

Annie Gavin: —and then beside farming, they started the mills. And that's what people took care of themselves, was working at the mill, at the Mungum Business Mill over there. Some of the piling's still there. That's where most people lived. And then there was people from far and near that would even come and get rooms with people so they could work at the mill for years and years. Then the war came, the first war. I can remember the end of it, but I don't remember when it—But I do know that my uncles and all went. And then the war came to an end, they started coming back home. I lived through about two wars, I guess, or three.

Annie Gavin: But the church was the center of everybody's life then. Sometimes didn't get to see each other, those that lived far way apart until they went to church. And they prayed. Oh, they couldn't pray loud as slaves, had to turn the pots down. I wonder, I always heard them say, "Turn the pots down." They had big old iron pots. The pots was supposed to have caught the sound if they get happy or something. Isn't that something?

Grace George: Maybe that's why they holler so loud now.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, they pray.

Grace George: They let it out now.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, they let it out now.

Grace George: Isn't that something?

Annie Gavin: And they had this Uncle Tom, Dad explained to me about an older person, had a man, a old guy they called Uncle Tom. And now when we think of Uncle Tom, we think of somebody who tells everything. But Uncle Tom wasn't a person that told everything. He gathered everything he could have been, they had to take them out to bring back to the slaves.

Grace George: All right, okay.

Annie Gavin: And to sneak out books. And the master's children by a Black woman, she had all the privileges. Now Ms. Hannah, which was Stella Johnson's grandmama, she played with her sisters and brothers in the big house.

Grace George: Now, is that cousin Anna [indistinct 00:03:03] Was they related to her in any way?

Annie Gavin: No, Ms. Anna, she's your relative—Ms. Hannah was Stella Johnson's grandmama, but she came late years. I was a big girl when she came here, but she looked White.

Grace George: I heard Mama talk about Stella Johnson.

Annie Gavin: Like Ms. Mary Sawyer, you couldn't tell them from White.

Grace George: That's right.

Annie Gavin: And then she didn't like White folk.

Grace George: Okay.

Annie Gavin: She didn't. But it's the funniest thing because they had the most White blood, dislike White people. Because nowadays there's no difference, people are people. And I guess that's what they were working toward.

Grace George: Ms. Ann, did you ever hear much about Paul Williams, growing up as a girl?

Annie Gavin: Who?

Grace George: Paul Williams?

Annie Gavin: No.

Grace George: He was supposed to be one of the community of 12 leaders in Davis.

Annie Gavin: He was one of the leaders.

Grace George: Leaders in 1898.

Annie Gavin: What is his first name?

Grace George: Paul. Paul Lewis. I guess it's Paul Lewis.

Annie Gavin: Paul Lewis, yeah. Only Amos Williams and Old Man Armor, they were some of the sort of outstanding, the Elliots. And of course, Ms. Francis, I think she was half White. And my mother's grandmother, mama said you couldn't tell her from White and she hated White people. So she wouldn't have had a calendar on her wall, turn the face around. But mama said she had long black hair she could sit on and you couldn't tell her from White. But her mother was half White and her daddy was White, so that's how she's—Now, I saw mama's aunt, they lived in Boston and she was very light.

Annie Gavin: And she came to visit us a couple of times, I remember as a child, and mama would go shopping with her. She said the drug store used to be right down there on the corner. And naturally, having lived in Boston, she had the accent and everything and she was quite looking. Something she wanted, the

man, the druggist couldn't understand what she's talking about, told her to come around there and said if she could find it behind his counter. Mom never asked her.

Annie Gavin: My mother say her grandfather was half Indian, he came from the Florida Everglades. But it was a general mixture of people and you heard a lot of different stories. But regardless to what happened, there were always somebody that was good. Because my great-grandmother said that her master's wife was very good to them. A lot of things she did for them that she didn't want her husband to know. They had to work in the fields and everything, but some of them had some—And that Uncle Tom, we think of Uncle Tom as a tattle-tell. But that Uncle Tom was a person that drove for the master and his wife and stuff. So he got to hear and learn everything. Everything he learned, he'd bring it back. He was tattle-tailing that way.

Grace George: Just in reverse of what they called him.

Annie Gavin: Right. And finally, finally killed him. But some of those people, they fared so good as slaves until they didn't want to be free, because [indistinct 00:07:02] now she, I knew, say that when their soldiers put them out, leading them to freedom, she was one of them, they settled down in James City. And so they kept looking back. As far as they could look, they looked. And the master and his family was on the porch and they felt so bad, they hated to be leaving them because they were good to them.

Grace George: They were good and they didn't know what they were going to be facing.

Annie Gavin: That's right. And then you find in any situation, there's some good. No matter how bad people are, there's some good among them. Because there was a time the James City people I reckon—I guess that was their setup up. They didn't let no strangers come over here and start anything. Because if it start with one, you got all of them to fight. That's why James has got a reputation being bad.

Grace George: He's heard that story. They didn't take no junk.

Annie Gavin: They didn't take no junk, no way.

Grace George: I can understand that because when you were free, you had to protect yourself. You didn't have your master or anybody to in that way, so you had to come together as a—

Annie Gavin: Yeah, as a unit. They could be mad at each other, but nobody else better not come in there, bothering.

Grace George: And they would share whatever—

Annie Gavin: They'd share whatever they had.

Grace George: I remember that one.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, because when I was growing up, there wasn't any such thing as welfare. And those people that didn't have children to feed them after they got old, they had to depend on whatever somebody would give them. Now, Reverend Dudley, you knew Reverend Dudley, he fed a lot of people. And my daddy fed a lot of people because by this time he had a little cafe down the bridge. And Ms. Jenny and Roxanna were kin to Bobby, would go down there and he'd let them scrub the floor or wash the dishes. And he made meals for the men at the factory, because it used to be a fertilizer factory that's over here now, was down there on the railroad. You remember that was there, though, don't you?

Grace George: No.

Annie Gavin: If so, you were very little.

Grace George: Is that the same one that Mr. Ike Long was like the overseer? They have his book record showing that the men of James City had worked there.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, he was the same one. They eventually moved it all the way over here, which is across the road, they still operate.

Grace George: That's the Meadows Company.

Annie Gavin: Meadows Company. And the Meadows Company owned a lot of, I guess at one time they owned slaves, but they always were outstanding in the Black community. Whatever went wrong, the Meadows always came to their rescue.

Grace George: Well, is it true that when they were told to leave old James City, Meadows Company owned a lot of properties in the area?

Annie Gavin: Yes, and came over here.

Grace George: And bought the land from them?

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: Now, there's a man, Mr. Brooks, that was a Black man from the area that had so much land over there.

Annie Gavin: That was M. Hickson and them's grandfather. The Brooks' and the Browns owned this area. The Brooks' on one side of M. and them's granddaddy and the Browns on the other, which is Brownsville. And they used to live, you remember that house we lived in?

Grace George: Yes.

Annie Gavin: That used to be their house, they used to live right there.

Grace George: Shiloh Church.

Annie Gavin: Yes. And the Brooks' owned this side track.

Grace George: Where we are.

Annie Gavin: And they had land they sold after the fellas, my daddy bought his place, I think from the Brooks'.

Grace George: Apparently they were free before. How did they come about so much money and property? Just like everybody owned property back there, how did they come into—

Annie Gavin: Well, not everybody. Some people don't want anything anyway, they going to depend on somebody else. But they inherited it from somebody.

Grace George: Maybe they [indistinct 00:11:35] I don't know. Because for that short period of time, they owned so much land in this area. Now we know that over on the other side—

Annie Gavin: They couldn't own it. That's the reason they had to come over here.

Grace George: So they came over here and they were the one ones selling it.

Annie Gavin: Now, actually, according to my grandmother and those other people that knew, James City was given to the slaves, but they never had a deed to it. They gave it to them to use maybe, because that's what they did.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:12:16]

Annie Gavin: Then after a while, some I guess government maybe, took it over and they had to pay rent. That's where your granddaddy came in and started that revolution. He told them he wasn't, he used to say. And the young one's heads was sticking out on them fenders.

Grace George: Yeah, just looking.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. And Mr. Washington Spivey said, "I ain't paying no more rent because it belongs to me."

Grace George: Well, they went to court over that problem years ago in the 18—About 100 years ago. So finally they had to go and that's when they start purchasing land over here. But Ms. Annie, the strange thing is that apparently they said it didn't belong to the people, but for so many years they never did anything with that land over there in James City.

Annie Gavin: Maybe the number of years they had to let it lay before the government could take it, because it was given to them. Just like Washington's Spivey said, he wasn't going to pay for what belonged to him. But they had lived there paying—

Grace George: Like a reparation for their enslavement and helping during the war. Whereas a lot of countries, they have been paid like the Chinese, Japanese, all these other people for wartime. So I would say that it seems with a little research, that was given to the people, turned over. Instead of money, the land was turned over to—

Annie Gavin: Well, I think one thing was when the government freed them, they had to make arrangements for someplace for them to live. And I guess it was about the same thing all over, but these people that were brought to James City, they understood that these makeshift houses belonged to them. But yet, one real estate man got greedy and started making them pay. And that's where Washington Spivey and his followers rebelled, we ain't going to pay for what belonged to us.

Grace George: I understand they had post offices over to your hospital.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. Well, after they put the slaves down, Washington what's his name? James something.

Grace George: Horace.

Annie Gavin: Huh?

Grace George: James.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, they sent a priest here. A priest here, Catholic. And then the house that and Annie Stove used to live in, you remember that two story house?

Grace George: Yeah, I remember.

Annie Gavin: When I was growing up, that was a kind of a school. The missionaries had a school there. And I wasn't old enough to go but I used to go there and they taught the girls how to sew, how to make clothes and crochet and knit and stuff like that. Then some of the missionaries stayed with Reverend Dudley. And those missionaries stayed in touch, they used to come and go and they brought Goldie. You know Goldie, Ms. Melrose Goldie?

Grace George: Yes.

Annie Gavin: Well, the missionaries brought her here. Then those families that didn't have children and wanted children, they would bring them for them.

Grace George: That's what happened to my grandma Becca. She was brought here by the missionary, with the missionaries. Some of the people he adopted her, Mrs. Catherine Midgette.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, the Midgettes.

Grace George: His grandma. Because her mother died at the time. She was a missionary from Boston and she died. So the missionary was going to take her back to Boston when they went, but some of the people said they would take care of her, so they left her with Ms. Catherine Midgette.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. And she raised her. But a lot of those, the thing about it, your grandma was more White than she was Black. Let's face it. But you couldn't tell her from White. And I guess it is not too many people—She was too White to be Black, because she had some Black so she had to be Black.

Grace George: Right, right. I think that's why they were going to take her back to Boston, but Ms. Catherine [indistinct 00:17:08]

Annie Gavin: And I guess that's when she met Wes Foye.

Grace George: Right, just a little girl.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, yeah. She fared good though, because he was smart. He had a big house. And Newton, then become considered rich.

Grace George: He had ponies and everything else, she said.

Annie Gavin: Huh?

Grace George: They used to have a pony.

Annie Gavin: Oh, yeah. And my daddy worked with one of the brothers, Wes Foye's brother. That's how he started in the store business. And those people that would work could have something.

Grace George: Could have something.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. Because my daddy had a horse and cows and all that stuff.

Grace George: That's what amazes me when I look back at all the things that those people had and tried so much and were successful. Today when I look around and I don't see those things, it alarms me.

Annie Gavin: That's right, that's right. Different things happened that broke everything up. And then I think the younger generations, they got along so good, they wasn't as ambitious. They weren't as ambitious.

Grace George: Already laid out for them.

Annie Gavin: Already laid out for them. Sweat had already been sweated for them to have it and they didn't value it too much.

Grace George: That's why I feel it's important for us to preserve this history, so that they can go back and look and see some of the struggles that these people went through to have where they are today, which they should be for them because of the struggle. Even with the '60s, they don't understand what took place, a lot of things. The struggles.

Annie Gavin: You're right. Well, there's some people will have ambition and move on anyway, and some have inherit it. But Wes Foye, I don't know what happened with all the stuff that he did have, but something happened.

Grace George: Yes.

Annie Gavin: And some of it was with him, because I think the reason he and Ms. Becca didn't get along, he was a courter.

Grace George: He loved his women.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: That's usually [indistinct 00:19:41] does it every time.

Annie Gavin: But Ms. Becca always was smart, she was a smart woman. She always had a garden, she sold the vegetables and she kind of kept her little flock together.

Grace George: Yeah, my mom would say they'd have to get up early in the morning to go to New Bern to sell the—

Annie Gavin: Sell vegetables?

Grace George: To sell vegetables before they go to school.

Annie Gavin: Before they went to school.

Grace George: And in the evening they go back and collect who was interested in more vegetables—

Annie Gavin: Right. But that was good in a sense, to be taught. Because my Uncle Ben and I had to get up before daylight. And by this time, my daddy, he worked at the railroad, had lost his foot. And we'd had to go out there to the shop. And Ben built a fire and I put on the coffee pot and put on the rice, and then I had to



make biscuits. And I probably had a little counter thing. I wasn't tall enough, he had a block there. And I made breakfast for those men at the factory when I was about 12. I hated it so bad but it puts something in you.

Grace George: Yes it does.

Annie Gavin: And it makes you know that if you want something, work for it.

Grace George: You'll have to work for it. And that's important today.

Annie Gavin: That's important.

Grace George: They want it to fall out of the sky.

Annie Gavin: That's right.

Grace George: If it don't make a million dollars on the first day's work, they don't want to work.

Annie Gavin: Right. But it gives you ambition. You got it double from Washington Spivey in Westport.

Grace George: He's about to kill me [indistinct 00:21:18] trying to feed both.

Annie Gavin: Both sides. And then there's some people that don't have any ambition. It makes you kind of glad and proud that you were made to do things.

Grace George: You want to give it to them. "Why? What's the matter? It's out there, go for it."

Annie Gavin: Right, right, right.

Grace George: I think I had two sons and I think I drove them crazy, telling them how they do. How you can't do this and you can. They would look at me sometimes, "Mother, give me a chance to let me complete this first and then I'll try that."

Annie Gavin: Yeah, yeah.

Grace George: I think about three or about four things at one time and they're all happening. That's how I see it. And when it's all done, it's all done.

Annie Gavin: It's done, right.

Grace George: Concentrate on one thing.

Annie Gavin: But I think that ambition goes on down through the line. Some of them, somebody will grab it up.

Grace George: Sometimes it takes a lot of generations.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, a lot of generations.

Grace George: That's why I say I don't believe in giving up hope, because somewhere along the way, somewhere, somebody's going to pick it up.

Annie Gavin: Going to pick it up, true. Right now, Ruth Ann's daughter is very ambitious. She sews and she makes hats and suits.

Grace George: A designer.

Annie Gavin: Well, she took economics in school but she makes a living sewing now. She's still in school, though, near Richmond.

Grace George: It comes out.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: Let me ask you, like you say, most of the social activities centered around the churches.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: And I remember hearing people talk about excursions, going on excursions. Did you ever hear people talk about the church?

Annie Gavin: Oh yeah. The church, then they went by train. And the train get on the track up there by James. I still call all of that James City, as far as I'm concerned. And there where the Ramada Inn and all that, it's still James City because that's the center of James City.

Grace George: James City, forever.

Annie Gavin: And get on the train, go to Morehead to the beach. The churches would run excursions for a way of making money for the church.

Grace George: Mama said everybody be standing out when you come back to see who was on the train.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: It's a big thing.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. They would—No, I don't think there's anybody there. Wait a minute, let me see.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:24:16].

Annie Gavin: But I'll tell you about James City, there was a time there were just Black businesses and Black people. And then the Whites start to moving in. You remember among them businesses, you remember the mill, part about the mill.

Grace George: I remember one mill that was there when I was a little girl. That was the last one, you can still see some of the equipment still over there. I remember that one.

Annie Gavin: Two mill.

Grace George: They say there was a lot of them on the water.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, mills over on that side and a mill on this side. And that's out there where Ms. Dorcas lived. Y'all lived right to the end of that street, though. But those people, they got along except as I remember, growing up, seemed like some of them people had too many fusses over children.

Grace George: Yeah, yeah. Because watching over each other's children.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. Sadie Hill's grand mama and Nicie Beasley and them, they used to have fussing spells every week.

Grace George: Understand that there was always one or two in the community that kept something going.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. And ended up in the courthouse.

Grace George: Yeah. My mom say every Monday morning, and I think that courthouse downtown New Bern, they would fuss and fight on the weekend and they all had to wind up in the courthouse Monday morning.

Annie Gavin: Right. And then they come back almost holding hands.

Grace George: Walking, have to go to court—

Annie Gavin: Having done paid the money out.

Grace George: Paid the money out.

Annie Gavin: Plus, most of her children fighting.

Grace George: Now, I've got to say that there is a place that nobody else knows, but in New Bern where they would go for the hearing, it wouldn't be right in the courthouse. It's a building downtown, my mom pointed out on Craven Street, that there was a lady that would sit there and they'd just come tell her what they did on the weekend and pay the money.

Annie Gavin: Pay the money. They satisfied, go home until next time. But I tell you what, they could fight among themselves, but nobody else been that violent. Besides, they were mad. Jump offside, jump on. They're almost clannish. That's what they were, James City people were clannish. They could be ever so mad with each other. Don't no outside come in there, mess. Because they used to run Blacks back to New Bern and them Blacks come over here to get food because we always had food. And even when y'all were going to school—

Grace George: We had plenty of food because everybody had a garden. They always had some food.

Annie Gavin: I often think about that girl, but she didn't—Marian's Daisy was talking about how what she had for breakfast, collard green. And this girl made fun of it. And she should have had some collard greens because she got so skinny and [indistinct 00:27:34] and she had plenty. But we ate what we had.

Grace George: That's it.

Annie Gavin: You warm up them collard greens and dumplings and that fat meat when you come from school.

Grace George: We didn't have a special like bacon and eggs for breakfast.

Annie Gavin: No.

Grace George: Whatever was available, they ate it.

Annie Gavin: We ate it.

Grace George: If you had it in the evening and it was left over, I remember my grandma. It wasn't like when I came along, we started to have a separate breakfast, something different. But whatever you had—

Annie Gavin: Well, if you had some collard greens or something, some left over, we warm them up and eat them.

Grace George: Eat them up. Make those—

Annie Gavin: That dumping. Cutting the dumpling in half and turn it down in the grease. We stayed healthy, too.

Grace George: That's why we lived long.

Annie Gavin: Right. And they made soup. My mother and my daddy used to make big old pots of soup. And everybody ate. Well, even during my time and y'all came around, there was always a biscuit, always something.

Grace George: Ms. Annie, those big black pots, I have found one. And they used to cook out, hanging. This is going way back a little bit longer, over the fire place.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: You don't remember any of that, but my mom said that—I used to say, "Well, how did they bake their biscuits or their bread?" And she said they would push it.

Annie Gavin: Put it in the ashes.

Grace George: In the ashes.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: Cover it up.

Annie Gavin: I experienced that.

Grace George: Oh, you did?

Annie Gavin: Yeah, and they'd had the pot. They had it so the thing and Tryon palace all that kind of stuff. You could push the pot over the flame because you keep the fire under it, it was fireplace. They didn't have stoves. The first stoves I know about was a cook stove. And they push it over there and then they could have a way pulling it out and stirring it up, push it back. And take potatoes and put it in the ashes, cook them and bake them in the ashes. Baked potatoes in the ashes. But the fireplace was the main heat. Then after a while they had cook stoves, they could bake inside the stove.

Grace George: And for their beds, she was telling us most of the furniture back there right after the war they had was handmade.

Annie Gavin: Handmade. Handmade baby beds. But always some carpenters, because that's what your granddad was, a carpenter. George Washington, preacher, Ms. Martha's brother. And Washington Spivey, yeah.

Grace George: He was a carpenter.

Annie Gavin: I say you and Burton, all of them came in. Because George Washington was Burt's Granddaddy and Aunt Rosie married George Bell, Amelia and them came home.

Grace George: I have a picture of [indistinct 00:30:41] of her grandma. Which was Maria?

Annie Gavin: Maya, we called her Maya.

Grace George: I'm going to put that in the exhibit. We had Robert Spivey when he an infant. How old would Robert be if he was alive now?

Annie Gavin: Robert would be old now, because I'm going on 82. Robert would've been, I guess, yeah, he was older.

Grace George: So if he was a little baby in her lap—

Annie Gavin: Yeah, he was a baby and that was Mama's and Aunt Rose's mother.

Grace George: Yeah, so that's your mom—

Annie Gavin: My grandmother. I didn't know her. She died before I was born.

Grace George: You've seen the picture, though?

Annie Gavin: Yeah, I've seen the picture.

Grace George: I told her I would cherish and take good care and put it back to the family until we get a real museum.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. I mean, I didn't know that grandmother.

Grace George: She said she was born back in the 1830s. She was a slave.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. Well, I don't know about her being a slave, I didn't keep up. I think she was born after the war. I think she was born here in James City.

Grace George: Ms. Maya, your grandma?

Annie Gavin: Yeah, she was Maya's daughter.

Grace George: Go ahead. I'll get it out the car and let you look at it.

Annie Gavin: I know, I've seen.

Grace George: You know who I'm talking about.

Annie Gavin: Yes, Robert was sitting on her lap.

Grace George: Yeah, yeah. And who's that other woman who's standing up? She didn't tell me, it's a daughter.

Annie Gavin: The had to be Sarah.

Grace George: Sarah.

Annie Gavin: Sarah. Because I didn't know mama's mother, she was already dead when I came along. But I know mama said that her daddy was a woman chaser.

Grace George: Okay. They all were. I hate to talk this, but my mom say that's why chase is so close knit. Everybody was a chaser.

Annie Gavin: Chaser.

Grace George: They had a family here and a family there.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, yeah.

Grace George: It was one of those like the kings and queens over there, keep the money in the family, kept everything else—

Annie Gavin: Everything in the family.

Grace George: And then it's true. There's very few families here that are not connected families.

Annie Gavin: Interrelated, yes. Because they connected either by birth or friendship. But they could be mad and that came up through all of us.

Grace George: Yes.

Annie Gavin: Because I remember when I was down on the corner and Lucy Spencer, a check down at Cherry Point had been misplaced and that they had to put it in FBI, I guess it was. But he came there, asking me where Lucy Spencer lived. I said, "Why?" Just before I moved from down there, because I knew Net sold whiskey and I didn't know, I wasn't going to send him over there and maybe catch Net selling whiskey.

Grace George: That bootleg.

Annie Gavin: That bootleg. And he said, "Do you know Lucy Spencer, where she lives?" I said, "I don't know."

Grace George: That's right.

Annie Gavin: Then he looked at me so strange. I was supposed to know because I was keeping store, and that's when I was down on corner. Then I read, he say, "She ain't going to tell me nothing." So he showed me her check, she was working at Cherry Point and her check had been misplaced. Then he showed me a check, I said, "Why didn't you tell me that to start with?"

Grace George: That's right.

Annie Gavin: I said, "She lives right there." That man had to laugh, me too. But I knew Net sold whiskey and I wasn't sending that White man over there and catch Net selling. We was clannish, though. Yeah, we were clannish.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:35:04] ask some questions, had to know the insides.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. The people could fight among themselves in James City, but nobody else better not come in.

Grace George: They got that reputation, I remember some research that they did. They were saying that they would come over when they were talking about running them off the land and they sent the sheriff over here.

Annie Gavin: They ran him over.

Grace George: They ran him in the water, he had to swim back. And so the governor said, "Look, you have to come over here with these people—"

Annie Gavin: That was the time to call the military, National Guard we call it now. And they came to James City and James, Daniel's granddaddy, had a place up James City and a flat farm. Well, I don't remember this, Mama said she was a child still. They made lemonade and the National Guard came and they called it the militia, which is what it was. And they all came and had a big party. James said the people pacified then. But they raised themselves some hell with sticks and bricks and bottles.

Grace George: Sticks and everything. Well, he called it the National Guard.

Annie Gavin: National Guard.



Grace George: Military to come in, so that's when some of those other attorneys and boys that they sent to Congress like George White.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: O'Hara [indistinct 00:36:32] rather than have bloodshed during that period of time.

Annie Gavin: They had to show us something. Because they didn't mind dying, they didn't mind it. Because they felt like their rights were taken.

Grace George: Now, my Grandma Martha stayed in that old house. That's why she refused to leave there, up until we had to take her, literally pick her up and bring her around because she couldn't take care of herself. And old James City was speaking about that. They loved that land, they loved that area so much. To them it was—

Annie Gavin: That's where they were brought up.

Grace George: They called it promised land.

Annie Gavin: Promised land.

Grace George: She said she would die there. And that was Washington Spivey's daughter. She was some of the last ones other than Bill Spivey.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, right.

Grace George: Still, that was like everything to them.

Annie Gavin: Well, one thing, Ms. Martha was a pusher.

Grace George: Strong.

Annie Gavin: And when we used to raise money for the church, she played the part of a bishop. Had on the hat and the coat and she had a grouse voice. We would raise all them pennies and stuff.

Grace George: Raise a lot.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: I just wanted to mention some of those things in there, that these are things you should go back and—