

Annie Gavin: —his foot got cut off. He put his foot to pull that, whatever it was, and the thing rolled over.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:00:11] by collecting a few artifacts and everything, there's a lady that does have—honorable discharge, that was dated back 1865, so now there's a good possibility that that name might be on there, because most of all the—You know, during that time, there was fighting within the south, so she comes from Philadelphia, but this dates back and I think we have that as an exhibit, I'm not sure, I have to make sure that they held onto that piece, but that might be interesting. His name is on there.

Unknown Interviewer: [indistinct 00:01:05] stories of former residents here [indistinct 00:01:09].

Annie Gavin: We had a lot of fellows that went to war. Sherman went and he was in battle. My Uncle Jimmy—

Grace George: Sammy Randall went way back [indistinct 00:01:27].

Annie Gavin: Sammy Randall.

Grace George: That was way back. That was [indistinct 00:01:29].

Annie Gavin: World War One.

Grace George: I see there's a Bryant, [indistinct 00:01:38] Bryant.

Annie Gavin: Who?

Grace George: I think it's—The only thing I heard of a Bryant, that was fighting in the war.

Annie Gavin: Pierpoint.

Grace George: Okay. It could have been his father too in the Civil War. Do you think [indistinct 00:01:54]'s father could have been back in the Civil War?

Annie Gavin: Yeah, but—

Grace George: [indistinct 00:01:59] about 100 and something years old by now.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. Maybe. But I do know he went in the service, because Sherman went in the service too.

Grace George: Sherman went in [indistinct 00:02:14].

Annie Gavin: World War Two.

Grace George: World War Two, because [indistinct 00:02:14].

Annie Gavin: World War One, and my Uncle Jimmy and my Uncle Wilbert, World War One.

Grace George: Well, most [indistinct 00:02:24], that time, that was a way of getting away and learning.

Annie Gavin: Well, they were drafted. You know, they had to be drafted even then, and I know when the Armistice Day, my grandmother's son was married to Mama Lou, they had brought him from Norfolk, somebody had killed him. They still had them small houses and doors and had it under the tree. They brought him back here, John Washington shot him [indistinct 00:03:02].

Grace George: John Washington?

Annie Gavin: John Washington, Maude Lee and them. Mm-hmm. He's the one telegraphing, he's the one came home with the body.

Grace George: After he killed him?

Annie Gavin: Mm-hmm.

Grace George: Lord, have mercy.

Annie Gavin: [indistinct 00:03:17] Lloyd's sister. Yeah.

Grace George: I don't know.

Annie Gavin: And then he stayed here, but he hung around Papa all the time. I think he called himself Turner, because he and Papa were friends. That was Maude Lee's and them's father. He was from—I forgot where he's from but, anyway, he came here to work but he worked at the mill. He used to bring—Papa would wake up mornings and they could bring so much material from the mill.

Annie Gavin: They'd allow you to carry as much as you could carry and not have to pay for it. Because my daddy was working at the mill when he built his house. As much as he could carry on his shoulder, he could have. He would bring so much every night, and he and mama would go over there and nail it on the wall. Mama holding a lamp.

Annie Gavin: I was a year old at the time, which means they had been in that house, because the house has been made over since then, 81 years.

Grace George: That's the one that Laurie still lives in, right?

Visitor: Yeah. [indistinct 00:04:46] still lives in [indistinct 00:04:47].

Grace George: You let me know about [indistinct 00:04:55].

Visitor: How you doing? How you doing? How are you? Cold-hearted cold city.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. Yeah.

Visitor: You always out.

Annie Gavin: You see me out all the time?

Visitor: I used to come see you [indistinct 00:05:05].

Annie Gavin: Oh, yeah. That's right. I knew I knew your face.

Visitor: Yeah. What y'all was saying?

Annie Gavin: No. We weren't saying—We're talking about the war.

Grace George: The old times.

Annie Gavin: Old times. This is a reporter. He's putting us on the news.

Visitor: Oh, yeah.

Annie Gavin: I was telling about old James City. Y'all got a history too now.

Visitor: Yeah. Yeah.

Annie Gavin: Down there.

Visitor: Yeah.

Grace George: Did you know about from James City? Years and years ago?

Visitor: Joe Joe.

Annie Gavin: Everybody [indistinct 00:05:37] Joe Joe.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:05:38]. Joe Joe in the morning time. [indistinct 00:05:44] farther back.

Annie Gavin: Because Cole City [indistinct 00:05:46].

Visitor: [indistinct 00:05:49] in that block house on the corner. What was his last name?

Annie Gavin: Lived in the block house?

Visitor: Yeah. [indistinct 00:05:58].

Grace George: [indistinct 00:05:58].

Visitor: Yeah.

Annie Gavin: I don't know. Everybody in James City worked Cherry Point when we got there. That could work. Because my sister used to work Cherry Point, Hattie. That's what—

Grace George: That's when things got good to the area when Cherry Point opened up.

Annie Gavin: Yeah, because people got to know each other.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:06:23].

Annie Gavin: Down Hollow and all around the little places, people got to know each other. Some of us knew each other by the churches.

Visitor: Yeah. Yeah. [indistinct 00:06:34] get a long time too, ain't it?

Annie Gavin: Yeah. He was. He's not with us anymore.

Visitor: Oh, that right?

Annie Gavin: Mm-hmm.

Visitor: Where he at now?

Annie Gavin: He's out—Where is he, Grace?

Grace George: Is it Rocking Run?

Annie Gavin: No. It's not Rocking Run. It's out that way, though.

Visitor: Oh. Out towards Rocky Road?

Annie Gavin: No.

Grace George: Further out.

Annie Gavin: Further out.

Visitor: [indistinct 00:06:55].

Grace George: Maysville?

Annie Gavin: Maysville. He lives in Maysville.

Grace George: I think he's got [indistinct 00:07:04].

Visitor: [indistinct 00:07:05] got made with?

Grace George: Mm-hmm.

Annie Gavin: [indistinct 00:07:10] Maysville. Yeah.

Visitor: Yeah.

Annie Gavin: [indistinct 00:07:13] Small is—Can't even think of nobody now.

Visitor: [indistinct 00:07:20]?

Annie Gavin: That way. It's the same direction that—it's not too far from home.

Visitor: It must be [indistinct 00:07:28].

Annie Gavin: Hmm?

Visitor: It ain't Jacksonville.

Annie Gavin: No. It's not Jacksonville. Jacksonville is St. Julia.

Visitor: He got to be [indistinct 00:07:45].

Grace George: Is it [indistinct 00:07:49]?

Annie Gavin: Well, he wasn't on the first but he was Presiding Elder at first. But he's the one who put the bricks around us.

Grace George: Because we moved here, over here, with—There was a wooden church.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. It was a wooden church.

Grace George: They bricked it up over here.

Annie Gavin: Well, it was just a small church in James City. But who brought us over here?

Visitor: [indistinct 00:08:15] put it on the TV.

Annie Gavin: No. He's a reporter. History stuff.

Grace George: This is a community college public radio station.

Annie Gavin: Oh, yeah?

Grace George: This is from [indistinct 00:08:33].

Annie Gavin: They record things for future generations.

Grace George: Is it true that a lot of the bricks were hauled over—They brought the bricks by train [indistinct 00:08:46].

Annie Gavin: On a train.

Grace George: On a train?

Annie Gavin: And parked the train—Reverend Thurston was White.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:08:55]. He had the right [indistinct 00:08:59]. He could get it done.

Annie Gavin: They parked the train on the tracks out there. The little boys like this, as long as you were big enough to bring a brick, they would be bringing those bricks and Latimore. I think was the people that used to sell lumber and doors and stuff, so Reverend Thurston, he was a tricky man. He would have service and invite these people to a service and in the summertime, he'd tell them, "Pull off your coat." These women sitting up here with the arms out—Latimore. I remember the people's name was Latimore that was the ones that sewed material.

Annie Gavin: Then he'd say, "You see these doors? They let us have them, if we can get some money to pay

for them. Then the man get up and said we could have them." He was tricky. You know? Friendship gets a lot.

Grace George: I tried to tell our people that.

Annie Gavin: Friendship gets a lot. Reverend Thurston was nice to everybody.

Visitor: I'll tell you a lot to my daddy.

Annie Gavin: Who?

Visitor: My daddy he's 82. He can tell you everything that happened about that. But he lives in Cole City.

Grace George: Okay.

Visitor: You go up that way?

Grace George: Well, maybe we will eventually, because what happened here, we're talking about James City but James City was the key that many people came through James City and spread out throughout the counties or the area. Many of you will tell us stories that happened here and then they moved to other areas, so it is interesting to come around and talk to—Most of the communities are pretty much setup this way and they were similar.

Annie Gavin: Right.

Grace George: I take James City as like an Ellis Island that you came through here, but all couldn't stay because it was too small. Many of them branched out all around the surrounding areas.

Annie Gavin: A lot of people got to know each other, come together, working at Cherry Point.

Grace George: Yeah.

Annie Gavin: Because through the churches, they used to mingle but the churches didn't interchange pulpits as much before they had transportation, but they went on the horse and buggy.

Visitor: That's where I met you, through the church.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. That's right. Yeah. We don't do enough of that no more.

Visitor: That's right.

Grace George: Fellowship?

Annie Gavin: No. We don't fellowship between churches like we used to, since we got something to travel on, we don't do it.

Grace George: That's right. There's [indistinct 00:11:43] you would take a little—You didn't have the transportation, you'd ride a little bit and walk a little bit until you get to [indistinct 00:11:53].

Annie Gavin: I never knew nobody walked to Morehead City.

Grace George: She said her father or something.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: They had to walk.

Annie Gavin: Well, maybe they rode the horse and buggy and stuff.

Grace George: The train.

Annie Gavin: Or catch a train. Used to catch a train to Morehead City down in that area. I guess people have walked because people have walked from Havelock to New Bern.

Grace George: Miss Annie, but what year did you finish school?

Annie Gavin: 1930.

Grace George: 1930?

Annie Gavin: Mm-hmm.

Grace George: Okay. Okay. I'm curious when I see these pictures.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: You finished at the barber school?

Annie Gavin: No, I finished Kinston.

Grace George: Okay. Okay.

Annie Gavin: I went to Kingston. That was some of Reverend Thurston's doing.



Grace George: Okay.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: Okay.

Annie Gavin: Because Sutton School was losing its credit. He got me a room with the Holloways, the Holloways, the man Holloway—Old man Holloway was president of the bank. Kinston had a Negro bank.

Grace George: Okay.

Annie Gavin: [indistinct 00:13:00] Atkins.

Grace George: The ministers took an active role in the community?

Annie Gavin: In the community. Yeah. Sutton School was closing, and I was a senior. He got a room for me with the Holloways in Kinston. Dr. Harrison lived right beside the Holloways and I used to babysit for them and I learned that his wife was very smart. I learned a lot from her. She was brought up in White people's kitchen. Her mother, that's her mother—Mother made a living for her and sent her to [indistinct 00:13:49], and she was very smart.

Annie Gavin: I learned a lot and matter of fact, she taught me not to eat with my fingers, use your knife and fork. Even today, when I'm by myself, I use my knife and fork. That's what it's for, she said. But she grew up and her mother worked for the family and she grew up in that family. Everything she knew, she taught to me, and she was Dr. Harrison's wife. Very smart.

Annie Gavin: Dr. Harrison saved more people's lives during the flu epidemic. He became famous. White and Black, he attended. Of course, they all dead now.

Grace George: It's good to remember.

Annie Gavin: Yes. Good to—Things that happened, you don't ever really forget.

Grace George: That's right. It's good to share that knowledge.

Annie Gavin: Yeah. You know, we had a habit of eating with our fingers and picking it up off the plate. She didn't let me do that. I ate at the table with them and had to have your napkin and I almost do the same thing right on, and I had to use that knife and fork a certain way.

Annie Gavin: But we were used to taking it and eating it.

Grace George: Enjoying.

Annie Gavin: But she worked with the White—Her mother worked with a White family, and they taught them a lot.

Grace George: It's amazing how—No matter how much you're taught, we're interwoven, the White and the Black.

Annie Gavin: Right. Right.

Grace George: To this day, I cannot understand what the separation of White—It happened. Because we are like interwoven. It's one depending on the other.

Annie Gavin: That's right, and always was that way.

Visitor: [indistinct 00:15:50] nobody know, especially my [indistinct 00:15:54].

Annie Gavin: Yeah. It fit the [indistinct 00:15:55].

Visitor: [indistinct 00:15:57].

Annie Gavin: I can't eat fish. Fish make me sick.

Visitor: [indistinct 00:16:04] a fork picking up fish. Let me get to—I like to eat by myself.

Annie Gavin: So you can eat it just like you want to. Take it with your fingers.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:16:13] fish?

Visitor: Yeah.

Grace George: It's a good [indistinct 00:16:15].

Annie Gavin: All my children love fish but I can't eat fish. I never could eat fish. I can eat crabs, though. I never could eat fish. Mama found out when I was a very young child that—Because it would make me sick and it would come back.

Grace George: Don't touch it now then.

Annie Gavin: I don't have no taste for—

Grace George: It's amazing, though, because most things that are against you, you really like it.

Annie Gavin: But in my case, it'd make me sick. It wouldn't stay on my stomach. I was allergic to fish, but I could eat crabs but all my children can eat fish, and they love fish, and I used to have to cook them because they loved them.

Visitor: You take Mr. Edward, he's still running that [indistinct 00:17:01].

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Visitor: He's still running that place [indistinct 00:17:03] and showing up for supper. [indistinct 00:17:05].

Annie Gavin: Who?

Visitor: Mr. Edward.

Annie Gavin: Edward Hicks?

Visitor: Real light skinned.

Annie Gavin: Mr. Edward, the schoolteacher?

Visitor: Yeah.

Annie Gavin: Oh, yeah. He's still alive. Mr. Edward is still alive.

Visitor: He's still working real estate too.

Annie Gavin: He does?

Grace George: How old is he?

Annie Gavin: Oh, he talking about little pop. Talking about Mr. Evans?

Visitor: Yeah.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Visitor: [indistinct 00:17:39].

Annie Gavin: Mr. Evans, Papa Evans.

Grace George: Okay. Okay.

Visitor: He sells real estate now.

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: [indistinct 00:17:39].

Annie Gavin: He got an office.

Visitor: [indistinct 00:17:39] see him today sometime.

Annie Gavin: He's still at it.

Visitor: I might see him [indistinct 00:17:40].

Grace George: Now he must be about, what? Is he that old?

Annie Gavin: He's as old as I am old.

Visitor: [indistinct 00:17:47].

Annie Gavin: Yeah.

Grace George: What about Mr. Rivers?

Annie Gavin: Rivers is sitting up in a nursing home now.

Grace George: Yeah. He's—My mom said he was a principal down at James City [indistinct 00:17:54].

Annie Gavin: He was principal of James' school. Mm-hmm.

Visitor: [indistinct 00:18:00].

Annie Gavin: Yeah. Mr. Evans, I think he stopped traveling now. Yeah. Mr. Evans is coming in there being 100.

Visitor: Sure right. [indistinct 00:18:11] Holloway.

Annie Gavin: Harlow.