

Annie Gavin: And then beside farming, they started the meals and that's what people took care of themselves of working at the mill. There was a Mungum business mill over there, some of the [indistinct 00:00:30] still there. That's where most people lived. And then people from far near will 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—But I do know that my uncles and all went. And then when the war came to the end, they start coming back home. I lived through about two wars, I guess, or three.

Grace George: Okay. Okay.

Annie Gavin: The church was the center of everybody's life then. They sometimes didn't get to see each other that lived far away apart until they went to church. 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 are supposed to have caught the sound.

Grace George: What?

Annie Gavin: If they get happy or something.

Grace George: Okay.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. Isn't that something?

Grace George: 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: [indistinct 00:02:12] something.

Annie Gavin: This Uncle Tom, I had that explained to me about an older person, had a old guy to call Uncle Tom. Now when we think of Uncle Tom, we think of somebody who tells everything.

Grace George: Right. Right.

Annie Gavin: But Uncle Tom wasn't a person that told everything. He gathered everything he could they had

to take them out to bring back to the slaves and to sneak out books. The master's children by Black a woman, she had all the privileges. Now Ms. Hannah, which was Stella Johnson's grandmamma, she played with her sisters and brothers in the big house.

Grace George: Now is that [indistinct 00:02:58]? Are they related to her in any way?

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

Grace George: I heard Mama talk about [indistinct 00:03:18].

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

Grace George: That's right.

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

Grace George: Okay. It was close.

Annie Gavin: 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. I guess that's what they were working toward.

Grace George: Ms.. Anna, did you ever hear much about Paul Williams when you were 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 committee 12 leaders being Davis.

Annie Gavin: He was one of the leaders?

Grace George: One of the leaders in 1898.

Annie Gavin: What was his first name?

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

Annie Gavin: Paul Lewis. Yeah. Oh, my name is Williams and Old Man Arnold, they were some of the outstanding, the Elliots. Of course Ms. Francis, I think she was half White. 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, turned the face around. But mama say she had long black hair she could sit on and say you couldn't tell her from White. But her mother was half White and her daddy was White, so that's how she—

Annie Gavin: Now I saw mama's aunt, they lived in Boston and she was very light. She came to visit us a couple of times I remember as a child, and mama would go shopping with her. The drugstore would be right down there on the corner. She naturally having lived in Boston she had the accent and everything and she was White looking. Something she wanted, the druggies couldn't understand what she's talking about, told her to come around there and said she could find it behind his counter. Mama said, "Now ask her—"

Annie Gavin: My mother say her grandfather was half Indian. He came from the Florida Everglades. It was a general mixture of people. You heard a lot of different stories. Regardless to what happened, there was always somebody that was good. 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 tale, but that Uncle Tom was a person that drove for the master and his wife and stuff. He got to hear and learn everything. Everything he learned he'd bring it back. He was a tattle tale in that way.

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

Annie Gavin: Right. And finally trying to killed him. But some of those people, they found so good as slaves until they didn't want to be free. Maya, 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. They kept looking back. As far as they could look they looked and the master and his family was on the porch. 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 set 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 when James City got a reputation of being bad.

Grace George: He's heard that story. No, 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 in that way, so you had to come together as a family.

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 they had.

Annie Gavin: They'd share whatever they had.

Grace George: I remember that from Grandma.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. When I was growing up, there wasn't any—it is a thing, it's welfare. 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. My daddy fed a lot of people because by this time he had a little cafe down the bridge. Ms. Jenny and Roxanna, they're kin to Bobby, would go down there and he'd let them scrub the floor or wash the dishes. He made meals for the men at the factory. There used to be a fertilizer factory that's over here now was down there on the railroad. You remember when 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 the overseer? I have his book record showing that the men of James City that worked there.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. That's the same, huh? They eventually moved it all the way over here. We just crossed the road. They still cooperate.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:09:50]. That's the Meadows Company?

Annie Gavin: Meadows Company. 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: Uh-huh. And they 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 Black man from the area that had so much land over here.

Annie Gavin: That was Em Hicks and them's grandfather, the Brooks and the Browns owned this area. The Brooks is on one side, Em and them's granddaddy and the Browns on the other, which is Brownsville. You remember the house we lived in?

Grace George: Mm-hmm.

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

Grace George: Right down on Shiloh Church?

Annie Gavin: Mm-hmm. And the Brooks is on this side track.

Grace George: And that is where we are?

Annie Gavin: Mm-hmm. They had land they sold. 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 it?

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

Grace George: Yeah. They [indistinct 00:11:45]. I don't know. Because for the short period of time they own so much land in this area. Now we know that over on the other side of the—

Annie Gavin: He couldn't own it. That's when they had to come over here.

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

Annie Gavin: Uh-huh. 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 00:12:18] they did to survive.

Annie Gavin: Then after a while 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 used to say, "Youngins heads were sticking out all them windows."

Grace George: Yeah, just looking.

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

Grace George: Well, they went to court for that property.

Annie Gavin: Mm-hmm.

Grace George: Years ago in the 18—About 100 years.

Annie Gavin: Mm-hmm.

Grace George: Finally they had to go and that's when they started purchasing land over here.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: Ms. Anna, 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. A man Washington Spivey said he wasn't going to pay for what belonged to him. But they had lived there paying—

Grace George: It was more 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 war time. I would say that it seems with a little research that that was given to the people turned over instead of money, the land was turned over.

Annie Gavin: One thing was when the government—Freedom. They had to make arrangements, some place for them to live. 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.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:14:40].

Annie Gavin: That's where Washington Spivey and his followers rebuild. We ain't going to pay for what belonged to us.

Grace George: I understand they had post offices over there, hospitals [indistinct 00:14:55]?

Annie Gavin: After they put the slaves down, Washington—What's his name? James something.

Grace George: Horace.

Annie Gavin: Huh?

Grace George: Was it James—[indistinct 00:15:05].

Annie Gavin: Yeah. They sent a priest here, Catholic. And then the house that Annie Stove used to live in. You remember that two-story house?

Grace George: Yeah. I remember that house. Yeah.,I remember.

Annie Gavin: When I was growing up, that was a school. The missionaries had a school there. I wasn't old enough to go, but I used to go there. They taught the girls how to sew, how to make clothes and crochet and knit and stuff like that. And then some of the missionaries stayed with Reverend Dudley and those missionaries stayed in touch. They used to come and go. They brought Goldie. You know Goldie, Ms. [indistinct 00:15:51] Goldie?

Grace George: Mm-hmm.

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 with the missionaries.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: Some of the people he adopted her, Mrs. Catherine Midgette?

Annie Gavin: Yeah. The Midgettes.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:16:14] 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 leave, but some of the people said they would take care of her so they left them with Ms. Catherine Midgette.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. And she raised her. The thing about it, your grandma was more White than she was Black, let's face it. You couldn't tell her from White.

Grace George: No.

Annie Gavin: I guess it was not too many people—She was too White to be Black. 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. Ms. Catherine [indistinct 00:17:12].

Annie Gavin: I guess that's when she met Wes Foye [indistinct 00:17:19].

Grace George: Right. Just a little girl.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. Yeah. She fair good, though, because he was smart. He had a big house. Newt and them [indistinct 00:17:32] come considered rich.

Grace George: They had ponies and everything else she said.

Annie Gavin: Huh?

Grace George: They used to have a pony and everything.

Annie Gavin: Oh yeah. My daddy worked with one of the brothers, Wes Foye's brother. That's how he started in steel business. Those people that worked could have something.

Grace George: They'd have something [indistinct 00:17:56].

Annie Gavin: 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 have had and tried so much and was 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.

Grace George: True.

Annie Gavin: They weren't as ambitious.

Grace George: It was 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.

Annie Gavin: Right.



Grace George: Even with the '60s, they don't understand what took place a lot of the struggles.

Annie Gavin: You're right. Some people have ambition and move on anyway and some have inherited 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. Beth didn't get along, he was a courter.

Grace George: He loved the women.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: That's usually [indistinct 00:19:49] every generation consideration does it every time.

Annie Gavin: Mm-hmm. But Ms. Beth always was smart. She was a smart woman. She always had a garden. She had all the vegetables. She kept her little flock together.

Grace George: My mom would say they'd have to get up early in the morning to go to New Bern to sell the potatoes.

Annie Gavin: Sell vegetables?

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

Annie Gavin: Throw them in to school.

Grace George: Then in the evening they go back and collect who was interested in more vegetables for the next day.

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. By this time my daddy, he worked the railroad, had lost his foot and we'd had to go out there to the shop and then build a fire. I put on the coffee pot and put on rice. Then I had to make biscuits. I probably had a little counter thing. I wasn't tall enough. He had a block there. I made breakfast for those men at the factory when I was about 12. I hate it so bad. But it puts something in you.

Grace George: Yes it does.

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

Grace George: You have to work for it. 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 Reservoir.

Grace George: He's about to kill me [indistinct 00:21:29] trying to feed both sides.

Annie Gavin: Both sides. And then there's some people that don't have any ambition. It makes you 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 had two sons and I think I drove them crazy telling them how they do it. You can't do this and you can. They would look at me sometimes, "Give me a chance to let me complete this verse and then I'll try that."

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

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

Annie Gavin: It's done. Right.

Grace George: Yeah. [indistinct 00:22:22] one thing.

Annie Gavin: I think that ambition goes on down through the line. Somebody will grab it.

Grace George: Sometimes it takes a lot of generations to [indistinct 00:22:33].

Annie Gavin: Yeah, a lot of generations. Uh-huh.

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. All right. Ruth Anne's daughter is very ambitious. She sews. 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 in Richmond.

Grace George: It comes up [indistinct 00:23:13]. Let me ask you, like you say, most of the social activity centered around the churches.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: I remember hearing people talk about excursions, going on excursions. Did you ever [indistinct 00:23:27] about the church?

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

Grace George: Forever. [indistinct 00:23:52].

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

Grace George: My mom say everybody will be standing out when you come back to see who's on the train.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: It's a big thing to do.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: Want me to open the door?

Annie Gavin: No, I don't think there's anybody there. Wait a minute. Let me see. Sometimes [indistinct 00:24:27]. But I tell you about James City, there was a time there was just Black businesses and Black people. And the Whites start moving in all out there. You remember the part about the mill.

Grace George: I remember one mill that was there when I was younger. That was the last one. You can still see some of your equipment still over together. I remember that one.

Annie Gavin: Two mills.

Grace George: But they said there was a lot of them on the water.

Annie Gavin: The mills over on that side and mill on this side. At that side that 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. His grandmamma 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 had something going.

Annie Gavin: And ended up in the coat house.

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: They had to go to court every Monday morning.

Annie Gavin: Have them pay the money out.

Grace George: Pay the money out.

Annie Gavin: Plus most level children fighting.

Grace George: I'd like to say that there is a place that nobody else knows, but in New Bern where they would go for the hearing and it wouldn't be right in the courthouse. It's a building downtown. My mom pointed it out on Craven Street.

Annie Gavin: Right.

Grace George: 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 out and come back home.

Annie Gavin: Pay the money. They're satisfied, going home until next time. But I'll tell you what, they could fight among themselves but nobody else better not bother them. Do them sides that were mad, jump upside, jump on them. They're almost a clannish. That's what they were. James and people were clannish.

They could be ever so mad with each other. Don't no outsider come in their mess. Because they used to run Blacks back to New Bern and Blacks come over here to get food because we always had food. And even when y'all going to school—

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

Annie Gavin: Mm-hmm. I often think about that girl was—Marian's Daisy, talking about what she had for breakfast, collard green. And this girl made fun of it. She should have had some collard green because she got so skinny [indistinct 00:27:52]. 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: You know what? We have a special bacon and egg for breakfast.

Annie Gavin: No.

Grace George: Whatever was available, they ate.

Annie Gavin: We ate it.

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

Annie Gavin: You had some collard greens for supper and something leftover you warm it up.

Grace George: Warm them up. Make those [indistinct 00:28:24] flapjacks.

Annie Gavin: That dumpling. Oh, cutting the dumpling in half and they turn it down into grease. We stay healthy, too.

Grace George: That's why we lived a long time because—

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

Grace George: A big old pot.

Annie Gavin: Always something.

Grace George: Ms. Anna, those big black pots, I have found one. They used to cook out, 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, covered—

Annie Gavin: I experienced that.

Grace George: Oh you did?

Annie Gavin: Yeah. And Maya. They had the pot. Tryon Palace got all that stuff.

Grace George: Yeah. Okay.

Annie Gavin: You could push the pot over the flame because you keep the fire under—It was fireplace. They didn't have stoves. The first stoves I know about was a cook stove. They push it over there. And then they could have a way of pulling it out and stirring it up, pushing it back and take the potatoes and put it in the ashes, cook them and bake them in the ashes. Bake the 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 they had every—Most of the furniture back there they had was handmade.

Annie Gavin: Handmade. Handmade baby beds. Hand made. But always some carpenters, because that's what your grandad was, a carpenter. George Washington, which was Martha's brother and Washington Spivey. Yeah.

Grace George: He was a carpenter.

Annie Gavin: Mm-hmm. Let's say you and Burton, all them came in because George Washington was Burt's Granddaddy. My Aunt Rose married George Bill, me and them came home.

Grace George: I have a picture, maybe they'll let me share, of her grandma, which was Mariah—

Annie Gavin: Maya. We call her Maya.

Grace George: I'm going to try to put that on exhibit. We have Robert's father when he was 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—

Grace George: He's older than you?

Annie Gavin: Yeah. He was older than I am.

Grace George: He's close to my age. [indistinct 00:31:28]. If he was a little baby in her lap—

Annie Gavin: Yeah. That was Mama's and Aunt Rose's mother.

Grace George: Yeah. So that's your grandmother?

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 didn't know that grandmother.

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

Annie Gavin: Uh-huh.

Grace George: She was a slave.

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

Grace George: 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 it.

Grace George: You know what I'm talking about? Okay.

Annie Gavin: Mm-hmm. Rob was sitting on her lap.

Grace George: Yeah. And who's that other one who was standing up? She tell me was her daughter.

Annie Gavin: Had to be Sarah.

Grace George: Sarah. Sarah.

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

Grace George: Okay. They all are. I tell you, I ain't even talk this, but my mom say that's what chasing is, it's so close knit.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: 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. They kept everything else.

Annie Gavin: Everything in the family. Yeah.

Grace George: And it is true, it's very few families here that are not connected—

Annie Gavin: Interrelated?

Grace George: —families.

Annie Gavin: Connected either by birth or friendship. But they could be mad and that came up to all of us.

Grace George: Yes. Yes.



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

Grace George: That bootleg.

Annie Gavin: That bootleg. And he said, "Do you know Lucy Spencer? Where she live?" 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 in the neighborhood. That's when I was down on the corner. Then he say, she ain't going to tell me nothing so he showed me her check, she was working Cherry Point and a check had been misplaced. He showed me 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—" That man had to laugh. It took a minute. But I knew Net sold whiskey.

Grace George: Yes.

Annie Gavin: I wasn't sending that White man over there and catch Net selling.

Grace George: Lock hm up.

Annie Gavin: We was clannish, though. Yeah, we were clannish.

Grace George: When you come ask some questions, you had to know the inside scoop.

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

Grace George: Now they got that reputation. I remember some research that I did that they were saying that they would come over when they were talking about running him 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. When the government said, "Look, you have to come over here because these people will not—"

Annie Gavin: That was a time to call the military.

Grace George: Yeah, they sent that.

Annie Gavin: National Guard we call it now. They came to James City. James Daniel's granddaddy had a place up James City and a flat farm. Well, I don't remember this. Mama say she was a child still. They made lemonade. The National Guard came and they called it the militia, which is what it was. They all came and had a big party. Jane said people pacified them.

Grace George: Yes.

Annie Gavin: But they raised themselves some hell with sticks and bricks and bottles.

Grace George: They had sticks and everything waiting for them. Well, we call it the National Guard.

Annie Gavin: National Guard.

Grace George: They called the military to come in. That's when some of those attorneys and boys that they sent to Congress, like George White.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: Ohara.

Annie Gavin: Ohara.

Grace George: Sent them in to settle 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 it 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 the—We had to 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 promise land.

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

Grace George: They called it promise land.

Annie Gavin: Promise land.

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

Annie Gavin: Yeah. Right. Right.

Grace George: Still, that was everything to them.

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

Grace George: Strong.

Annie Gavin: When we used to raise money for the church, she played a part of a bishop, had on the hat and the coat. She had a gross voice and we would raise all them pennies and stuff.

Grace George: Raise a lot of money.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

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