside?
P.K.:	Uh huh.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Oh, sure. We had a stable there for the horse and the cow. We had a chicken house. We had a pigeon house, which my father sold squab. He worked for Mr. Kemper in Rosemount, Virginia, right down in Alexandria and he was the Superintendent of the Southern Railway. Well, all the people, he was a good cook and so was my mother. Now, he would sell the squab to them, all the people down there. We also had raspberries and all that he would carry down there to the different people. And he baked pies, and I don't know what all. Everybody there in Rosemount knew and loved my father because he had worked for the Kempers. When Mr. Kemper died, he had been there 35 years and he cooked and, in other words, he just about reared two of their children. And so, Mr. Kemper passed and before Mr. Kemper passed, in [19]31, he told my father to renew. He wanted to help him to renew that house that we were in. And the house, at that time, had three bedrooms upstairs, a kitchen, dining room, and a living room. So Mr. Kemper told him, says, "Now, I want you, William, to remodel that house, because after I'm gone, I'm afraid my children will not approve of me doing that." So, Mr. Kemper was the obligator of this house being remodeled. Now, what he did, he had it remodeled and he give Papa part of what he was supposed to pay. And he paid it to Roundhill National Bank, Roundhill, Virginia. And he paid $17.00 a month until he completed the pay. The contractor that done this property, this house, and the property over, was Ben Isarine. He was a contractor then and he was the one that done the work.
P.K.:	When you said he did the work, he had his own contracting company?

Elizabeth Douglas:	Own contracting company, Ben Isarine. I think I have papers now that relates to what he done.
P.K.:	In the area, you said there weren't as many houses in the area at that time.
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, ma'am.
P.K.:	What were some of the jobs that people had?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Episcopal High School, Theological Seminary in Arlington County.
P.K.:	I'd heard that people had worked for Arlington County and then somebody mentioned the Torpedo Factory later on.
Elizabeth Douglas:	That was during the War, just when World War II. Now it was a lot of people worked for the Torpedo Plant, but not until then.
P.K.:	What year were you born?
Elizabeth Douglas:	1919. [Spoken with a pleasant lilt]
P.K.:	1919. [Laughs] One year after my mom. And, what is your given name? Is it Elizabeth?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Elizabeth Virginia Henry. I was Scraggins and then I was Douglas. And that's all! [Laughs]
P.K.:	When you were a child, I was asking you to become a child again, if you would get up in the morning, how would that day go? Say you were going to school.
Elizabeth Douglas:	We got up at quarter of five. Everybody had chores to do.
P.K.:	What did you have to do?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, I was small, I would go along with them. You see, at first, we had a spring, we had to go cross the road, down the hill to the spring.
P.K.:	By Chinquapin was it then?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Was it, right. And then, we would bring the water back. Of course, we had to get ourselves all dressed and ready. Then we would get our watches and everything and then we would go walk to school.
P.K.:	And what school did you attend?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, at first, I attended the school, I have the picture in there on

	the table, the Liberty Hall. Beatrice Terrell, Nash Terrell was my first teacher.[1]
P.K.:	Beatrice Terrell, was she married to Mr. William Terrell?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No. This Beatrice was married to William Terrell's son, Jacob Terrell.
P.K.:	Okay. Would she have a mother that was a Beatrice?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Beatrice, no. She had Bernie-- that was her mother-in-law.
P.K.:	Bernie was her mother-in-law.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Jacob was Bernie's son.
P.K.:	Okay. Okay, I've got it. Now, where was Liberty Hall?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Liberty Hall is, let's see…
P.K.:	I have a map. [Opens map]
Elizabeth Douglas:	I can tell you how many houses it was from near there.
P.K.:	I have lots of maps. [Pause] Here's Woods Lane.
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, it's on King Street.
P.K.:	Here's King Street. Let's see. [Pause] I'm not real familiar with this map. This is King Street and this is Quaker. Can you tell me in words where it was?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, yes. You know where the gasoline station is up here from the church? You see the road turn in there. It's a road, a little short road that goes right by that filling station. You know the filling stations that are setting across from the church?
P.K.:	The new one?
Elizabeth Douglas:	The new gas station?
P.K.:	Is it new, across from the florist shop?
Dr. Henry Mitchell:	It's the Texaco Station.
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, it's not Texaco. No, it's this little one. It's not sitting from the floral. It's on the opposite side of the floral, right in front. You can go right from the church across the street to it.
P.K.:	Okay.

[1] See oral history of Mary Crozet Wood Johnson.

Elizabeth Douglas:	You know, right there by that road.
P.K.:	That little cut through road?
Elizabeth Douglas:	That little cut through road. That is where the Liberty Hall stood. John and Kerry Khron's house stood there. In between there, there was the Carpenters, the Caseys, the Russ's, then the other Russ's come on up. There was all the Carpenters, the Caseys, some of the Founders of…
P.K.:	Is that William Casey then?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No. It was John Casey. John Wesley. He was a cook up at Theological Seminary for years.
P.K.:	That's Mrs. Belk's grandfather, I think, maybe.
Elizabeth Douglas:	No. Great-grandfather.
P.K.:	Great-grandfather. Right.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right.
P.K.:	Do you know this school? Seminary Public School? This is a map from 1941. It's on Woods Lane.
Elizabeth Douglas:	That's the one I went to. Now, I went to this Liberty Hall first.
P.K.:	Right. How big was Liberty Hall?
Elizabeth Douglas:	It was a great big room, and those children, about 40 or 50 children, was in that one room. I have a picture in there. You can see the picture. And then, they used to have the lodge meetings upstairs because it was Art Fellows and Daughters of Liberty and they had it upstairs. But that big room downstairs was the school we went in. And then, when they had entertainments there, they would have that big room down there for the dancing and all right down there. Of course, I was a little girl, I never attended them, but they had them.
P.K.:	Was this school of five grades, or eight grades?
Elizabeth Douglas:	First, we used to call it ferma, ferma class.
P.K.:	Would that be like kindergarten?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, no, we had the regular books.
HM:	It would be first grade, I think. At that time they called the first grade "ferma."
Elizabeth Douglas:	Because at five years old I could read through that primer, that's

	three novels in that book at five!
P.K.:	I know you're smart! [Laughs]
Elizabeth Douglas:	Now, they had about, I know, 49 or 50 children in that one room and Beatrice Terrell taught all of those children in that class.
P.K.:	That's a trick, isn't it?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Evidently, it went clear up to the fifth grade because we were all there.
P.K.:	Then afterwards, you said you were one of the younger ones?
Elizabeth Douglas:	That's right!
P.K.:	You had older brothers and sisters?
Elizabeth Douglas:	I had seven brothers and three sisters with myself. I'm just about near the last one. Only my brother and I, my brother that's passed, and I are the two youngest ones.
P.K.:	So, at what time did you change to this Seminary Public School?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Now, here's the catch in that. Over on this side was Arlington, Arlington County. Now we had to stop. They went up to the Fort, up to the school up to the Fort.
P.K.:	You did? They did?
Elizabeth Douglas:	They did! A whole lot of us did. And afterward, when they had some kind of confusion about the different classes, they carried some of them, they carried Beatrice Terrell and her children up to the Fort.
P.K.:	That make sense because Mrs. Belk told me that her mother went up to the Fort to school and Beatrice Terrell was her teacher. Do you know the name of that school up at the Fort?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, I tell you, they did not say what name it was. I was small and I never did know. That's all we knew, was that we were going to school up to the Fort.
P.K.:	And you did go up at the Fort to school?
Elizabeth Douglas:	About two or three weeks and then they switched.
P.K.:	They switched to what?
Elizabeth Douglas:	They switched to Arlington. We had to get out of there and go to Arlington. And Arlington School was a Kemper School up on the hill. And until the mothers and fathers donated towards it was a

	Rosenwald School. After they built it, they laid the cornerstone, they called it Seminary School.

Certificate of
ATTENDANCE
This Certifies that Elizabeth Henry.
is commended for Regularity and Punctuality in
Attendance, having been neither absent from School
nor tardy during the Year ending June 1932
Awarded at Seminary this 10 day of June 1932
G. L. Stevenson
Teacher

Elizabeth Henry Douglas' Certificate of Attendance for Seminary School, 1932 (Courtesy Elizabeth Douglas)

P.K.:	So that's this school?
Elizabeth Douglas:	That school there. Seminary Elementary. That was just a public school and you went until you were in the eighth grade. You had to go to another school and I preferred to go to Washington.
P.K.:	You went into the District?
Elizabeth Douglas:	I went into the District. The others went to Parker-Gray. Now, I went to Francis Junior High School on to Armstrong High School. I graduated from there. I went on to training school there and I took every course that I could, including nursing. And that's what I was going to major in. But then, as I went on, and my mother worked for the people that owned the AB&W bus line, the M-A-Y, May. She started working for the son. The son had two children. At the age of 11, no older than that, I started babysitting them and I got 50 cents an evening and that helped me to go to school and

	they would give me two passes on the bus.
P.K.:	So you got to school from here by going on the bus?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No. I walked all the way down to the cannon. You know where the cannon is on Braddock Road?
HM:	Way down that far?!
Elizabeth Douglas:	We walked, every one of us that chose Washington. We walked to Braddock, down Braddock Road, caught the bus from there, got off at Pennsylvania Avenue over there. Sometime we rode the streetcar and sometime we walked to school.
P.K.:	How far is that, Dr. Mitchell?
HM:	Oh, God. [Laughs] Several miles!
P.K.:	Is it?
HM:	Yeah, and I go by there every morning.
Elizabeth Douglas:	And we didn't mind it.
P.K.:	So you all walked together?
Elizabeth Douglas:	We all walked together.
HM:	What was the name of that street that's on the corner? There's a church there. It's a Seven Day Adventist Church right on the corner where the cannon is on Braddock Road.
Elizabeth Douglas:	That's right. That was the May's house.
Work Experience	
Elizabeth Douglas:	Where I first started working was the May house. M-A-Y. Now, they owned that house and I, my mother worked for them. She was a good cook and she stayed there nine years and a half. And she suddenly passed. She had diabetes and, of course, you know then the doctors in [19]39 and [19]40. She died in [19]40. They did not know much about diabetes. So my mother cut her toenail and the foot. Evidently, she cut it too close, the foot swelled, the doctor lashed the foot and she lived ten days afterward. The Mays, oh, they begged me to stay with them and I was between two opinions. I wanted to go to the nursing job because I didn't have much longer to do the nursing course. In other words, right now, I imagine I would be more eligible to take care of somebody's person than these people that say they're nurses and get the course so fast. We had to do it the hard way. If you did not make a bed right, you made it until you got it right. They took you around to

	the sickest people that was in the hospital and you took care of them. But when you gotten there to a sick person and you gagged or something, you'd hear the teacher say, "You won't make a nurse. They wouldn't accept you." So I was between that opinion of being a nurse and working for them. But as I went on and I got attached to them, being a girl that age, they offered me more than I would have gotten nursing and doing all the other duties, so I preferred to go with them. And, of course, after my mother died, I just completely done everything, even nursing them while they was sick. And the last one, bless her heart, Mrs. May, Virginia May, that belonged up to Emmanuel on the hill, she died in 1988. And she died in August of '88, and therefore, I nursed her until she passed.
HM:	Is she related to B.C. May?
Elizabeth Douglas:	That's her son!
HM:	He is the Chairman of the American Red Cross.
Elizabeth Douglas:	I raised him.
HM:	B.C. May.
Elizabeth Douglas:	I raised him. He comes. He's here off and on all the time. Yes.
HM:	It's a small world.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Isn't it though? And then, after that, I said it like this: "I've nursed enough people. I don't think I prefer nursing anymore." Because, you know, a person that hardly weighed 110 pounds do all that nursing and moving all those people. Now I did, before she passed, weigh 120. But then, I was still lifting and nursing those people from the husband on down, all of them that were sick. And I stayed in that family 52 years. That was my first job. And I'm sure that's going to be my last one of doing that kind of work! But at this present time, I go down two days a week, Monday and Tuesday, down to the Nancy Fleming Dress Shop. And I piddle around there, even weigh the clothes and mark them and do a little different things. And I have a parrot down there that I truly love, and he thinks I'm his partner. He will even want to go where I go. He talks and everything like that. So anyway, I tell you, this community, as a whole, was just like a family. They had hogs, chickens, cows. If the cow went dry, then whoever, they would come and they would let them have it. They made butter, they put up everything that they had, they put it up. I mean canned it, preserved it.

Fort Ward	
P.K.:	Could I ask you especially about Fort Ward and what sorts of things they did down there? I was talking to the groundskeeper and he thought that they had had a dairy up there, or somebody had a cow and they sold milk. Do you know about that?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, I don't know about that. I'll tell you about Fort Ward. They call it Fort Ward now, but it was "Fort." The people that was members of this church, we would see. The people that was not members of this church, we very seldom seen. That was just like another little county. Now, for instance, Clara Adams, one of the Founders, Maggie Hall, one of the Founders, we would see them. Jake Ball, Laura Ball,…
P.K.:	Jacob Ball?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Jacob Ball, and Laura Ball was his wife.
P.K.:	Was he an older man when you were a child?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Yes, ma'am. Oh, they both were. They were grown up people.
P.K.:	Did they go to Oakland Baptist Church?
Elizabeth Douglas:	They were Oakland members. But you take the Ashbys, the Magnites,…Now you mentioned Miller. Her name was Birdie Miller. I remembered it, it flashed back in my mind. My father used to say, "That lady that you see pass there, that's Birdie Miller," when I was small. I noticed you mentioned that. The Javenses…
P.K.:	They were Episcopalian?
Elizabeth Douglas:	They all belonged to the other churches. In Alexandria, was one church that they would go to in Alexandria.
P.K.:	Was there a church on Fort Ward? Do you know of a name of a church, St. Cyprian?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, I don't.
P.K.:	Dr. Mitchell, do you want to ask her?
HM:	It seems that some years ago, Virginia Seminary had built a chapel for what they called "colored people" in those days.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Yes, they did.
HM:	We think we found the location of that chapel.

Elizabeth Douglas:	I tell you what now, I remembered going to that church and I was a little, small girl. And I went with my brothers and my oldest sister. And they was having a Christmas, something, a little Christmas tree and everything. And I remember just as good, I opened my present when I got home and it was a little beaded pocketbook. And that's what I can remember of that Chapel. We used to go up there and I'd remember Mama says, "Now, you all can go to the Chapel." But then, they had Oakland, you see, Oakland Baptist Church when I was starting and went up there two or three times. So, it was a little chapel up there that they called it for "colored people." Of course, my mother and all the people around here, they would watch for the students and they would go up there and get the clothes. And my brothers would take the wagon and go, and they would put them at the door so they could pick them up and they paid seventy-five cents a bundle for their clothing. An the Episcopal High School was the same way.
P.K.:	Do you remember what the chapel looked like or more or less, where it was on the grounds?
Elizabeth Douglas:	By me being small, I can visualize it. It looked something like it was in-between where that Post Office is in somewhere in between that line. Am I right?
HM:	That would be right.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right! My memory goes back to that because I remembered we would go to the Post Office about twice a week to see if any mail was there, and some of them would drag me along with them. And the chapel, as I can recall, was in between. Somewhere between that little Post Office and on that opposite side was just ground. And on the other side, was just that Post Office and ground in between.
P.K.:	The Post Office is in a different place now, though, right?
Elizabeth Douglas:	It seems like to me, from years went by and they moved it somewhere or another, they moved it more over to the side and more to the front of the highway. Which the highway wasn't that wide then. It was a path, like.
Macedonia	
P.K.:	I have a map of this area. When we were here before, I was wondering if you knew the names of some of the areas around. Were you the person that told me about Macedonia?

Elizabeth Douglas:	I did.
P.K.:	Could you tell me more about that?
Elizabeth Douglas:	That's right over across here, you know, from where we lived. Now, most of those people are relatives.
P.K.:	Where the Terrells live?
Elizabeth Douglas:	The Terrells didn't live over there then. They just lived over there since, but they put those houses up. Now, the Terrells live right up the street here, on the opposite side, not on this side, on the other side. Irene Terrell. Jacob Terrell. Uncle William Terrell had a little store and he sold candies and oil for the lamps. And he would go to town once a week in his horse and wagon. And he would come back with different things and he sold them at that little store. Uncle William Terrell had a little store right in the bottom next to where Beatrice and Jacob Terrell lived. Then, Rebecca Terrell lived in another house down just above Jacob, then Irene Terrell and Philip Terrell.
P.K.:	That wasn't on Fort Ward, though?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, this is on King Street.
P.K.:	On King Street, down towards Fort Ward?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right along in here. [Pointing to the map]. Across the street, right. The Simms lived right here, Dan and Alice Simms. As you see the school, Irene Terrell's house sit right down from the school.
P.K.:	Was that Macedonia then?
Elizabeth Douglas:	On that hill, Macedonia was up and down the lane. You know Woods Lane, they call Woods Lane?
P.K.:	Yes.
Elizabeth Douglas:	We called that Macedonia. Mr. Wood was the one that give that ground to the public for the school.
P.K.:	Okay. Here is Quaker Lane. [Pointing to map.] Let's see. Here's the Theological Seminary right in here. And then Fort Ward is up here. So, Macedonia would be across the street here. This is Quaker Lane and Woods Lane goes up in here. Oakland Baptist would be here. Well, then, where would Macedonia be?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right down that lane where Woods Lane is.
P.K.:	So down this way.

Elizabeth Douglas:	We never called it Woods Lane. We called it Macedonia.
P.K.:	How many families lived in Macedonia?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Let's see. [Pause] Wanzers. The Roys. The Nickens. The Pollards. Taylors…Jenny Williams. Luther Williams. Now Jenny Williams, they were all Roys. Everybody over there, Wallace Wanzer was the father of them all, seem to me. And he talked to his daughter before she died. Frances, granddaughter, Frances Johnson. Now she said he had a blacksmith shop. My father verified it. He had a blacksmith shop and he was the one that put shoes on horses.
P.K.:	Yes, on the Census Report there is a man there that shows his employment as a blacksmith.
Elizabeth Douglas:	That's him.
P.K.:	So that was in Macedonia, too?
Elizabeth Douglas:	All we called over there Macedonia.
P.K.:	What did they call Mudtown? Was Mudtown part of Macedonia?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No. We called Mudtown from Fort down to Donaldson's store. We didn't know what that was. Nobody tell nobody. Never called it Mudtown. [Spoken rapidly, as an aside.] I never heard it until they started to building those houses. Then they called it Mudtown.
P.K.:	That was just a name they put on it?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Oh! Somebody should have corrected it because it was never called Mudtown over there, from the Fort to Donaldson's store. [Spoken emphatically]
P.K.:	Where was Donaldson's store on this map?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right across from the church, where the church is now. Was right across there where that Apple House is, only it protruded more in the street and they took the front off of it.
P.K.:	Across from Oakland Baptist Church?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Across from Oakland Baptist Church.
Shopping in Alexandria	
P.K.:	Other than Donaldson's store, where did you shop?
Elizabeth Douglas:	In Alexandria.
P.K.:	Where at in Alexandria?

Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, my father, on Saturdays, the majority of people, would go down to Alexandria and they would go to the market.
P.K.:	Where was that market?
Elizabeth Douglas:	All the way down there to the river, near the river.
P.K.:	Like down Queen Street to the river?
Elizabeth Douglas:	You go down King Street, just like where the City Hall Mall was. That was a market he would go to it. It was near the water and he would go down there. He would help them clean up and he would get things half-priced and go to Joe Fagelson's. He was right on King Street, and they would shop there. You know the Arlington County paid the 1st and the 15th, that's when they gotten paid. And all the other places, Theological Seminary and the Episcopal High, they paid every two weeks, too. Some of the people would shop or trade at Mr. Donaldson's. And he had a book and they had a book and they would put everything down that they've bought. And when they gotten paid, they would pay him.
P.K.:	You know what, that's the way I grew up, too. At our B&J Supermarket, my mom would send me down. She would say, "Go down and tell Jim you want five nice pork chops." Send me down, and they would write it in a book.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right!
P.K.:	I thought that was real old-fashioned then. That was part of the country, I guess.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, that's the way they would do it here. Now, really, the only thing that my mother would ever send us to store for, now, Bobwhite Baking Powder. Do you remember that?
P.K.:	No.
Elizabeth Douglas:	You didn't?! Baking soda, or salt, or "When it rains, it pours," with the little girl on the front. Now we would go up there and tell Mr. Donaldson. He had, long around nearly Christmastime, he had great big pillars of candy, stripes and all that. We would go up there and we would tell him, "I would like to have that – one penny." But Uncle William had the biggest suckers you've ever seen! For a penny you could get one and suck the sucker all day long. We would just love that! That Uncle William. So Uncle William was actually the first little store, little colored store that they had around here, and then Mr. Donaldson had his store. Out in that field from Mr. Donaldson, as I told you, they used to have

	airplanes come down, and they would give anybody a ride for fifty cents, it's according on how far you went. Or a dollar.
P.K.:	Did you do it?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Oh, I was too little. I didn't do it. No, no, no! No, I didn't go! [Laughs]
P.K.:	Did you want to?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, ma'am! All in the back of that field was nothing. We'd pick blackberries, all kinds of berries, and then we would go sell them for ten cents a quart. We got a ten quart bucket, we'd carry it and that dollar, we were rich. And all through here, chinquapin. There was strawberries, wild strawberries, blackberries, dewberries. We did the same thing, we picked them and those chinquapins when they come in October. They were in that little sticky like part. You would know that they were getting ready to get ripe because you'd see the pod open up and inside set that little nut, the smallest nut you ever seen, but delicious. And I don't know why, that it was incredible, that they would cut every one of those things down and still call it Chinquapin. [Laughs.] Never will understand that as long as I live. Because that was the beauty of what it was named for. And of course, up on the hill was Bush Hill. And there was Aunt Molly.
Bush Hill	
P.K.:	Bush Hill?
Elizabeth Douglas:	We called that Bush Hill.
P.K.:	Because there was more a hill where the school was?
Elizabeth Douglas:	We had to go right up to Aunt Molly's house and you crossed the bridge and go right up. She wasn't any relation to us but she was the one that delivered babies all through the country.
P.K.:	Did she? Did you get delivered there?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No. Aunt Jenny on Braddock Road. I'll show you the house.
P.K.:	Do you know her last name, Aunt Jenny?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Aunt Jenny Wanzer.[2] She married a Wanzer. She married one of the Wanzers. She came from Norfolk, Virginia.
P.K.:	And now Aunt Molly?

[2] See oral history of Mary Crozet Wood Johnson.

Aunt Molly Nelson, the midwife who lived on Bush Hill, date unknown
(Courtesy of Elizabeth Douglas)

Elizabeth Douglas:	Aunt Molly Nelson. Right up on that hill
P.K.:	And the name of that hill was?
Elizabeth Douglas:	We called it Bush Hill.
P.K.:	Is that behind Oakland Baptist Church?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, up here. [Pointing to map]
P.K.:	Chinquapin.
Elizabeth Douglas:	More up towards Chinquapin. Now, Aunt Molly lived in front and Annie D. Johnson lived in the back with her family. And that's coming on up from Johnson's land. It went right straight on up. Richard Nelson, he had a house up there, that was Molly Nelson's son. Mary Nelson Lee. Mary Nelson Lee is the one that you'll see in that book where there house had caught fire and burned. They put that picture in there. We called Bush Hill.
P.K.:	Was that next to Oak Hill? A different hill than Oak Hill?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Oak Hill was more over this way.
P.K.:	More east?

Elizabeth Douglas:	East, right. Aunt Molly's - this way, over on this territory. You look at it and see if I'm not just about right. [They both are now looking at the map.]
P.K.:	Here's Chinquapin. This little line here.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right. Right.
P.K.:	If this is Macedonia and Oak Hill is here, and Bush Hill is up here. Is Bush Hill behind where Chinquapin runs?
Elizabeth Douglas:	More this way.
P.K.:	More west.
Elizabeth Douglas:	West. And then there was down in the bottom, you come all the way down, there was a spring. That's where we got our water.
P.K.:	On this side of Chinquapin?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right, where Chinquapin is now, down in that bottom.
P.K.:	Where the parking lot is of the church?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, you see where it says "Nature's Trail"?
P.K.:	I've been down there.
Elizabeth Douglas:	You see where they got "Nature's Trail"? I can go down there and show you two springs. John McGinnis had one spring and we had a spring more up this way because we went across the street and rode and went down there. And that branch that run all the way down from the Episcopal, all the way down through here. And you can go down there and you can see the pipe, great big pipe. You can go in there and stand up in it. It runs all the way down through there. We used to go down there and swim in the holes.
P.K.:	Was that a quarry?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right.
P.K.:	Whose quarry was that?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Let me tell you. When I was little, I used to hear my father say, "I see such and such a person going up near—it's either Mose Banyard's Hill or Mose Banyer's Hill"—I don't know which one, but I used to hear my father say, "going up that way, going up that hill, that's Mose Banyer's Hill."
P.K.:	How would you spell that?
Elizabeth Douglas:	I don't know. It's either Banyard or Banyer. I don't know which

	one but I used to hear my Father say, "That's Mose Banyer's Hill."
P.K.:	I'll have to look into the spelling of that.
Elizabeth Douglas:	And then, later on, if you take particular notice, if they have it on the map there, John McGinnis.
P.K.:	I see McGinnis on the map.
Elizabeth Douglas:	He lived down there. He had the spring and he had a garden. And he had a sugar cane presser, that he grew sugar cane.
P.K.:	Really?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right. Had all the machinery down there.
P.K.:	Well, you know, maybe next Tuesday you want to come down to Alexandria Archaeology because they are digging at the Sugar Mill this year.
Elizabeth Douglas:	They are? [Spoken wistfully]
P.K.:	You might be interested. Maybe you could both go down on Tuesday night. I'll tell you more about it.
Elizabeth Douglas:	All right!
P.K.:	It will be interesting.
Elizabeth Douglas:	The sugar cane stood about, oh, it might have gotten to be five feet or six. Then, when he tasseled, something about the tassels, that it was right, we would go down there and he would give us sugar cane. The horse would go 'round and 'round and 'round and this presser would press the sugar out of the cane.
P.K.:	And the juice? Where would he take it?
Elizabeth Douglas:	He would take it down there in Alexandria, somewhere and they would turn it into…
P.K.:	Molasses.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Molasses. Right.
P.K.:	He would get the sugar back then?
Elizabeth Douglas:	He would get the sugar, right. But that was the first time that we'd ever seen anybody do that, but he did. We were growing up and then he had, let's see, mules, and horses, and everything down there in that bottom. I never will forgot it, on one Thanksgiving evening, we can't say, or we will not say because we don't know, and you can't accuse anybody of anything, that place was set on

	fire and it burnt down and they had no place to go. And I tell you who was in charge of that place: Mr. George Stewart. [Said emphatically]
HM:	Mr. George Stewart who was a member of Emmanuel Church then? George Stewart?
Elizabeth Douglas:	George Stewart was some kind of constable or something other for the Episcopal or the Seminary or something. I think it was the Episcopal.
HM:	Well, I know George Stewart. I meet with him every Wednesday morning.
P.K.:	Do you?
HM:	George Stewart, yes.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Is he an old man?
HM:	He is 82 years old. He is 83, I think. But I know he was in the State Department for a long time and he traveled all over the country.
Elizabeth Douglas:	That's not him.
HM:	And he came back here. No, it probably is a different person.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Uh-uh! That's not him. [Spoken emphatically]
HM:	Well, he spells his name very funny, too—S-T-E-U-A- R-T.
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, no, no, this was George Stewart, and if you look up the record of that, he would go around. Now, for instance, I'm going to tell you. Now this was when I was a little girl. We had a great big dog. It must have been, I don't know whether it was a collie or whether it was a sheepdog or what. But they had sheep all out in the pasture, cows and everything. And they would go out there. You know how the cows roam all around and the sheep? William Carpenter was the one who would milk the cows. Some dogs was killing the sheep. Well, they come down here, Mr. George Stewart did, and he says, "William, I don't want to accuse any dog of anything unless I know it is the dogs." He come down here and, sure enough, he opened the dog's mouth and there was hair, sheep's hair, in the dog's mouth. They took the dog and killed the dog. He was killing the sheep and it was some more of them. Other people's dogs was up there killing the sheep. So this couldn't be the same George Stewart! I think Mr. George Stewart has been gone because he has been gone like Mr. Daniel and all of them is gone on. So, therefore, Mr. George Stewart, he was in charge of

	John McGinnis across that hill there. I don't know what happened and I can't say. But I know on a Thanksgiving evening, the house burned down. [Spoken softly] They don't know how it happened or what. They emphasized it this: that they did find, like somebody put…
P.K.:	Had set a fire.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right.
P.K.:	Put something down. Suspicious.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Damned suspicious and it's still suspicious. Nobody ever knew anything about what happened.
P.K.:	Hmmm.
Elizabeth Douglas:	But the spring and that clay bank that we used to eat that clay out of was simply delicious.
HM:	[Laughs.]
Elizabeth Douglas:	I'll always think of eating that clay.
P.K.:	Yeah?
Elizabeth Douglas:	I dig the first part out and go up in there and get the clean part.
HM:	[Laughs.]
P.K.:	And you ate it.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Sure! It has a sour twang to it. It's delicious, though.
P.K.:	We used to dig in Lake Erie in the clay bank and then model little things out of it and let it dry.
Elizabeth Douglas:	We used to mold it, make dolls and everything else we could ourselves.
P.K.:	What kind of games did you play when you were a little girl?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Let me see. We played hide and seek, jump rope, and most of all…
P.K.:	Did you make hollyhock dolls? Dolls where you pick the hollyhocks apart and make dolls out of them?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, we made them out of the chinquapin.
P.K.:	You made dolls out of the chinquapin?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Out of chinquapin. [Laughs.]
P.K.:	How did you do that?

Elizabeth Douglas:	What we did, we strung them.
P.K.:	[Turns tape - some of interview is lost.] And I had to switch this over.
Elizabeth Douglas:	…pound cake. She put a pound of everything in it, the butter, the dozen eggs and everything. And they would start around the middle of December, the cookies and the pound cake and the fruit cake and all. And they'd have it. Then they would have this wine that they would serve on Christmas morning to people that come around all day. And they'd have the table set and they'd have little barrels, you know, little small barrels and they had a spigot of wine. And they would have grape wine, dandelion wine, cherry wine, and peach wine.
P.K.:	Sounds good to me! [Laughs.]
HM:	[Laughs.]
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, I noticed that when Christmas was gone, all the wine was gone and the jugs was put away until the next time. So, evidently, it was good.
P.K.:	It wasn't like those wines at the marriage of Cana where they refilled themselves.
HM:	[Laughs.]
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, no, no, no! Not like they do now, no. I think what it is now is that you could not use a dandelion now. I'll tell you the reason why. With all the spraying and the things that they have to spray with, you would not make dandelion wine now because you might poison somebody and you couldn't do it. But then, I don't know whether it's safe now to make cherries and different things because, on account of, they spray different stuff, you see. But, I'll tell you, it was more pleasant.
Family History and Recollections	
Elizabeth Douglas:	And we would go to see Grandmother. Grandmother was in Alexandria.
P.K.:	Your father's mother?
Elizabeth Douglas:	My mother's mother. Now, my father come from Bedford, Virginia. He had 16 brothers and sisters.
P.K.:	Nice family!
Elizabeth Douglas:	Now, my mother come from Accotink. She had ten brothers and

	sisters.
P.K.:	Down here, Accotink?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Accotink, Virginia. I tell you, Grandmother, after Grandpa Isaac died, he died on a Christmas Eve. He went to work and come back home and he died on Christmas Eve and they say that he had pneumonia. Grandpa Isaac come into Accotink. Nobody knows the history of where he come from. We know a very little about Grandpa Isaac, only they think Grandpa Isaac must have been up from slavery. And when he got ready, he was released. He didn't cut a leave right away. I think he just left when he got ready. He's never given a history on himself. But now, Grandma Susan and Grandpa Ebner, who lived in Bedford, he was a little small man that rode his horse. He had just like a plantation almost. He would ride horses backward. He never put a saddle on his horse. He was a little, small man with gray, long hair and she was a tall woman that looked just like an Indian. And my mother's mother was just the opposite. She was kind of about, I would say, 5 feet and something and she looked like an Indian. So did Grandpa Isaac but we never knew the history of Grandpa Isaac. After Grandma moved to Alexandria, we went down on Sunday and we were the only ones around here had a horse and a buggy, and the buggy had the fringe on top. Here's where she lived. [Pointing to map] She lived on Washington Street, where Demaine is now. There was a warehouse in front and Grandma Laura lived in the back of that.
P.K.:	Washington and what street?
Elizabeth Douglas:	We used to call it out on the hill. It's just Washington Street. You know where Demaine is? Demaine's Undertaking Parlor?
P.K.:	Demaine's, yes.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Right there. Well, in front of Grandma was a warehouse. Now I was so little, I can't remember the name of that warehouse. But the warehouse was in front and Grandma's house was just about, I would say, from here up there in the back of that warehouse. It had a three story house on it. Now, Mr. Demaine has a parking lot. And he made from the warehouse, where Grandmother lived in the warehouse, you notice he's got that great big place and the rest of it farm.
P.K.:	Okay, I'm not familiar with that.
Elizabeth Douglas:	On Washington Street. Well, we used to go down there every Sunday to see Grandma but first, we would stop at the train station,

	Union Station, and we would watch the trains go by.
P.K.:	Union Station, Alexandria.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Alexandria. Right down here and we would watch. That was the biggest treat we had. But when you got to Grandma's, you had already had your dinner. "Now don't you go telling Grandma that you want to eat!" Now, maybe if Grandma had some dessert, that was fine, but you could not go and ask Grandma or tell Grandma that you hadn't had your dinner because you had.
P.K.:	And you had to sit and be very good?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Very good!
P.K.:	And not talk?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Not talk. You said nothing. You see, all of my folks is musical people. Now here, they would come here, I remembered. They would open the living room on a Sunday, the weekend. The pastor would come, Reverend Barnes. That's the first pastor I knew. And Reverend Mills was the last one served. Not Reverend Preston but those two. I was baptized under the Reverend Barnes. Reverend Barnes and his family would come. And we would have to, on Saturdays, get all the food, line it up for those preachers to come because he would bring his family and some more preachers, too! We would have all the chicken. We would pluck chickens until we got tired, and everything else. Of course, if I had to stand on the stool, I had the dishes and all the other stuff. Plus, after they'd gotten everybody eat, I would say to my sister, "Let's have a piece of bread and sop the gravy out of the pan." She looked in there and she said, "No gravy to sop!" Mama would come out and she says, "There's plenty to cook. You all cook it." But we were so tired, we didn't cook anything. They didn't cook anything. They eat what they could pick up, you see. Most of all, we had the outdoor privy, as I call it. We had to scrub it once a week.
P.K.:	In back of the house?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Over there on that side. Well, now, they put some kind of disinfectant in the water. We scrubbed it, had an old broom, and we'd scrub until it was white, all the floors - everything. People don't keep inside clean as that, not now. And they'd whitewash it! Go out there and take the brush and you'd whitewash the toilet. Well, then, when everybody come, why everything would be clean. We had the Sears and Roebuck catalogue. When my mother and them ordered everything they wanted out the Sears and

	Roebuck catalogue, that's what went in the toilet for toilet paper.
P.K.:	I always thought that was just a story. That's really the truth!
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, ma'am, it is truth! [Spoken emphatically]
HM:	I was visiting my aunt and uncle on the farm, we used the same thing, the same outhouse. Same catalogue.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Same catalogue!
P.K.:	[Laughs.]
Modern Plumbing	
Elizabeth Douglas:	See, then, they didn't start to having this scavenger man to come along until it was way in the [19]50s when the scavenger man stopped. Because, all along, the scavenger man would come and put buckets in. But before then, they had to move that toilet from where it was. Buried, with dump soil. Lime. They kept on every week putting lime in there. Then, of course, after that, now, they never started putting this sewage in until in the [19]50s. When they started putting that in, of course, then you had to pay $250 for the tapping of the sewage plus you had to give your land for the sidewalk. We never got a dime. [Pause] That's the way they did it. I don't know!
P.K.:	So they charged for the sewage and then put the sidewalk. And don't pay you for the right of way for the sidewalk.
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, indeed. $250 for the tapping on of the sewage.
P.K.:	Sounds like a lot of money, if you're back in the [19]50s.
Elizabeth Douglas:	It was. Everybody was scrapping. And then we had to get a contractor, a plumber, in other words.
P.K.:	So, if you couldn't afford that, then naturally, you'd keep your outhouse, right?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Oh, you couldn't!
P.K.:	You couldn't.
Elizabeth Douglas:	It was against the law. I've got a well out there now that's full of water as can be. And let me tell you about that well. When everybody else's well went dry, everybody come to get that water. One of these days, I'm going to ask the city to give me permission to open that well so I can have water to water my grass with instead of using the city water because I can put a pump in there. Right? That was the best water around here. Our well never did go

	dry. But they wouldn't let us use the water. We had just had it cleaned out and they said we had to close the well in.
P.K.:	Hm…well, I don't know how that goes with asking permission. It seems reasonable.
Elizabeth Douglas:	You have to ask permission it you want to use it.
P.K.:	It wouldn't have those chemicals in it either.
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, ma'am! That was the best water that you've ever drank.
P.K.:	Was it real clean tasting? Did it have an iron taste? Or a sulphur taste?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, it was just good. Tell you the fact, it tasted better than this water that you buy in those bottles.
P.K.:	Did you use a bucket or did it have a pump like this?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, I'll show you in there when you've gotten on to it. I've still got it out there. It's a wheel, and you put the chain on it and the bucket and you pull the water up.
P.K.:	OK. Was a long ways down there? Was it a deep well?
Elizabeth Douglas:	It was pretty deep, but not as deep as some of these people had wells and they went dry. But we had a good well out there and there's where the driveway was around this side, see? Now, this house was moved back. The driveway come around that way. The steps come up from the road. I'll show you a picture where you can see. See, this house, when it was moved and after the well had to be shut up, they moved the house. They never gave a dime for anything. We had to pay for the tapping on of the sewage. Plus, we had to pay a plumber to put in the bathrooms. Now, we had two, three bids. Mr. Harris was the cheapest. I think it was C. B. Harris, I think it was. He was the cheapest one. So we gotten him and I'll be doggone, after five or six years, we had to have all of the pipings and everything changed to copper!
HM:	Oh. [Spoken with understanding]
P.K.:	So you paid twice, huh?
Elizabeth Douglas:	We paid twice.
Entertainment at Liberty Hall	
P.K.:	A little bit further back when you were talking, you mentioned Liberty Hall, where you went to school and that they used to clear that out and you would have entertainment there.

Elizabeth Douglas:	Right!
P.K.:	What sorts of entertainment would you have?
Elizabeth Douglas:	They had dances.
P.K.:	Was that like with a band and teenagers or grown-ups?
Elizabeth Douglas:	They had their own bands. Some all around here played different instruments, you know. They would have raffles. They would sell dinners and everything to help the church, doing things for the church and the community.
Elementary School	
P.K.:	About the beginning of the church, Oakland Baptist, where they first met in a school. And then the school burned down. Can you tell me that story?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Can't tell you much on that. All I can tell you is this: Papa said that it burned down about 1900. He don't know how it burned down or nothing. But at first, it was a little schoolhouse, that's what he said.
P.K.:	And was it on Oak Hill?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Oak Hill.
P.K.:	So it was across the street behind Macedonia?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Oh, yes, over this way. Like going towards Chinquapin.
P.K.:	Where T.C. Williams sits?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, T.C. Williams is sitting on the ground where Seminary School used to be. Part of it. Part of T.C. Williams is also sitting on Macedonia, we used to call it. I tell you, that we had cemeteries over there. I don't know what happened to the stones or anything. We used to go there every morning, we had lunch period and wash up and pray over those stones. Then, we went on down, you go on down that lane there. I said there was Smith Roy. We used to get the water out of his well for the school in the buckets. Bring the bucket back, the boys would, and sit it on the table. They had a cup there for you to drink out of and I carried my own cup so I could drink out of my own cup.
P.K.:	You were part nurse back then! [Laughs]
Elizabeth Douglas:	Yes, yes! I wanted my own things. Right, right.
P.K.:	So you didn't have running water in Seminary Hills School. You had an outside toilet?

Elizabeth Douglas:	Yes, ma'am, and four rooms. We had the 8th grade, the first and second. See, in those rooms, they had two or three classes. You'd have a first and second and then you'd have third and fourth and then fifth and sixth or seventh and eighth. I went as far as I could go up there. That's the reason why I had to either go to Alexandria or go somewheres else to school.
P.K.:	Do you remember the teachers' names?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Yes, ma'am. Now, Mrs. Geraldine Stevenson was my teacher. We had Miss Campbell, Miss Glass, Miss Janie Ross, and Mrs. Kosner.
P.K.:	Was there a principal?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Mrs. Geraldine Stevenson was the principal. And Beatrice Terrell would substitute when one of them didn't come in. But we opened in the morning with a hymn. And a prayer. We had one half hour devotional every morning. One child would get up and lead the devotion. Then, we would salute the flag. "I pledge allegiance to the flag and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." [Said with meaning] Now, we had to do that. I think they banned it out of the schools now. I don't know. I don't think they have it anymore in school.
HM:	I don't think so but I know they have it at every Red Cross meeting. The only thing they added onto the Pledge of Allegiance is "one nation under God, indivisible." Now, they added that on to it. I don't think they have it in the schools.
Elizabeth Douglas:	I don't think they have it in the public schools anymore.
P.K.:	I don't think they do either. Were the boys unruly, or the girls unruly in school? If they were, what would happen?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, let me tell you. You had to be a lady or else your parents was called in. The ones that were unruly and the teacher or principal called in, they would get a flogging right in front of the class, the whole class.
P.K.:	Is that with a paddle?
Elizabeth Douglas:	The father would flog them with a belt or the paddle or anything he'd get his hands on, they would right in front of the class!
P.K.:	I guess they weren't bad very many times.
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, ma'am! There was a couple of them would repeat it, you know, and they would get a flogging again. Well, we had two real

	bad ones and that was Garnet and Joseph. Well, Garnet was the oldest and Joseph, they were brothers. They would get into more mischief. When they started to running that pipe all the way down from up there to Fort down the hill there, seemed like to me they went in there and they took a firecracker and they lit it in the pipe. I declare, when they got to school, you didn't even know how they [Laughs]…their clothes on [Laughs]…the coal [Laughs]. Now, I'm talking about Mag Holes. Mag, you see, she's one of the family. It was one of her son's children. When he come down there, he didn't care what they looked like. [Laughing as she speaks] He just started flogging them right away, right in front of the class. So therefore, we were very good. You had to be a lady or a gentleman. You had to say, "Yes, ma'am" and "No, ma'am." You had to say "Thank you" and "Please" and the boys would have to tip their hats. That's the way Mama raised all of her children, just like that. You have to tip your hat. Of course, my father always done it anyway. So we were raised real good.
Neighborhood Cooperation	
Elizabeth Douglas:	Now every one of our family mostly was musical. Mama had a piano, one of those old, big pianos. What do you call them old…?
P.K.: and HM:	Upright?
Elizabeth Douglas:	A great big one. My brothers played. My brothers also played guitars. My father played a banjo. We would have all kinds of singing and entertainment. But we had it at home. Then, once in awhile, Miss Irene Terrell would have a party. It wasn't a school night; you had to wait until Friday night. She'd have the party, 12:00, "Go home!" She'd stay out there and she'd watch you go, ones go this way, ones go that way. And she'd watch you up until you got home, made sure that you gotten home. But now, she was the outspoken one. Now, if she looked up and seen you coming up the street, maybe you found a penny out there and you was going up to Uncle William's to get a sucker or something in that store. She says, "Do your mother know you're up here?" "No, ma'am." "Go right back!" And you'd turn around and go back. Now, you'd tell a kid go back now, you see what he'd do, he'd keep on going!
P.K.:	There was a lot of cooperation.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Cooperation. Now, if one killed a hog first, everybody got a piece of the meat. Whoever killed first, they would share. People wouldn't do that now. If you wanted salt or pepper or something, sugar, and it was evening and you had nobody to go to the store.

	That's all you had to do is send a cup and you would get. The milk, the cows went dry, somebody had cows, after all, they shared. You'd have a quart of milk and they would have a quart of milk, too.
P.K.:	And nobody kept an account here, "I gave her a quart of milk."
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, no, no, no, no! No, no indeed. For instance, you take my mother. My mother used to have, I think, every boy and girl that had grown up. Mama would let them sing and all and play the piano, and they would dance and everything. She'd probably make one of these sheet cakes and have some kind of lemonade or something and give it to them. That was their entertainment. But I said like this, "Now, if they call that entertainment these days, they would throw us out!" We couldn't have that kind of entertainment now. Because, I'll tell you the reason why, they wouldn't like it. They'd like something else.
P.K.:	Something busy?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Busy, that's right.
P.K.:	So that was back before you had electricity? Or did you have electricity? A radio?
Elizabeth Douglas:	The first radio we had was in the [19]30s. I remember just as good. It was a standing one and we had it in the living room. You could only see it when they let you see it. You had to get your lessons. You'd done your chores in the evening. Went out there and picked up chips, and gotten in coal. Ever saw those old the big iron stoves? And you done your chores. You had your dinner, then your homework. At 9:00, you was to bed.
P.K.:	Not a lot of time for yourself?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, and you had to wash. No, let me tell you, you had to wash. Say, you had three dresses for school. The day you wear those stockings, you had two more other pairs of stockings, but you had to wash those stockings out to let those stockings dry. Every night, you would have to do that because you would have to have clean stockings. Now on Sunday, you had two dress-up dresses and your dress-up shoes. After that, you didn't have like the children did now.
Cookies, Candy and Favorite Foods	
Elizabeth Douglas:	Papa used to come from the market on Saturdays and we'd wait for him. He'd bring all kinds of cookies in the boxes. They were both

	five cents a box. You know, like Ginger Snaps.
P.K.:	Bought cookies?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Yeah, in the box. That was a treat. They would buy lemon snaps. And some time, he would bring a whole big, used to come in a round, looked like a bucket, with ginger snaps in it. You ever seen? It was round.
P.K.:	I know Ginger Snaps because my husband's Grandpa is Swedish and he eats Ginger Snaps. Those little, real flat ones.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Flat ones. And he used to bring, we used to call it a barrel of them. It's shaped like a barrel. Well, it was painted up and everything. He would bring that and here's the candy that we would get. He would issue it out all week, that peppermint stick and the ho-hum stick. You ever eat ho-hum candy?
HM:	Yeah.
Elizabeth Douglas:	It was in the stick. That's what he'd give us. Now, maybe two or three times a week he'd give it to you.
P.K.:	Like this?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Just like that. Peppermint stick and a ho-hum.
HM:	Ho-hum stick was brown.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Brown, right.
HM:	And it has a peculiar taste.
Elizabeth Douglas:	It kind of taste like medicine.
HM:	Some people like it. I like it!
Elizabeth Douglas:	I like it! I learned to like it.
P.K.:	He likes it!
Elizabeth Douglas:	I don't want anybody to offer me any raisins because my father stuck raisins down in our throats and they were on the bunch, you know, a bunch of raisins. Bless my soul, on Christmas morning, you would get up and there was a bunch in your stocking. A bunch! That's the reason I don't eat raisins now. I don't want any raisins. [Laughs] And I was a funny eater. See, I was a person that did not care for food. And I tell you the only time that you got a real treat, I did, was on Sunday when we had chicken. That's when the preachers didn't come and eat it all. [As an aside. Laughs.] And I'll tell you something about it. People would hardly believe now

	that you cook the feet and the head and everything. They would cook all the chicken.
P.K.:	What was your favorite food to eat, if you had any?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Chicken.
P.K.:	Chicken.
Elizabeth Douglas:	That's right.
P.K.:	And a pie, or a cake?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, no, a certain kind of pie. I like a caramel cake and I would also like coconut cake. But I did not like the other things that they had.
P.K.:	You didn't like fruit pie?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, no, I don't care for fruit pies. They baked too many of them. My mother had all kinds of cobblers. Every kind of cobbler you could name from blackberry, strawberry, and on down.
HM:	You mean to tell me you didn't like peach cobbler?
Elizabeth Douglas:	No, sir. They said she used to bake them.
P.K.:	You were a peculiar eater! [Laughs]
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, listen. Anytime anybody in the [19]40s go to the hospital for malnutrition, you know it must have been that I didn't eat. Well I didn't.
HM:	How about chitlins?
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, .[Pause] we had so many of them, too. Well, I can eat them. [Not said convincingly. Laughs] But we had that and we had rabbit. My brothers used to go hunting and get rabbit and I was so crazy about animals, I couldn't make it to see.
P.K.:	Those cute little bunny rabbits!
Blossom and the Punchbowl Chicken	
Elizabeth Douglas:	And my poor pig. One year, she had a litter of about 11 and there was a little teeny one about this big. They called it the runt. Papa said, "I've got to take this out, Betsy." He used to call me Betsy. He says, "You'll have to take care of it." I brought it in, put it in the pasteboard box, and put it behind the old kitchen stove. That little pig followed me everywhere. It grew to be about as big as, not a big poodle, but one of the miniatures, I guess. I used to go to Sunday School at 3:30 in the evening because everybody around here was working. The pig followed me one Sunday and he gotten

	his back broke.
P.K.: and HM:	Oh! [Spoken sadly]
Elizabeth Douglas:	And I cried and we cried. The pig's name was Blossom. Everywhere I go, that pig would go. Even if I come in the house from outdoors, you see that pig grunting and coming looking for me.
P.K.:	[Laughs]
Elizabeth Douglas:	So, Mr. Eugene Pollard, he lived over across there in Macedonia, he says, "Aren't you all going to eat it?" Papa says, "Eat him? My children wouldn't eat him!" Mr. Eugene says, "Let me have him. I'll eat him." I said, "No! I want a funeral!" [Laughs]
P.K.: and HM:	[Laugh]
Elizabeth Douglas:	So we had a pig funeral and we cried over the pig and everything because she was just like a person. Well, the chicken was the same way. The little old chicken was born in the winter almost. Just cold. Brought the chicken in the house, raised the chicken. Chicken walking around in the house like she owned the place. Come in everyday and jump in Mama's punch bowl, lay her egg and go on out the door singing. Peculiar.
P.K.:	Oh, my goodness!
Elizabeth Douglas:	Yes, indeed.
P.K.:	A hand delivered, chicken delivered egg. [Laughs]
Elizabeth Douglas:	Jump in the bowl, in her good bowl. I mean punch bowl, now!
P.K.:	Yeah, I hear ya!
Elizabeth Douglas:	Jump up, get up on that buffet, get in that bowl. You would hear her just singing, going on out the door. She would stay out there with the chickens all day long. At night, Daddy was at the door. Even the cow tried to get in and she was too big then.
P.K.: and HM:	[Laugh]
Elizabeth Douglas:	So, really, I couldn't do anything but have animals. I loved animals. So that is the reason why I couldn't eat Blossom.
P.K.:	I understand that.
Elizabeth Douglas:	You couldn't eat him either, could you?
P.K.:	No, I can't eat bunny rabbits or squirrels or any of that.

Elizabeth Douglas:	I'm never going to the store to buy a rabbit because they take those little white rabbits off that farm and kill them. I couldn't eat that.
P.K.:	My brother-in-law tricked me one time. He caught a deer and made deer stew and didn't tell me.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Did you eat it?
P.K.:	Yeah, I didn't know! No, I don't like to eat deer.
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, can't you taste how wild that taste?
P.K.:	I don't know. He tricked me!
Elizabeth Douglas:	Well, let me tell you what happened about the deer. I used to roast the deer legs for the Mays. But what I would do, I would soak the legs overnight. You'd have carrots and onions, and I don't know. I put everything in there to kill that wild taste, but then after it had gotten done, I didn't eat it. They ate it. No.
"Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant"	
P.K.:	I know last time we were here we talked about the tombstone down at Fort Ward that said, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Could you tell me about that?
Elizabeth Douglas:	I used to cry. Oh, yes. [Pause] "Well done, my good and faithful servant, Virginia."
P.K.:	Virginia!
Elizabeth Douglas:	Virginia. Well, I'll tell you we were going to school up there and we would take our lunch. Time for lunch, we would go down there. We would set there and we would cry. I would cry over and cry over. I wondered why the Lord, if she was so faithful, why did the Lord put her down in that hole down in there and put dirt on her? But we, at the time, being small, we did not realize that she wasn't there. It was only the old house she used to live in was there. But I says, "Poor thing! Why did the Lord have to put her down in the hole and throw dirt on her if she was a good and faithful servant?" But then, after I grew older, I got up in one morning thinking, I says, "Now, she's not there. That's just the house that she live in." And that is true, she's not there.
P.K.:	Those little girl tears.
Elizabeth Douglas:	I tell you the truth, I think that was more tears that I shedded even if I got a spanking because the poor soul was there. Yes. And I loved that. I think about that now. I go up there to the Fort, I have

	to look at that grave.
P.K.:	Well, I think we are going to finish up because we need to be at another place and we want to take pictures. I want to thank you very much. Thank you.
Elizabeth Douglas:	God bless!
P.K. and H.M.:	Thank you! [End]