



City of Alexandria  
Office of Historic Alexandria  
*Alexandria Legacies*  
**Oral History Program**



**Project Name:** *Alexandria Legacies*

**Title:** *Helen Knight and Marion Knight Redmond*

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**Location of Interview:** *Not stated, possibly Mrs. Redmond's home in the Rosemont section of Alexandria, Va.*

**Interviewers:** *Christine Ramacker and Ted McCourt*

**Transcriber:** *Sara Devine*

**Abstract:** Helen Knight and Marion Knight Redmond are two lively sisters who lived in Alexandria their entire lives. The elder, Helen, remembers details about growing up at 427 South Fairfax Street and also recalls many of the family's neighbors and relatives. The sisters discuss summer vacations, childhood games, their first family car, and moving from Old Town up to the hill near the Masonic Memorial.

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T.M.:	Good.
Helen Knight:	My father and mother had a big church wedding, but they didn't go on a honeymoon. Instead of that, he built this brand-new house at 427. And they were married on New Year's Day, uh, 1890. That house was just finished, it was built in 1889. That house is now about 93 years old. It still looks good, doesn't it?
T.M.:	Yes.
Helen Knight:	And, uh, I was about three years old when we left. And I was looking up, uh, some old records and I found the check that Papa paid for [\$47.50?]. He had five children while we were in 427, which is only two doors away from 417. Well, after he having five kids he needed more space. So I saw this check among the old things some of the family had. And it was June 17, 1902, and it was made out to Laura H-O-U-C-K. How do you pronounce that? [Someone replies "Houck"] I can't pronounce that word. [Someone repeats "Houck" followed by some intelligible comments] And, uh, Kate Coleman, I guess, they were sisters I think. And Laura was the wife of Alonzo, Alonzo. Well, Mama and Papa [unintelligible]. We were different—delighted to get into that 417, because it had that nice big yard playing from Fairfax Street to Royal and it had an orchard back there and had beautiful flowers [sisters exchange unintelligible comments] and they were the nicest people, those people we bought it from.
T.M.:	Do you remember anything about the Colemans? About Kate Coleman, or...?
Helen Knight:	Well, I can remember going there when they were negotiating and they were very, sweet, gentle, aristocratic, very kind. I remember that, uh, big parlor, you know that first room, the long room, uh they had red velvet draperies in the windows, of course the windows were hard to fit, they were custom-made and they insisted on Mama keeping those and they gave us a table that would be valuable today. This table had a crank on it and you could wind it so it would serve only six people but then you could wind it so it could serve twelve to fourteen people. And after we got into, uh, that house, I had two other sisters born there. [Marion interjects "...was born there"] And a sister between Marion, who was younger than myself and...what was I talking about?
Marion Knight Redmond:	You were talking about the table and...[unintelligible]
Helen Knight:	Oh yes, and she, they just told us to keep that. [unintelligible conversation between the sisters]
Marion Knight Redmond:	She gave us all the draperies because she said it just fit the house. I just know this from her 'cause I was just a year old and, uh, Mama

	always spoke well of them, that they were nice people.
T.M.:	Do ah...
Helen Knight:	Everybody in that neighborhood was nice. I'm telling you all my mother, uh, all my father's family lived down there on Gibbon Street and South Fairfax Street. Right near the tunnel.
T.M.:	Great. Yes. Um, I'd like to ask you a little more about the house when you first moved in. They left you the red drapes, um, do you remember what the wallpaper was like, did they have wallpaper at that time?
Helen Knight:	Yes, every room was papered. I remember, uh, you know you go in sideways...
T.M.:	Yes.
Helen Knight:	..and they have a long room on Fairfax Street. We call that the parlor. Well, it was a right wide hall and, uh, didn't go back far, but was wide this way. And the staircase, front staircase, went up into what they call the [unintelligible] room. And under the staircase was a closet and we kept like a [unintelligible] closet you know, piled everything in it. Well, it was full of [unintelligible] and then upstairs over the parlor there were two big bedrooms and on the other side of the hall is what we call the boys room and that was the room that we had for, uh, the colored girl that was with us at the time. And uh, on the side, you know that part that projected there was a great big, uh, bedroom and downstairs was the big dining room. Well, we had uh, a winter dining room and a summer dining room, a winter kitchen and a summer kitchen. That extension was our summer dining room and back of that was a kitchen and over that was where my oldest brother had his dark room and believe me he did some pretty good photography back there in 1908. I've got a picture...
T.M.:	Do, do you have many of his photographs left?
Helen Knight:	Well, no, when he got married I begged him not to do it, but he burned everything up because he didn't think his girl [unintelligible due to laughter]...
T.M.:	Oh no... boy
Helen Knight:	But, I've got one picture I'll show you of...
T.M.:	That's a pity.
Helen Knight:	...under that horse chestnut tree. I was five years old when my younger brother was about three and that picture is 73 years old and [unintelligible] since it was taken [unintelligible].
T.M.:	The reason I asked about the drapes and wallpaper, when the tore

	down or remodeled the house this past fall, they took down the inside walls and there was wallpaper revealed underneath it from a much earlier period -
Helen Knight:	Yeah, there was wallpaper when I was there...
T.M.:	And I was just curious—it had a red border across the top and it had grayed. It was a floral design I was wondering if that was something you might've remembered or...
Helen Knight:	No, I...I can remember the boy's room of Bobby...Bobby Lynn [uncertain of spelling], we called it the boy's room. Clint had his own room, uh, they had just little rosebuds on the, on the wall. And I remember the hall room because we used to sit up there with Ma and wait for Pop to come home from the store and that was sort of a rust color. It was very good, good taste.
Marion Knight Redmond:	All the homes in those days, I think, had wallpaper, you hear of paint the walls then. I've always liked wallpaper, that's why I got it down, 'cause I've always liked it because I was raised up with it.
Helen Knight:	Uh, downstairs they had that long hall and on the other side of the hall is what we called the sitting room, instead of living rooms, we called it sitting room and I remember the floor was crooked in there, it kinda sloped like.
T.M.:	Do you remember which, uh do you recall which room—
Helen Knight:	I was only three years old, but I can remember that.
T.M.:	Do you know which room she was born in? [unintelligible chatter between sisters]
Marion Knight Redmond:	Do you recall which room I was born in?
Helen Knight:	Yes, it was the second room over the parlor, you know the parlor was on Fairfax Street and you were in the second room.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Second room or second floor?
Helen Knight:	It's on the second floor, the second room in the front. You [unintelligible]...I remember the night you were born. [unintelligible exchange] I can't remember when [unintelligible name] was born, but I can remember when you [Marion] and Edith were born.
Marion Knight Redmond:	There were eight of us, and she's the fourth child and I'm the seventh child.
Helen Knight:	And I can remember going to that, uh, we moved the colored girl, let me help her to move, you know like you give a kid something to carry and I was so tickled because I was in on that, and I got home and told Mama about the beautiful old fashioned garden. You don't

	see the kind gardens they had, they had the lace slippers and bachelor buttons and black-eyed Susans and all those kind of flowers. We didn't keep them, those old ladies had them.
<b>Grandmother Knight</b>	
T.M.:	When you moved from 427, um, did your grandmother also live with you?
Helen Knight:	No, she lived on Gibbon Street.
T.M.:	Oh. I see.
Helen Knight:	And she lived at 209 Gibbon and that house still stood today. It has those high iron steps in front of it. And I remember when we were kids, you could play all day and get your clothes soiled and that's all right, you could get as dirty as you want. But by four o'clock you were bathed and dressed for supper. Everybody dressed for supper in those days. It was so different. [unintelligible exchange with Marion]
C.R.:	Did you have formal place setting also?
Helen Knight:	Yes, yes, you didn't eat in the kitchen in those days, you sat, you ate in the dining room you know. And no paper plates or anything.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Sis, on Gibbon did you notice in the <i>Gazette</i> the other night that you were familiar with those pictures as you were—do you get the <i>Gazette</i> ?
Helen Knight:	No.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Well they've been putting in pictures of old scenes.
Helen Knight:	The way we were.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Yeah, the way we were. There was a picture of a boy standing at a pump. They used to have pumps on the corners, right down near Grandma Knight's on the corner was a pump. I tried, but you couldn't tell whether it was her block or not, because the picture wasn't that clear.
Helen Knight:	This old lady used to sit out there with a shawl around her, and smoke a corn pipe.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Right on the corner, she wasn't the keeper of the pump, was she?
C.R.:	Do you remember her name or any stories that went along with her, what they thought she might do?
Helen Knight:	No. I want to tell you about going to my grandmother's house. She had about 20 descendants at the time, grandchildren, great grandchildren. And she'd hand each one of us a straw mat to sit on and depending on how soon you got there whether you got a place

	to sit. Now she has about 150 descendants, she had 20 at that time.
Marion Knight Redmond:	You could sit on the front step and that mat [unintelligible]
Helen Knight:	And she would sit on a rocking chair facing us, but all the grandchildren lined up.
Marion Knight Redmond:	She's got a picture of all the family taken in the side yard of this house at that time.
Helen Knight:	I'll show them, I'll show them that.
C.R.:	When you sat there, did she tell you stories, or why did...?
<b>The Riverfront and Games</b>	
Helen Knight:	Oh well, they would go through the neighborhood gossip and the kids would walk and bike and she was stern, she could keep the kids in line you know. But another thing we did, you know the automobile changed the style of life for everybody, it used to be wonderful, that river was so busy and Union Street was full of industry. The old tunnel, Southern Railway was constantly coming through there with freight for the steam ships you know, and a footman for industry. And uh there's Windmill Hill, Windmill Hill is no more, they leveled it off, 'round there on Lee Street, the 500 block.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Well hadn't exactly level, well, it goes out to a certain degree and then it's down further at the Marina, right along in there.
Helen Knight:	Well Marina's was a big hill there.
Marion Knight Redmond:	There was a big hill, but...
Helen Knight:	When John Smith came up to the top [unintelligible] discovered what later became Alexandria, Alexandria was like a farm, a bank [unintelligible], but gradually it's all been...[Unintelligible] is about the only thing left that's a hill.
T.M.:	That's on Church Street.
Helen Knight:	But that used to be a big hill there, Windmill Hill. And I remember when we'd get dressed and go to grandma's house, we'd go around there, that was our park. And we'd sit there and toss McAllister, the big excursion boat and we'd make up poems like "Tossed McAllister painted blue, took my girl to river view," and play mumblety-peg and do all the things that kids did. But...
C.R.:	What's mumblety-peg?
Helen Knight:	Huh?
C.R.:	What is mumblety-peg?
Helen Knight:	We played with a penknife and uh...

Marion Knight Redmond:	You put it on the back of your hand and flip it up and the way it hits the ground—I never played it, boys played it mainly.
Helen Knight:	Kids don't play outside, television's made...
Marion Knight Redmond:	They do, she says they don't, but the little girls across the street play jacks, they jump rope, and they skate. But she isn't down, we don't have any real little children around us anymore, and she thinks they don't play it, but they do.
C.R.:	Are those similar games that you played?
Marion Knight Redmond:	We skated and we jumped rope and played jacks a lot.
C.R.:	Did you have any jump rope rhymes that you—
Helen Knight:	No.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Yes, salt, vinegar and pepper and...
Helen Knight:	They probably call it something else now.
Marion Knight Redmond:	...and uh that one, double Dutch. I saw someone play the other day double Dutch and the ropes go this way, you know, you probably have jumped that haven't you?
Helen Knight:	I was always too chicken when it came to that. Although I was always on wheels as a kid, either skate or bicycle.
<b>Transportation</b>	
T.M.:	Do you remember when you were on Fairfax Street, uh, what kind of a transportation or vehicle did your father have—did he have horse and wagon? When did he get his...
Helen Knight:	Well, my father, when he was married, he was printer for the <i>Alexandria Gazette</i> and he was making good salary. Then the printing press came in and threw him out of work, he started a small business. He was in business where you all are now, that was his store, 60 some years he was in business there. [Knight's Hardware and Toys, pictured on page 3; the Archaeological Research Center was located temporarily at 625 King Street.] And what was the question?
Marion Knight Redmond:	About transportation—Papa had a horse and buggy.
Helen Knight:	Oh yeah, of course he had a Packard [?] for his business. And we had a carriage that carried two in the front seat and two in the back seat, fringe, uh with the fringes.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Surrey with the fringe on top.
Helen Knight:	And we had a brick stable—Papa built that brick stable back there—he built that. And he had a outside toilet put in there I

	remember, ah...
T.M.:	There was nothing there before he arrived, did he expand it or did he build it?
Helen Knight:	He built that stable, I'm quite sure, back before [19]17. I'm quite sure he did, I'm not absolutely sure, but I think he did. See, his brother was a builder, contractor, Julian Knight, and he built 427. He built the store where you are.
<b>Neighbors</b>	
Marion Knight Redmond:	None of that buildings went all the way back to Royal Street, did they?
Helen Knight Redmond:	Oh no, but there was shacks down there, Uncle Fry, the old colored man, the shoemaker, I remember him, but I don't remember anybody else other than him.
C.R.:	What do you remember about Uncle Fry?
Helen Knight:	He was an old colored man and uh, he was very old and he repaired shoes and he was a gentle old man. As a kid that's all I remember, I don't remember anything else.
C.R.:	And everyone called him Uncle Fry?
Helen Knight:	Uncle Fry. Well you know they called colored people Uncle and Aunt then, I don't know why, I never even did then. But they called almost all of them Uncle when they got some age on them then.
C.R.:	Were there any other memorable people in the neighborhood that you—
Helen Knight:	No, well just the people, our friends, that we knew, now they were good people. They were like a family you know. Now, at Christmas, the people on the corner that run the grocery store would always give Mama a package of complimentary, you know Christmas gift.
T.M.:	Would that of been Frank Adam's store or would it...?
Helen Knight:	Well, I remember Mr. Adam's store, that was on the corner of Duke and Fairfax I believe, but this was McKinney's on the corner of Wolfe and Fairfax.
C.R.:	That's where you did most of your shopping?
Helen Knight:	Oh yeah, we did most of our shopping at McKinney's at that time. But to show you, now, my sister that's older than Marion was born in 1905, 417 [not sure if the number is in reference to a date or the house number]. And in those days, a woman had a baby, she had to stay upstairs a whole month. Isn't that terrific? They couldn't come downstairs, couldn't walk the steps. Now they got them out of the

	hospital the second day. For the first few weeks they can't eat much more than tea, drink tea and eat a very light, bland food.
C.R.:	What was the reason for that?
Helen Knight:	They thought that... and then they would bind them up, bind their stomachs up and all like that—it was a big deal for somebody in Alexandria anyhow.
Marion Knight Redmond:	They thought a woman was delicate after she gave birth and they took good care of her.
Helen Knight:	And Mama was tough as it came, she wasn't delicate. I'll tell you what happened. My brother, Herbert, he was, I was two years older than him, he was a little brat. He set the wagon on, he and his pal were playing with matches, and set the wagon on fire and these poor old people that lived next door to us, it was a man and his wife, and uh, I guess it was his sister, it was his female relative, they ran in with buckets of water and put that fire out. And Mom [unintelligible] told Mom that it was on fire and Mom came down, the heck with tradition, to help fight the fire and they were yelling "Oh Ms. Knight, you're in no condition, go back, go!" And Mama, what they could do all together, Mama could do in one swoop. [laughter]
T.M.:	Do you remember your neighbors in 415, Thomas Scotts?
Helen Knight:	They, they're the ones I'm talking about. The Scotts. They were nice people. They were lovely people. They were the ones that were putting out the fire, they were trying to protect Mama, since they loved Mama.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Are some of them still living?
T.M.:	I don't know, but I know that they had lived in that house a long time.
Helen Knight:	You mean that little house that goes back like—
T.M.:	Yes.
Helen Knight:	Yeah, and you see back there is an alley and we could, that alley came into our yard, you know it was right next to our yard and when they saw the fire they came over to put it out. And they were distressed when they saw Mama coming down, they thought she was breaking all the rules. [laughter] She wasn't about to see that place go up.
T.M.:	What was Mr. Scott like as a man, was he friendly?
Helen Knight:	Well, he was very quiet, they were all quiet. You know, Alexandria really originated with the Scottish people, 9 out of 10 of them were Scottish. There were English and a sprinkling of Irish at that time,

	but it was...
C.R.:	Was it kind of with the Scottish people pretty quiet, what kind of characteristics—
Helen Knight:	They don't talk any more than they have to talk. [laughter]
T.M.:	Now, your friends in the neighborhood, were they mainly people that lived on Fairfax Street?
Helen Knight:	Fairfax, all of them, were all Fairfax.
T.M.:	Did have more friends across the street or more friends...?
Helen Knight:	Yeah, we had friends across the street too. Then there were Nolans lived on the other side of us, and that little blonde brick house next to that, that was built between the time we moved. I remember when that house was built, I guess that was built in about 1905, of something like that. Mr. Groves built that house.
T.M.:	That would've been 429?
Helen Knight:	No, 425.
T.M.:	425.
Helen Knight:	You see, 417 would be, 417, 419, 421, then Nolans were 423. And the blonde house was where a cousin of mine lived, that name was Brach [not sure of name]. They're all dead now. And then next to that was 427, where we lived. I don't know how they sold the house, a couple years after we left there, but he leased first, I remember that. He didn't sell it right away. He didn't sell 417 right away I don't think. He rented it in between.
<b>Renovation</b>	
Marion Knight Redmond:	Have they completed the renovation at 417?
T.M.:	Just about. They still have a few things to do, they, it's a major change.
Marion Knight Redmond:	How many homes are there now?
T.M.:	Oh, just one.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Just one?
T.M.:	Just one.
Marion Knight Redmond:	I thought they were gonna build some row houses, are they still talking about that?
T.M.:	They still may do that later, in back, in back.
Marion Knight Redmond:	So right now it's just the original home that's been renovated, is that it?

T.M.:	That's right.
Helen Knight:	Did they add on that L-shaped [unintelligible].
T.M.:	They tore down the L-wing and they built a three-story wing up in its place.
Helen Knight:	I see. That was a nice place to [unintelligible].
Marion Knight Redmond:	And where about they used to keep a horse, would've been behind that L-shaped...
Helen Knight:	Yeah, there was brick building behind there.
Marion Knight Redmond:	I've never been in it at all.
T.M.:	That's going to be the bath house.
Helen Knight:	I'm going to have to draw you all a sketch of the house, you know what I mean. An architectural...
C.R.:	What was the walkway, the brick walk way in the back of the house?
Helen Knight:	I'll tell you what that was, it was like a courtyard. It came out long like this and then there was even a room beyond that L-shape, what we called the summer kitchen and uh, it had steps go down out of the summer kitchen, and steps to go down out of the winter kitchen, the summer dining room, and that made just like a little courtyard in there. It was pretty. And even though the main, there was a shed, when we were there, in back of the kitchen.
C.R.:	So just you used the walkway?
Marion Knight Redmond:	I could get you a little some iced tea, I've got plenty more and some more Tab...[tape cuts off at 365, picks up again at 389] That was the [unintelligible] bug.
<b>Relatives</b>	
Helen Knight:	There was eight of us all together. But one of my sisters was born after we moved up to Prince Street.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Would you like a cushion or something to sit on?
T.M.:	No, this is fine, this is, I need to be down on the floor to operate. Do you remember the brick sidewalk that went behind the house?
Marion Knight Redmond:	Uh no, I don't remember a thing about that house, nor do I remember...
Helen Knight:	She was only uh, she wasn't quite a year old.
T.M.:	Well did you all still maintain your friendships after you moved?
Marion Knight Redmond	We did [practically in unison].

and Helen Knight:	
Marion Knight Redmond:	And all of our relatives, well practically all of them, of course, had passed on, and at one time we had two or three aunts and uncles and my grandmother and all the cousins all had homes down there. And every one of them, let's see there's only one cousin that still owns property there, but she doesn't live there.
Helen Knight:	Yeah, she lives on, I think, [name unintelligible, Aubrey Madison?] still owns some too. Let's see, Louise Dodge...[the rest unintelligible]
Marion Knight Redmond:	Louise Dodge does I know.
T.M.:	Were you all related Thomas Hoy in anyway?
Helen Knight:	No, but we were friends.
Marion Knight Redmond:	No, but the family was, uh huh. They had a tin business across the street from us on King Street.
Helen Knight:	Yeah, Elizabeth Hoy...
Marion Knight Redmond:	You say Elizabeth the other day.
Helen Knight:	Yeah, uh huh.
T.M.:	Well at one time they also lived right across the street on Fairfax were they living there when you were there? Maybe they'd moved by then.
Helen Knight:	I don't remember them living there when we did.
Marion Knight Redmond:	I don't either, but like I say, I was young, so uh...I remember the Prince Street neighborhood, I don't remember them.
Helen Knight:	People named...and, and another thing 'bout those people, the Garners lived next door to the Scotts, people named Garner and this Mr. Noel Garner...uh, became a distinguished lawyer later on. There was good, solid middle class people in that neighborhood.
<b>Playing in the Neighborhood</b>	
T.M.:	Well, when you were children you played mostly with people on Fairfax Street, did you have any contacts with the people back on Royal Street? No?
Helen Knight:	Never played back there. We didn't play in the other yards. Mama said we had a whole yard there to play with and kids could come play with us and they did because there wasn't any reason for us...
Marion Knight Redmond:	Well, that same condition existed on Prince Street where I grew up and we played with children on both sides of the 200 block of Prince and that 207 Prince, which is next to the—you're familiar with it-next to the what do you call that?

T.M.:	Atrium?
Marion Knight Redmond:	Atrium, right there. Well that, next to that is our house and the yard. It's the only house on both sides of that block and had a yard that comes out to the pavement all the rest were like row houses. They've taken the fence down and that Ms. Moore had it fixed so that cars could drive in there. But when we lived there it was beautiful front lawn and of course there was plenty of room to park on the street there. But, um, we only played with the children, mainly, that lived across the street. The ones that lived on the hill going down Lee Street we hardly knew. Just seems that the way it went, you know.
T.M.:	So that true of Fairfax Street as well?
Helen Knight:	Well, no, I played with kids across street there.
Marion Knight Redmond:	But you didn't on Royal Street.
Helen Knight:	People names [unintelligible], people named Tennison [?], uh, well Garner, I tell you about Mr. Noel Garner. He was about 21 when I was 7 or 8. Well I went to St. Mary's Academy, which was left down on the corner of [unintelligible] and Prince Street. Now they've turned it into a convent [?]. Of course it moved, St. Mary's Academy moved down on Russell Road. Well, he was a young man, finished college and all like that but we would leave the house at the same time and he would carry my books for me and make conversation with me to make me feel important. [laughter] But everybody was just like him, a home away from home, you know.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Sis, when I was growing up on Prince Street, of course you were about 2. Mr. Noel Garner had his office right there at the corner of Prince and Fairfax. I don't know where it's at now.
Helen Knight:	Near Judge Garner's office.
T.M.:	Do you remember anything at all about the people that lived behind you on Royal Street?
Helen Knight:	No, I didn't know any of them, only Uncle Fry.
<b>St. Mary's School</b>	
T.M.:	The names Catherine Seaton wouldn't uh...do you remember the Seatons by any chance?
Helen Knight:	I've heard the name. Probably Cathy. I think I knew somebody at St. Mary's named that, but I'm not sure. I didn't know all them.
T.M.:	There was a St. Mary's colored school on the corner of Wilkes.
Helen Knight:	Parochial school, yes.

T.M.:	Do you remember that one?
Helen Knight:	Yeah, but it was white [unintelligible] at that time, it turned colored later, but it was white at the time that I remember.
T.M.:	Did it face, did it look like to you that it might have been an old house that had been converted?
Helen Knight:	You know, I can't remember what it was about, I went to St. Mary's...[tape side ends]
<b>Family Pictures</b>	
Helen Knight:	[laughter] I want to show you, you know that, what do you call it? Horse chestnut tree...?
T.M.:	Horse chestnut...Well, I don't know how [Clint?] ever got this thing blue, but...
Marion Knight Redmond:	Christine, did you need that lamp on? Can you see?
C.R.:	Oh, I can see fine.
Helen Knight:	I treasured this little picture. This picture is 77 years old, and that's my brother, my little brother and myself under that horse chestnut tree. Very incidentally that grass needed cutting. [laughter] Now he did that 77 years ago. And it's in blue, I can't understand. All his other pictures were in black and white.
C.R.:	But your faces came out so...
Helen Knight:	Huh?
C.R.:	It's so clear, it's really in focus.
Helen Knight:	And my brother was two years younger than I. Lord, he's been dead for years. All our brothers have died. We were four boys and four girls and all the boys died.
T.M.:	That same fence was up last year, too.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Yeah, that's true, that's true.
T.M.:	They just took it down.
Marion Knight Redmond:	She's got some better pictures here.
Helen Knight:	Yeah, this is a nice one. That's my mother, that's my mother, the ladies [unintelligible] and my little brother and I. And a person came along the street taking pictures, you know and...
C.R.:	That was uh, did they do that very often?
Helen Knight:	Oh yes, oh yeah. We had a lot of services in those days, the hurdy-gurdy man...
Marion Knight Redmond:	Now that's the same fence, isn't it?

C.R.:	Who's the hurdy-gurdy man?
Helen Knight:	Don't you know what the...
Marion Knight Redmond:	..the monkey jumps around and holds the tin cup.[unintelligible as sisters talk at the same time about different things]
Helen Knight:	...see that was summertime when that was taken. Now I gave Mrs. [unintelligible] the women who just to left there this picture taken in wintertime, wasn't it Marion?
Marion Knight Redmond:	I don't remember.
Helen Knight:	I gave to [unintelligible]...
Marion Knight Redmond:	Oh, oh., yeah I think so 'cause there were no leaves on the trees. It was similar to that.
T.M.:	I notice there's ivy growing on the side of the house where the new people have built a great big chimney, a big fireplace.
Helen Knight:	Oh, and they've planted ivy now.
T.M.:	No, I don't think they have ivy growing yet. There's a big fireplace where you have a nice bit of ivy.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Now, do you do any research work down there now, or is it all over? Is this just part of it?
T.M.:	This is just part of it, we still have things to do. Do you remember the color of the house, was it always white?
Helen Knight:	It was gray, wasn't it? [mumbled interchange between sisters] I'll show you some pictures. My father had a family picture taken every year—tradition. Oh he was great for that. And he'd always have his mother and my mother's mother. And I picked out two of them, once is taken in the Fall. They had it for everyone of us. Marion, you got in three, you got in three pictures, I only got in one.
Marion Knight Redmond:	You only got in one?
Helen Knight:	No, I mean, I got in all of them. But, Olivia only got in one.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Well, she was the last of...well shortly after they stopped having them made.
T.M.:	[To Marion] When your father moved into 417 and left 427, did you rent 427?
Helen Knight:	These tree here were crepe myrtles. But this was taken in the Fall, I'll show you this first, because...
Marion Knight Redmond:	I'm not sure, I'll have to ask her. Did Papa rent 427 right away or did he sell it?

Helen Knight:	No, he built it. It was built before he was married.
Marion Knight Redmond:	No, honey, when he moved up to 417.
Helen Knight:	Oh, he rented. He rented.
Marion Knight Redmond:	He rented for a while?
Helen Knight:	He rented for a long time.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Do you remember who to?
Helen Knight:	People named Lash I believe.
Marion Knight Redmond:	The Lashes? Well they're the ones, oh, [unintelligible interchange between sisters]
T.M.:	Oh, the Rambeaus, do you remember the Rambeaus?
Helen Knight:	Maybe the Rambeaus did, but that was after Papa.
Marion Knight Redmond:	The Rambeau family lived across the street from us on Prince Street too. Mary Rambeau.
Helen Knight:	Well the Rambeaus could've lived in that house too, 'cause a lot of people lived in the house...
Marion Knight Redmond:	Well I wouldn't remember.
Helen Knight:	...after Papa sold it. But the Lashes were the only ones that he rented to.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Then he sold it to, to who? Who'd he sell it to?
Helen Knight:	I don't know who he sold it to. Not the red brick house.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Not the Allens, did he?
Helen Knight:	No, it wasn't the Allens. A lot of people came in there before the Allens got there. Now, they were crape myrtles. And that's the Fall, that's why they're so...
Marion Knight Redmond:	Did they have any crape myrtles down on [unintelligible]...?
Helen Knight:	...I'm showing you first because that's Marion.
Marion Knight Redmond:	This is the time of year they're in bloom.
C.R.:	That's you? [Two different conversations continue, Helen with C.R. and Marion with T.M., hard to tell the exact conversations, but Helen is pointing out family members in the pictures to C.R. and Marion is asking T.M. about the renovations of the house.]
T.M.:	The man who sold them that property kept the Royal Street lot himself, so I think he's trying to sell that separately.
Helen Knight:	...but that was taken in the summertime and this was taken in the Fall. I'll show you backwards [to T.M.], 'cause you wanted to

	Marion, see that's Marion. And these were crepe myrtles, but that was taken in the Fall, that's Fall there. But this is myself, my mother and father...
Marion Knight Redmond:	They were all taken in the side yard, weren't they, Sis?
Helen Knight:	Yeah...my mother's mother, and this was my father's mother.
T.M.:	Oh, so this would be Mrs. E.E. Knight? Is that..?
Marion Knight Redmond:	R.E. Knight
T.M.:	R.E. Knight...ah...
Helen Knight:	But this was a better picture, that's taken in the summer time, that was before Marion was born. My other sister was the baby then. And see how full it is? That's...these were crepe myrtles, the uh, this is the horse chestnut tree right there.
T.M.:	You said that you had carved your initials in that when you left?
Helen Knight:	[laughter] Yeah, that's been gone many years.
T.M.:	Those are very nice.
Helen Knight:	[unintelligible]...that was right before we moved. That's my little brother...
T.M.:	It's a very attractive family.
Helen Knight:	...and here's my big brother.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Are Grandma Knight in any of them?
Helen Knight:	Yeah, she's in both of them.
Marion Knight Redmond:	She's the one that lived on Gibbon Street.
Helen Knight:	She's on of the little old ladies...in black.
Marion Knight Redmond:	In black.
T.M.:	And her husband was Ferdinand? Is that right?
Helen Knight:	Yeah...how you know that?
T.M.:	I keep up. [laughter] He does his homework.
<b>The Hurdy-Gurdy Man</b>	
C.R.:	What other services did you have in the neighborhood—that you were talking about, the photographer and the hurdy-gurdy man?
Helen Knight:	Oh, you know what a hurdy-gurdy is. They have these big organs and went around...
Marion Knight Redmond:	The monkey would hold a tin cup for people to throw pennies in.
C.R.:	Did you have a special hurdy-gurdy man in town that you

	remember his name?
Marion Knight Redmond:	No, no special...
Helen Knight:	The man with the monkey would...
Marion Knight Redmond:	You didn't know anybody by the name, did you?
Helen Knight:	No...nuh huh. And then...
Marion Knight Redmond:	They went on for a long time, cause you know she worked Southern Railway in Washington and she said they used to come around the neighborhood and everybody working would run to the window and pull out the dish to throw out money, you know.
Helen Knight:	But you know all the streets in Alexandria were cobble stones except the one on Prince Street and Lee Street when I was, uh, 9 years old. Great big cobblestones. Washington Street looked like a cow pasture because the moss had grown on the cobblestones, so.
<b>Father's First Car</b>	
T.M.:	Do you remember when your father bought his first car?
Marion Knight Redmond:	Oh yes...I remember that.
Helen Knight:	I remember the first car I ever saw, belonged to Mr. Ander...they always argued about that though. Some people said Dr. Orville had the first one, some say Mr. Anderson.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Well, Papa's first one was a Buick.
Helen Knight:	Clint had one long before...
Marion Knight Redmond:	He had a Dodge.
Helen Knight:	A Dodge, yeah and Papa's was a Buick.
Marion Knight Redmond:	But the Dodge...our oldest brother had a Dodge touring car that the top was cork and then in the back there was diamond-shaped eyes in the glass to let the light in. But Papa's, I think his first car was a Buick. I was...I mean, I can remember that.
C.R.:	What did most of the people think about the automobiles, did they...?
Helen Knight:	They went crazy over them, just kids go crazy over them today. [Sisters begin talking at the same time about cars.]
Marion Knight Redmond:	You'd pile as many people in them. Oh Lord, now you got close to...[unintelligible]...but they didn't, a lot of people didn't get a chance to ride in one, so if they hadn't come around when you go on a ride, they'd all pile in.
Helen Knight:	It was all we had, I couldn't wait to get home and get in that car. I, was about now six months, had two lessons and had a bad accident,

	it wasn't real bad, but I drove for 15 years after that and never had an accident, well I was just crazy. Isn't funny how young people are crazy over automobiles?
C.R.:	Were there any superstitions that went along with them? No one was superstitious about...like your mother or your grandmother?
Helen Knight:	Well now, they wouldn't let me drive. I'd just had two lessons, because the man gave me two lessons.
Marion Knight Redmond:	You mean if you were young and just had two lessons. Well they teach you in school now, don't they?
Helen Knight:	Joe Nolan taught me.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Like I say, I was just telling Ted that in those days if you were going to go for a Sunday ride, anyone that happened to be around would pile in the car because they didn't get that opportunity to often. And that's against the law now, to over crowd a car.
<b>Music and Dancing</b>	
Helen Knight:	You know I remember the first electric light I ever saw. I remember the first airplane, first automobile and the first telephone, first of everything. And my father, he was a go-getter; he would have the first of everything too. I remember he had some of these cylinder records and the neighbors used to come in, like coming to a concert, to hear us play those Edison records, you know. Wish we had some of those cylinder records now. We threw away a lot of them.
Marion Knight Redmond:	You wouldn't have the machine to play them on.
Helen Knight:	Hmmm?
Marion Knight Redmond:	I said, you would not have the machine to play it on.
Helen Knight:	We kept that machine, we took it up on Prince Street.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Uh huh...that's been a long time.
Helen Knight:	Remember it had a case where you could fit them?
C.R.:	Did you have, did people come and dance, or...?
Helen Knight:	No, my father was a Methodist, he thought that dancing was a sin, but he became a [unintelligible] by the time Marion came along...
Marion Knight Redmond:	Yeah, after he got four daughters, he couldn't combat it, he had to let loose. He was against playing cards and against dancing. But his oldest boy, well Sis got mixed up between, he had three sons and then Sis, and a son and he had three daughters, and like I say, we ganged up on him later and he had to go ahead and let us dance because there were too many against him, but Sis was raised with

	the boys.
Helen Knight:	Yeah, you know what Mama said? They met in Sunday school, Papa and Mama did, and they were good Sunday school, church people and she said her greatest regret in life was she never learned how to dance. Course she was naturally a gay sort of person.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Yeah, in the old sense, you know. Not the new sense, they destroyed a good word. [sisters chuckle]
C.R.:	Did you ah...
Helen Knight:	Let me tell you something about the streets, or the cobblestones. You know in Mama's day when she first moved down on Fairfax Street, they had horse cars. The trolley cars pulled by horse, well I remember a person got sick, I remember there was a man on our street, I don't remember who it was, but he got very ill and the city would, rope off, rope off the street, imagine them doing that now, just because a man was terminally ill...
<b>Summertime</b>	
Marion Knight Redmond:	Well I can remember my childhood on Prince Street. And in the summertime, of course, down where the, do they still call it the [unintelligible—Norfolk Wall?] at the foot of Prince Street?
Helen Knight:	It's gone, Mary.
Marion Knight Redmond:	It's gone, but I mean the <i>Dandy</i> doesn't come in there, the <i>Dandy</i> comes in a lot further, but right at the foot of Prince Street was the big wall, called [unintelligible—Norfolk Wall?] and the Baltimore boats would come from Baltimore and stop there and go back and forth to Baltimore and they would stop at Colonial Beach in Virginia, too which is 85 miles away. But, on a summer night, when they would stop at the [unintelligible name—Norfolk Wall?], all the kids in the neighborhood would run out in the block because they would put their big search light all the way up the street and kids would all run out there and dance around in the search lights. I can remember that, that was a summer night sport.
Helen Knight:	You know Jones Point, they used, well that, you can't imagine what it was then, there was traffic and this family lived in the light house at Jones Point and they operated the light house and when we were coming back from Colonial Beach for the day, we would know we were home when that big old search light come out, you know.
Marion Knight Redmond:	The Jones River was pretty then. Well, it's improving now, they say it's much safer to swim in it and fish in it now that it was, say, five years ago.
Helen Knight:	Well it was [unintelligible].

Marion Knight Redmond:	Well when we were kids, Papa would get reservations on this Baltimore boat and it would leave the Prince Street Wharf at uh, I forget what time of day, but you would be on the boat all night long and so you get a stateroom. He'd get a stateroom because Mama had so many kids, she didn't want them all sitting up on the deck because they'd get sleepy and you felt like you were taking a long trip because it took you a long time to get there. Now you can get down there in an hour and a half by car.
Helen Knight:	They had a paddle steamer that went down there too, called the St. John's and it was a regular little paddle steamer.
Marion Knight Redmond:	You ever been to Colonial Beach, Virginia?
T.M.:	I never have it's, there's, I understand there's a revival of Colonial Beach and they're trying to bring it back.
Helen Knight:	It used to be a little Atlantic City.
Marion Knight Redmond:	But it's still interesting. You ever been there, Christine?
C.R.:	I've only lived in the area, well, about a year.
Helen Knight:	Where'd you come from?
C.R.:	I moved here from Texas.
Helen Knight:	From Texas, oh Darcy would love her...
Marion Knight Redmond:	Yeah...
Helen Knight:	Darcy loves Texas and everybody that comes from Texas.
Marion Knight Redmond:	We have a cousin who lives in, she loves Texas, she loves to visit there, except the hot weather she said.
C.R.:	I moved to Texas in [19]73 from Jamestown, New York, and that's right on Chautauqua Lake and in your other interview, you commented on Chautauqua...
Helen Knight:	We used to go there every summer.
Marion Knight Redmond:	We used to go to Chautauqua, not to Cha...
Helen Knight:	I know, but I mean, we just looked forward the whole year...
Marion Knight Redmond:	She lived up at Chautauqua Lake, is that where it originated?
C.R.:	Yes, the circuit would begin at the lake, there's now a summer resort area that's still there and it would begin at Chautauqua Lake and go, went down through Texas even.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Really? Well isn't, doesn't Chautauqua still exist?
C.R.:	Yes, I used to work there in the summers when I was—
Marion Knight Redmond:	Uh huh, I've read about it.

Helen Knight:	Oh I loved it, we would go, Papa would get each one of us a ticket...
Marion Knight Redmond:	And see, for the whole week, and they had good entertainment too...
C.R.:	They came for a week?
Marion Knight Redmond:	...morning, afternoon and night. Morning kids, afternoon for children and grown-ups, night was strictly plays for grown-ups, but in general...
T.M.:	Did a lot of people participate from Alexandria?
Helen Knight:	Oh yeah, everyone in town used to go to Chautauqua.
Marion Knight Redmond:	And they used to pitch the tent down near where, let's see what you'd recognize, that big lot where they just opened a little bank in a trailer there, behind...
Helen Knight:	Wreath Inn and now, or uh, [unintelligible] Inn...
Marion Knight Redmond:	...you probably don't remember the [unintelligible—Reed?] Gate because they just tore it down just recently. In other words, where the Metro station is, well it was a big field they called Baggit's Field and they used to pitch the Chautauqua down there.
Helen Knight:	And they had fairs there.
<b>Alexandria Residents</b>	
T.M.:	You just brought up a name that I'd like to ask you about, the Baggit family. There were Baggits that lived on your street, on Fairfax, when you were on Fairfax Street?
Helen Knight:	Well they lived on the corner of Wolfe and Royal, they had a store on the corner of Wolfe and Royal. Oh, that was the Woolses, they were married to Baggits. That Wools family...
Marion Knight Redmond:	Anna Baggit's father, who ran the meat counter was a butcher, in the old market in Old Town. They lived down on Lee Street, but I don't remember which...
T.M.:	Do you remember Nelly Baggit? Does that..?
Helen Knight and Marion K. Redmond:	No...[in unison]
T.M.:	She might've been before your time.
Helen Knight:	Now, there were people named Bayne on...
T.M.:	Lawrence Bayne?
Helen Knight:	And Evans, E-V-A-N-S, and the McKinneys and Hepburn...

T.M.:	Let me ask you something about the McKinneys. There was a Charles H. McKinney and I believe there was a Charles S. McKinney, I think his son. Do you remember what their occupations were?
Helen Knight:	No, I don't remember them. What was that, Leo was the only McKinney man that I...
Marion Knight Redmond:	Leo McKinney seems to me used to have a delivery service.
Helen Knight:	But his name wasn't Charles. Their father was a sea captain I think.
T.M.:	Yes.
Helen Knight:	Yeah, uh huh, they used to bring watermelons up out on the sidewalk and everyone would go to buy watermelons, you know.
Marion Knight Redmond:	The later generation that came along the time I did, but I don't know what his first name was, but he was a postal clerk at the post office, he was a descendant of them. He would be a man, not quite as, he's dead now, but he wasn't quite as old as I am.
Helen Knight:	Do you have a record of anyone named Callahan along there? I don't guess you do, the Callahans lived where the Garners did before...
T.M.:	On Fairfax Street.
Helen Knight:	Uh huh, before the Garners did.
T.M.:	I recall having seen that name, but I can't remember.
Marion Knight Redmond:	[unintelligible]...Aubrey Callahan?
Helen Knight:	Yeah. They lived there at one time before the Garners did. They were nice people. You know, to this day, all my uncles and aunts and my grandma on Papa's side, lived on South Fairfax Street and Duke. And I went down there to see them as long as they lived, up [unintelligible], the must've died about 10 years ago. They all lived, well she was 90, and all were way up in their 80s. And now I don't have any excuse to go down there and I don't go. But I have more of a sense of reality walking along South Fairfax Street than I've ever had any place in my life. You know, I just felt real, I guess that's what the first years of your life and that, nothing ever dims those years, I don't think. I think those were the best years of my life.
T.M.:	Those were your roots, and good memories.
Helen Knight:	Uh huh. That's cause I live in the past.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Where were you born, Ted?
T.M.:	I was born right here in Alexandria, actually. Alexandria Hospital.

Marion Knight Redmond:	Is that right?
Helen Knight:	I think you would be, in the hospital.
T.M.:	Where the Atrium I think now is. But I grew up out in the City of Fairfax.
Marion Knight Redmond:	When Donnie, the second baby born...
Helen Knight:	Yeah, Donnie, our niece was the second baby born...
Marion Knight Redmond:	...the second baby born in that Duke Street Alexandria.
Helen Knight:	She should have been the first one, the other one beat her to it. [laughter]
Marion Knight Redmond:	So you've been in this area then all your life?
T.M.:	Just about yes, except for a little time in Front Royal and Fredericksburg.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Front Royal?
Helen Knight:	I love Fredericksburg.
Marion Knight Redmond:	My husband and I, before he died, for about 20 years had a little place up above Front Royal in a little town that was 12 and 1/2 miles, you'd go to Front Royal and you'd go up to Browntown. Do you know where that is? And then you kept on going in a circle and you'd hit Bentonville. Does that ring a bell?
T.M.:	Now you're getting pretty far afield from me.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Browntown is where our place was and I mean it was pretty mountains up there, pretty scenery.
T.M.:	Gorgeous.
Helen Knight:	When you [unintelligible].
T.M.:	Something that I'd be interested in knowing, is you said that you had fond memories of the Colemans, were they...
Helen Knight:	Well I remember meeting, as I said I was only 3 years and 7 months old, I can remember when two years.
Marion Knight Redmond:	My first memory in my life was when I went to first grade school and I was 7 years old. And she tries to make me say I remember people but I don't.
Helen Knight:	I think she does. She doesn't like the past.
Marion Knight Redmond:	I can really remember the first day I went to school and beyond that I don't.
T.M.:	Do you remember your father talking at all and possibly mentioning why the Colemans and the Houcks deciding to sell their

	house?
Helen Knight:	Well I think they were right old when they, they were great friends of people across the street named Everett.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Named what?
T.M.:	Edmond?
Helen Knight:	Everett.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Evert?
Helen Knight:	Everett, E-V-E-R-E-T-T. You know that, what do you call those things?
Marion Knight Redmond:	Flounder?
Helen Knight:	Flounder house across the street on that block that's down near the corner near Wolfe. Well, there were people named Everett, old people too, and they were great friends of theirs as far as I can remember.
T.M.:	Do you remember a family that also...?
Helen Knight:	I can't document these things, it's just what...
T.M.:	Do you remember a family called Eveleth? James Eveleth. Or maybe it's pronounced Eveleth, E-V-E-L-E-T-H?
Helen Knight:	You know that might have been them. Maybe I got, they were right across the street, about , now let me see if I can get the number, it would be about...406?
T.M.:	That would be about right, yes. James Eveleth.
Helen Knight:	I bet that is.
T.M.:	They were related.
Helen Knight:	Well I know they were great friends, so you see, things come back to me.
T.M.:	Julia Eveleth was Katie Eveleth's aunt.
Helen Knight:	Well, and another thing, Mary—tell them about the table that we moved you off to Virginia, she was a niece of the theirs.
Marion Knight Redmond:	From 207 Prince Street, the family moved up to 501 Upland Place. That's up there on the hill, are you familiar with the [Masonic] Temple, up that way? Well, my mother and father moved because by that time two of my brothers were married and had homes of their own and I got married at 207 Prince Street and my husband and I lived at home for, well we moved from Prince Street with the family, up on 501 Upland Place. To make the story shorter, we didn't live there too long, before we bought this house and came

	down. But when my father died first and when Mama died, we, sister and I, we had a single brother that still lived up there with Mama. And when Mama died we broke up the house and each one of the kids, the children that wanted something, that would fit in there, well my other sisters were married by then, took something. So during, in fact these two rugs, worn out now, but I got those among the things, and this huge dining room table. Nobody had room in the house for it. Mama in the mean time had put it in the basement and had gotten a new dining room set. So, when we hadn't sold the house, were gonna put it up for sale, we eventually ended up renting it for a couple of years, out. But this table we put in the basement, well we knew we had to get everything out and we didn't know what to do with the big table and finally the colored boy that drove the truck, one of them that drove the truck for the store, he said that he'd like to have it. So that beautiful hand-made table went to him.
Helen Knight:	But you called, didn't you? You called Virginia [Wheat?] and asked her if she wanted it.
Marion Knight Redmond:	No, I didn't.
Helen Knight:	Well somebody did and she said she didn't want it. Virginia Wheat was related to the Houck family.
Marion Knight Redmond:	That's where the table originally came from.
T.M.:	Do you remember the man's name who finally took the table?
Marion Knight Redmond:	Yeah, his name was Charlie Taylor, that finally took it, but whatever he did with it afterwards, I don't know. He went on to work.
T.M.:	Did any of the people that worked for you live back on Royal Street?
Helen Knight:	No, not at all.
Marion Knight Redmond:	I wouldn't know, but I never heard y'all [unintelligible]...
Helen Knight:	I didn't know anybody on Royal Street, you see. My life was all centered on the front of all that house. I don't recall I ever went in the back.
T.M.:	Did you all have a piano?
Helen Knight:	Oh yeah. All of us girls had to take...
Marion Knight Redmond:	She let all four girls take lessons...
Helen Knight:	You had to take them.
Marion Knight Redmond:	..only one really, to this day could play real good, my sister Edith. But sister and I didn't pick up notes and that's...

C.R.:	Did you sing? Did you sing along when you played the piano? Did you..?
Marion Knight Redmond:	Oh yeah, we'd sing. Oh yeah, that was a favorite time because my sister Edith could play so good.
Helen Knight:	She could play to this day.
Marion Knight Redmond:	And she can to this day. She lives at Colonial Beach, Virginia, and she plays well and we go down there and [unintelligible] and I've always still tried to sing. [laughter]
T.M.:	I bet it still sounds good too.
Helen Knight:	I never knew, I remember there was close relationship between, I thought the people, in my childish mind, I thought them named Everett, but I knew there was a close relationship between those people, because you could just tell you know, but I thought they were friends, you said they were sisters?
T.M.:	Yes, I'm trying to think how that worked. Julia Eveleth was the sister of Caroline, Carolyn Coleman, who would've been the mother of Kate Coleman, who you've remembered.
Helen Knight:	Well you sure know the neighborhood better than I do.
Marion Knight Redmond:	You used to know people down there named Lucas too, but I don't think...
Helen Knight:	Well, they were way down, they were on the 600 block.
Marion Knight Redmond:	600? Well that's just a couple over.
Helen Knight:	Well he's, you're just interested in the 400 block aren't you?
T.M.:	Primarily, but we like to find out about what the associations and friendships were.
Marion Knight Redmond:	Some of the names, I knew them after we were up on Prince Street, but, of course Papa having a business, hardware business, a lot of those people dealt with him, of course, and I got to know them working at the store when they would come in.
Helen Knight:	Mary and Julian were the business managers of the store.
Marion Knight Redmond:	My brothers were, I kept the books. But you got to know a lot of people by having a store, you know.
Helen Knight:	Well and they got older, you took on as [unintelligible].
Marion Knight Redmond:	Well, yes.
T.M.:	The reason I ask you about the piano, I recall when the house was sitting over the last couple years, unoccupied, there was still an old piano that was in the parlor on Fairfax Street. And I was wondering

	if that might be the piano you had, or?
Helen Knight:	No, no, I'm sure it wasn't. I guess the Nolsons left that. There lived there a long time.
Marion Knight Redmond:	They probably did. Did you get to know any of the Nolsons?
Helen Knight:	They lived there a long time, they moved there right soon after we left. Not immediately though, Papa rented it for a while.
T.M.:	Ms. Knight, do you remember the sidewalk, the brick sidewalk that extend from your back, the back part of your lot, down into the Royal Street back lot? Do you remember a brick sidewalk?
Helen Knight:	Well that's what I said, well that courtyard, that was paved with brick, but it was just like a courtyard you know...
T.M.:	Do you remember how far back?
Helen Knight:	...and it didn't go beyond that it just, just at that enclosure, more like a patio, you know?
C.R.:	Where did you put your garbage then?
Helen Knight:	Well it was an alley, an alley that came right back of the shed between there and the stable and nearly all of those old blocks in Alexandria had some kind of an alley. And you know we thought it wonderful being on the hill where you could have a detached house with ground around it. And now everyone's paying out all their money on townhouses and that's what we were trying to get away from was a townhouse! [laughter]
Marion Knight Redmond:	Do you all ever, I don't know what brings this to mind, one of our nieces lives across the street and she has recently got the bug and looking up family trees, you know?
Helen Knight:	She's got it on one side, but is trying to get all sides.
Marion Knight Redmond:	She came up here one Saturday morning, she still works, she's one of the younger nieces and she was off on a Wednesday, that's what it was and she had to take her care to get inspected or overhauled or something so she said I walked on down to Washington Street to the Lloyd House and she said you can get all kind of information there.
Helen Knight:	And said they're so nice and helpful.
Marion Knight Redmond:	And said that it was so peaceful and quiet.
Helen Knight:	Now that it's local.
T.M.:	It's a beautiful facility and something you all might be very... [tape ends] [End]