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Interview with Mary Thompson Sterrett Lipscomb

By Isabelle Chewning:

[Items enclosed in brackets [ ] are editorial notes inserted for clarification]

Isabelle Chewning: Today is November 7, 2007 the day after Election Day. My name is Isabelle Chewning: and I'm in Harrisonburg, Virginia at Sunnyside [Retirement Community] in the Highlands.

Mary Lipscomb: It really is the 8th.

Isabelle Chewning: Today's the 8th?

Mary Lipscomb: Uh huh. Yesterday, the Election Day was the 8th, isn't that right?

Isabelle Chewning: I don't know.

Mary Lipscomb: I think that's right.

Isabelle Chewning: Today is either the 7th or the 8th and I'm in Harrisonburg at Sunnyside in the Highlands with Mary Lipscomb. And would you please tell us your full name?

Mary Lipscomb: My full name is Mary Thompson Sterrett Lipscomb.

Isabelle Chewning: I wanted to interview you because you spent your childhood and teenage years in Brownsburg, and I wanted to get some of your recollections of Brownsburg. And I will say for anybody who's reading this in the future, Mary is my aunt and so it's special for me to get all these recollections from her. [At the time of the interview, Isabelle Chewning lives at Mary Lipscomb's childhood home, Mulberry Grove, near Brownsburg.] But when did you first move to Brownsburg?

Mary Lipscomb: I was born outside of Lexington, just outside of Lexington, and my parents lived on Route 39 north from Lexington [Alms Croft Lane near Lazy Acres Lane]. It [Route 39] paralleled at one time Route 11. But my parents lived with my father's uncle [Stuart Thompson] for several years after their marriage, and I was born when they were living there, as was my brother [Madison McClung Sterrett, Jr.]. And we moved to Brownsburg in, I think it was 1927. You can check that

with Mc [Sterrett], my brother, and be sure that's right. I think he was two years old and I was four years old when we moved to Brownsburg.

Isabelle Chewning: Do you remember when you moved?

Mary Lipscomb: No, I don't remember that at all. My father [Madison McClung Sterrett, Sr..]used to talk about a couple of things in the move. One of them was that when he was coming down -- he was coming with a load of hay down through the village, and the village slants northward a bit. It's a bit downhill as you move northward. And [he asked] one of the nice black men in the village to put the brake on the wagon as he came down through the village. He didn't know who it was, but that's the only thing I've ever heard about the move. He brought the load of hay from his farm near Lexington, where he farmed with the uncle, to Brownsburg. He was aware that there were helpful people around that would do things for you. But when we came to our home at Mulberry Grove [2249 Sterrett Road], we had a lady who came with us, Miss Willie, she was named. I think her last name was Hunt, Miss Willie Hunt, who lived with us because Mc and I, my brother and I were fairly young and my mother had been pretty ill when my brother was born and she was not ever very strong. So Miss Willie was a good part of the family for several years when we first lived at Brownsburg, at Mulberry Grove, which is one mile east of the village of Brownsburg. But I vaguely remember that there was very little furniture in the house. Some of these things maybe people have told me rather than I really do remember, but I think that we all slept in what you [Isabelle] and I both use as the library now. We had beds in there for all of us. We moved in March,, I think it was. Most everybody moved in March, it seemed to me, in those days because you prepared for the coming of the summer and the growing season. I guess I just sort of assumed it was March, but that I don't remember; I was only four years old and I just really don't remember. And I don't remember anything about living with the uncle except one little thing. I remember that the uncle and I were out herding some sheep one time. And that field, that area, I know now, is right along the road as you come from Lexington to Brownsburg on [Route] 39. That is 39 still isn't it?

Isabelle Chewning: Right.

Mary Lipscomb: Anyway, but I just have a vague recollection of that. But I don't think I remember much at all about life at Mulberry Grove until almost the time I started to school when I was six years old in that time.

Isabelle Chewning: What was the uncle's name?

Mary Lipscomb: Stuart Thompson. He was married to my dad's aunt, Isabel Sterrett Thompson. She was my great aunt. My father's father [Madison McClung Sterrett] died when [my dad] was less than two years old, and then there was one other child who was born after my grandfather died, and

she [Grandmother, Anna Laura Smith Sterrett] was not at all well when he died. She just had a child, and she was going to have another [when Grandfather died]. And she sort of farmed her children out to her brothers and sisters, her sisters mostly, and her husband's family, my grandfather's family. This Isabel Sterrett Thompson was my grandfather's sister and she took in my-- I don't think it-- yes, it was pretty soon after his [my grandfather's] death, I believe, that my dad moved to my Uncle Stuart's farm and lived with him. Sometimes, though, during his childhood and his teenage years, he would live with her [his mother]. I think the children sort of took turns. There were eight children in my father's family. He had seven siblings and they would live sometimes with an aunt, and then depending on my grandmother's circumstance, they would go back and live with her. After a while she moved to Waynesboro which was closer to her home in Augusta County, where she grew up near Greenville, the village of Greenville in Augusta County. They were married – I was looking at something the other day about their marriage, but I think they were married at Greenville. But she [my grandmother] opened a home for – not tourists, but people to live with her, and she served meals, I think, in her home in Waynesboro. There were not many things that widows could do in those days. This was just after the turn of the century in 1906, 1907 along in there I suppose, or maybe even a little earlier. But she had a boarding house – that's what you call it – in Waynesboro where she took in people and had meals, and I know my dad lived with her there some because I've heard him speak of going to school in Waynesboro when they were there. Then later she [my grandmother] got a job as what they called the Matron at Union Seminary in Richmond, the Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond. She was, I assume, the head housekeeper and managed the dining room, planned the meals. Of course, Union Seminary was not as big as it is now, and so she could do a number of things, probably. But in my childhood, in our teenage years, when I would go to Massanetta to camp and things, the ministers would all say, "Oh, your name is Sterrett, I knew your grandmother. She taught me manners, table manners when she was at Union Seminary." So I know firsthand that she was the hostess in the dining room kind of thing. And my dad lived with her, I know, when he went to high school because he went to John Marshall High School in Richmond. And then I assume after high school he came back to live with Uncle Stuart and his aunt. He called her Aunt Belle, but she probably had died by that time. I don't know exactly when Aunt Belle died but she had cancer, and I think this was very hard for him. He probably was maybe ten or 12 when she died, and he never did know his father, and this lady was as close to his mother as his mother was. The B&O Railroad ran through Uncle Stuart's farm. I've heard him talk about – they would put her on a pallet and take her down, and the train would stop there on the tracks at the farm. They'd put her on it, and take her over to UVA, and I guess she died there, cancer of something. But then he and Uncle Stuart lived as bachelors together for quite a while, just these two guys living there, until he met Mother, [Edna Watkins Morton] until my dad met my mother and she came there to live with him. He met her when she was teaching at Rockbridge Baths. She came to Rockbridge Baths from Fredericksburg where she grew up, and taught in the high school. She taught high school math at the Rockbridge Baths High School and my dad had cousins in Rockbridge Baths and he would ride his horse over there. He met her there. And they lived there with my uncle until my dad decided it was time for him to buy something of his own, and he bought the farm at Brownsburg.

Isabelle Chewning: Who did he buy the farm from?

Mary Lipscomb: The farm was owned, well Mulberry Grove had been in our family, the Samuel Willson family, from about 1824 until about 1868 or '66, along in there. The Willsons all died. When Samuel Willson died, he left it in trust to his daughter [Sallie Willson] who lived there a few years and then it was sold. The deed shows that it was sold to several different people, I believe -- I'm not really sure about this -- right at that time after her death. Or maybe those people were just the trustees when she owned it. This was Sallie Willson, his daughter, who had taken care of him when he was a widower. But a family soon bought it named Moore, John Moore and his wife Ellabell bought it from Sally Willson's estate. They owned it until my dad bought it. Well that isn't exactly right. It was sold at auction in '25 maybe.

Isabelle Chewning: 1925?

Mary Lipscomb: Was it? 1925? And my two uncles-in-law, Alden Anderson and John Davidson bought it together at the sale, at the auction sale, and they had no intention of using it as a farm. This was an investment type thing, I think. One of them was a preacher and the other one was – I don't know what Uncle John was doing. But anyway, he [my dad] bought it from them. The deed was never in their name. My dad bought it from, the deed is from Ellabell Moore to my father, to Madison McClung Sterrett. That, I think, was in '25. But that's the year my brother was born, and I know they didn't move then. I'm not too sure. I've forgotten about exactly when those deeds were, but it was along in that time.

Isabelle Chewning: Do you know how much he paid?

Mary Lipscomb: Twelve thousand dollars. I know, too, that when he died -- there was some discussion when my father died, Mc Sterrett, Madison McClung Sterrett. There was some discussion whether Mother was a part of this, whether my mother was a part of this purchase, the money. And Mother remembered that she had $2,000 saved from her teaching money, and therefore, she was a part of it. They took her word for this. The IRS took her word for this that she was a part of the purchase. But it was years and years before that [the farm] was paid [for] because he had a loan from the Federal Land Bank, I remember, which is now called Farm Credit, I believe. There was just no money after 1927. He bought it just at the beginning of the worst part of the Depression, and there just simply was no money to pay for anything. You took eggs to the store and bought things, sugar and bread and things of this sort. But I remember when they finished paying for it, when my dad was working for-- he worked later for the CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps]. But I think it was even after he had stopped that in the late '30s, or maybe even early '40s, or just about '40, I expect, when he finished paying for it. That $12,000 took a long time to pay for.

Isabelle Chewning: I wonder if they used her $2,000 for the down payment.

Mary Lipscomb: I think it probably was. I think that possibly was what she was saying, but yes I can imagine so, and the rest of it. That's about exactly what it was.

Isabelle Chewning: Was he able to pay at all during the Depression?

Mary Lipscomb: They had to pay the interest, but I don't think he ever paid much on the principal. Maybe a little of it was principal, but I'm sure he had to pay the interest the whole time. I have no idea what the interest rate was at that time, but it couldn't have been more than about two percent or maybe less. I'm not sure what it was. When you think about $12,000 in 2007 like it is now, it's just difficult to think it would take that long to pay $12,000.

Isabelle Chewning: What was included in the farm at that point, do you have any idea?

Mary Lipscomb: There were 250 acres and that's all. It was the part that was right around-- it did not include the part that he later bought from Mrs. Dice [to the northeast of Mulberry Grove, 2081 Sterrett Road], nor what used to be the Patterson farm [2645 Sterrett Road in Brownsburg], and the original farm I know was 250 acres.

Isabelle Chewning: But it was on both sides of Sterrett Road?

Mary Lipscomb: It was on both sides of Sterrett Road. It went all the way back to the [Henry] Jones' farm [955 Goose Creek Road] like it does now. I believe maybe, though, he purchased a field back closer to the Jones' farm that was not a part of that. I'm not really sure about that, whether it was a part of the original farm or not. But the Dice farm had at one time belonged to the [John] Moores or to the [Samuel] Willsons. I think it went out during the Willson period but some of that had belonged to the original farm. The Willsons bought it from -- I've even forgotten it, the one who's on the first deed.

Isabelle Chewning: Joseph Skeen?

Mary Lipscomb: Skeen, yes, and I think it was John Skeen. I've forgotten. One was the father and one was the son. But we can look that up later, whatever. We'll see. I still don't remember much about that earliest time. I've heard a lot of things about the time when we first moved there, but I vaguely remember that we lived in what is now the living room, and what is now the library of the house. The house itself was -- What you [Isabelle] and I both, and then in all of my childhood used for the kitchen, had just been obviously not too many years priors to our moving there in '27 made into a kitchen from a porch. It had been the back porch for a number of years obviously, and it was not enclosed under it at all in my childhood. I think maybe not until about the time I was married

possibly. It was pretty much like a porch. The kitchen was cold all the time, and it had no chimney and therefore it was not heated. Mother had an oil cooking stove. I remember distinctly it had three burners and an oven. And it was always cold as the mischief out there in the morning! She would go out there, and hopefully this oil stove would lend some heat to this kitchen, which had no enclosure under it at all. And, of course, we had no water in the house. We had no pumped water into the house at that time, so you didn't have to be fearful of pipes freezing and things like you do now. But there was this very open kitchen type thing. She cooked in there and she was a very good cook, made bread and cooked it in this oil stove oven. And then we ate in what is now the living room. We had a table in there. We never ate in that cold kitchen. In the summertime we ate on the back porch right much, and I guess we could eat in the kitchen in the summertime in particular. But I don't remember ever eating in the kitchen, I don't think, until much later.

Isabelle Chewning: So you really used only those two big rooms on the main floor to live in at first.

Mary Lipscomb: That's pretty much right, uh huh, although strange as it may seem, the telephone was in what is now the dining room.

Isabelle Chewning: So you had a telephone?

Mary Lipscomb: We had a telephone.

Isabelle Chewning: You always remember having it?

Mary Lipscomb: I always remember having a telephone, but it's possible that we didn't have it when I was four years old. But in my first memory we had this telephone. But we always had to go down to that cold room. Of course I never talked on the telephone. The telephone calls were very important. There weren't any just social calls at all. But the neighbors would call about this, that and the other, and you'd have to go down in that cold room in the wintertime and talk on the telephone. So therefore, nobody talked on the telephone much. By the time I was in, oh, maybe the second grade, I moved upstairs to the upstairs hall and had a bedroom. That was my bedroom. But it was just run up there in the wintertime and get in the bed.

Isabelle Chewning: You mean there on the landing?

Mary Lipscomb: There on the landing, yes. I don't know how old I was when I moved up there, but I remember sleeping up there for a good while. We're skipping forward to where I was already in school I'm sure.

Isabelle Chewning: I forgot to even ask when you were born.

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, I was born on December 26, 1923 and I was born in the hospital in Lexington.

Isabelle Chewning: Oh, you were?

Mary Lipscomb: Uh huh, right, both Mc and I were born in the hospital. The father of the doctor who delivered my children delivered me, Hunter McClung. He had been a doctor in Fairfield, and by the time I was born he had moved to Lexington and was most everybody's family doctor, and delivered children, and took care of people and all sorts of things. I had a little book that he had given my mother on raising children, I think it was, on childcare, infant care or something. I forgot what I did with that book. I don't know whether I gave it to his son. I believe I did, his son, my doctor who delivered my children. But anyway, Mother was all right when I was born and I have some pictures of me as a baby at Uncle Stuart's. But when Mc was born, mother had phlebitis very badly. She stayed in the hospital for a long time and I stayed with my great aunt and uncle, Horatio and Edna Thompson who lived at Timber Ridge. These were mother's kin people in that area, and they took me in, and I stayed with them. So forever after that, I visited the Thompsons at Timber Ridge a lot, and stayed over there right much because Mother was not very strong for a good while, I think, after that, but that was all back to my brother's birth time. That was when I was two years old. I must have been with them for quite a while. And they'd tell stories about that. I called Mrs. Thompson Biggie. She was my great aunt Edna, for whom my mother was named. She would tell the story about my dad's coming at night sometime and putting-- no, I think Uncle Edwin really told this story, because it was his story. About putting me in his [Uncle Edwin's] arms and he [my dad] said, "Here's this child. Can you take care of her?" And this was when my brother was being born. And so I seem to have stayed with them a good while. They were great caregivers and wonderful. It was wonderful fun being with them, and I would visit them a lot in the summertime when I was five and six years old.

Isabelle Chewning: And did you have cousins your age?

Mary Lipscomb: In that family?

Isabelle Chewning: In that family?

Mary Lipscomb: Their children were my mother's age. They were her first cousins because this was my mother's aunt, and my great aunt. Then their grandchildren are some younger than I am, Davenport and Ann Thompson, Ann Thompson Montgomery, and they were my second cousins, whatever people call them, first cousins once removed or something, my second cousins these were. Ann was in my wedding but I never-- these were the Thompson's grandchildren. Davenport

and then one named Skipper -- his name was Charles Edwin -- are my second cousins and so forth. But I never knew them really well at all because after my teenage years and college years I didn't go back as much to see them. I kept up with them, and we've always visited them, and also my birthday is the day after Christmas and I remember for years we celebrated my birthday there. We always went there on the day after Christmas for a long time. When my mother's first cousin and the son of one of these was married -- Horatio was his name -- they moved in there. This is at Church Hill [78 Sam Houston Way]. It's the pretty old brick house right behind the Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church. When Horatio married Mildred Thompson -- Mildred Goodman she was -- they lived there at Church Hill with my -- she was my great aunt [Edna], and I called her Biggie [short for Big Edna]-- with Biggie and Uncle Edwin. Mildred became the housekeeper and she was a fantastic cook and we always looked forward to going to Timber Ridge for my birthday -- the Christmas celebration with them like it is with you [Isabelle] now. And so we went over there every year on the day after Christmas. I remember one year it snowed and we always traveled the road -- I don't know whether we always did or not, but we were in the Model A, I guess it was, and we were traveling the road from Bustleburg that comes out at the Alexander's Orchard [Decatur Road]. And we met a car as we were coming down a little hill and I suppose my dad stepped on the brake and our car went zoom, and turned around in the road on this trip to Timber Ridge for my birthday. I don't know why I remember that. Anyway, those are some of the things I remember probably prior to my starting school. When we first moved to Brownsburg we had a Model T and it had curtains. I guess maybe the second car we had was a Model A and I think it also had curtains, but I remember Mother at the sewing machine. The curtains were made out of-- they had some kind of heavy material but then the part that you could see out of was something called Isinglass and I have no idea what Isinglass was. But it would break and Mother, I guess she would buy additional this-- it looked like hard plastic. She would have to put it in the sewing machine, and sew it into those curtains every year to change the part that you could see out of. It just looked like a piece of plastic but it was very hard and if you folded them or anything it would break. But anyway, Mother would sew those curtains so that they would be ready for winter. And where we went, I'm not too sure. I don't know whether we ever went to Lexington. I guess we did, in the Model T, because I know there were some trips to Lexington. The Model A, I think, had the same type curtains. And then eventually we had one that had roll-up windows, a Model A.

Isabelle Chewning: You always remember having a car then?

Mary Lipscomb: Right. We always had a car by the time we were in Brownsburg, right. At Uncle Stuart's we have lots of pictures of my dad on horseback, and I think maybe they maybe didn't have a car. I think he had a car when he was married. They were married in 1922. They went to Baltimore on their honeymoon in a car. I remember that, and I think he had a car at that time, probably the same one we had when we moved to Brownsburg in '27.

Isabelle Chewning: How old were they when they got married?

Mary Lipscomb: Mother was three years older than my father and in ’22 he would have been 22 and she would have been-- he was born in ’99, 1899, and she was born in ’96, so she would have been about 25, and he was about 22, I guess, when they were married. She had taught in King George County. She grew up in Fredericksburg and she taught in King George County and then she came to Rockbridge Baths to teach.

Isabelle Chewning: Can you talk a little bit about her life?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah.

Isabelle Chewning: It’s such an interesting life.

Mary Lipscomb: Yes, it is.

Isabelle Chewning: Not directly related to Brownsburg, but --

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah, very interesting. Her parents were Charles Read Morton and Mary Thompson who was from Timber Ridge. Well, I’ll go back a little further about how they met. He was from, Charles Read Morton was from Charlotte County, and his family lived near Charlotte Courthouse in Charlotte County. He went to Union Seminary and he had a sister named Suzanne -- we always called her Aunt Sue -- I think it was Suzanne. Suzanne Morton who married a man named John Davis, and John Davis was the pastor at the Timber Ridge Church when Charles Read, his brother-in-law, was at Union Seminary. I guess Union Seminary was in Hampden-Sydney at that time because it was at Hampden Sydney for a long time. John Davis invited Charles Read Morton to come to Timber Ridge to do summer work with him at Timber Ridge. And he met Mary Thompson, who was living-- she wasn’t the daughter of the man who owned Church Hill. She was a niece of the man who lived -- the Thompson man who owned Church Hill at that time. Mary Thompson’s mother had died. Her mother was an Adams and she died in childbirth when Mary Thompson was quite young. And he moved back, [Mary’s widower father] Samuel Thompson moved back from Rockbridge Baths, where they were living, to Church Hill where his brother lived. He obviously owned maybe a part of Church Hill. Those kids -- he had four children: Mary, and Edna and two boys [William and Lewis]. They grew up pretty much at Church Hill with their uncle and aunt, but their father lived there also. Samuel Givens Thompson was his name. Well anyway, Charles Read Morton came to Timber Ridge for a summer intern pastorship and met Mary Thompson, who lived just behind the church. And they were married -- not that year, I guess, but the next year when he finished in, I think it was ’95. In 1895 he finished seminary. They were married in the library at Church Hill and they went off almost immediately, I think maybe right from the wedding, to New York to board a ship that took him to Brazil where he was a missionary for the Southern Presbyterian Church, the Southern Presbyterian Church U.S. at that time. Mother was

born in a little village called Araguari in Brazil. It's sort of in the north central part of Brazil itself. Her mother was -- Mary was pretty young. I don't think she was 20 years old when they were married. Most all the missionaries had great difficulty -- and there were a lot of Presbyterian missionaries in Brazil. It was a big mission area for the Southern Presbyterian Church. And they all had difficulty with the climate, and the tropical diseases, and things of that sort, particularly tuberculosis. Grandmother, Mary Thompson, became very ill about the time Mother was two years old. She was so sick, and they decided they'd better bring her back to this country and they did. She was very ill on the boat, but finally got here. And I've never been sure where they docked. They must have either docked at Norfolk or somewhere like that instead of New York because the first place they went was Fredericksburg, where Charles Read Morton's sister lived. Her name was Nannie Morton Howison. She married a man named Samuel Howison. No, that's not right. Samuel Graham Howison, but he was known as Graham. So they came there to his home in Fredericksburg named Braehead, with this very ill lady, my grandmother, and this 2-year-old daughter, and the father, the husband Charles Read Morton, of course, came to try to get her home. I remember -- Mother grew up there, and I remember one of her first cousins, whom I called aunt, because she [my mother] lived there her whole growing up life said, "I have been told"-- this is my Aunt Nannie, who was the youngest daughter of the Howisons -- said, "I remember standing by the big doors in the hallway thinking, I wonder what this little Brazilian cousin is going to look like." She was four years old and my mother was two. She had no idea who this cousin was, what this cousin was like. She thought she was going to look like a Portuguese, or an Italian or something of this sort, because she had heard about Brazil. But she wondered what this little cousin was going to be like, and she had no idea they were going to grow up together, and be like sisters from then on. But anyway, my grandmother died at Braehead, and they brought her back to Timber Ridge and she's buried at the Timber Ridge Cemetery. But my grandfather then left Mother at the Howisons, at this home named Braehead near Fredericksburg, and went back to the Seminary, I think, for some refresher courses and he was around-- there are some letters from him at the Seminary to his sister about the care of my mother. It always said something to the effect that as soon as he got back to Brazil he wanted to get my mother to come back to Brazil with him. After about a year, I think, he went back to Brazil and he did not take Mother with him because he didn't know what his living conditions were going to be like there. But she continued to-- later he married again, and always meant to have her go to Brazil to live with him. He had two other children and he died, and I'm not really sure which year he died. He died shortly after this second child was born. He married a lady named Lucy Hall, whose parents had moved to Brazil with those people who went right after the Civil War and established something called Americana Villa, because their farms were so devastated during the Civil War. There was a great colony of these people who had moved, and all the daughters married missionaries, I think. Anyway, Lucy was my grandfather's second wife. They had these two children, and after he died, the little boy in the family -- he was the second child -- became very ill, and they came back because of his health, and they came again to her husband's sister's home, the Braehead home in Fredericksburg. The boy died there and he's buried in the Howison's plot in Fredericksburg. The Howisons just had a-- they had a big old house, and they just sort of took in everybody, even into the cemetery plot. This child is buried there. And then when his mother died many years later, she's buried there, too. She wanted to be buried with her son in Fredericksburg and she's buried in the Howison's plot. And none of them had any – well, the boy was some kin to Mrs. Howison. He was

her nephew, of course, but the wife was not kin to the Howisons at all. It's very interesting what a wonderful family the Howisons were.

Isabelle Chewning: And where is Charles Read Morton buried?

Mary Lipscomb: He's buried in Brazil, and I must give you that writing that there is about him. I keep hoping Alexander [Mary's grandson Bruce Alexander Lipscomb III who is a Foreign Service Officer] will go to Brazil sometime and we can find the grave. It's in Casa Branca [Sao Paulo], I believe it's called. That's not right. I know this writing has the name of the village where he's buried. I think he had a church there, and it's a churchyard. There was a picture. I've seen a picture of all these flowers bedecking his grave. But Mother then, grew up in this family of Howisons. There were three girls, and two of the older ones were two years apart. Then there was a skip and then there was this third one and her name was Nannie, Nannie Howison, and she was just two years older than Mother, so she and Mother became a pair and then the two older ones were a pair and the two older ones were named Margaret and Mary Graham. Mother was such a part of that family. She called Mrs. Howison, her aunt, she called her "Mother". And she called Mr. Howison "Father" just as if they were her real parents, and I called them Grandma and Grandpa, and I called all those three first cousins, I called them "Aunt". I have letters that Grandma, Mother's real aunt, had written her after she was married to my dad and you could not tell that she was not her daughter. Absolutely she was her real mother and, of course, she didn't remember her mother at all. But she named me after her mother and she had a happy, very happy life at Braehead. And had her father wanted her to come to Brazil, I think she would not have wanted to come, not wanted to leave her family in Fredericksburg by that time. But she and Aunt Nannie were very close, and there were a couple of maiden aunts who lived with the Howisons, Mr. Howison's sisters, and one of them was the housekeeper. Her name was Helen, but they used the Scots pronunciation and called her Heel'-in [phonetic spelling], Helen Howison. And one of them was named Mary and they called her Mamie, and I called them "Aunt". I didn't know Aunt Helen. She'd died before I was born. But Aunt Helen was the housekeeper. Aunt Mamie taught the girls. She was the teacher. There wasn't any public school for girls at that point I suppose. This was in the early 1900s. Grandmother, Grandma as I called her, Mother's aunt really, did the sewing and kept everybody in clothes. And the house was huge and they had some help, but I'm not too sure how much. But I know they had-- they always sent the laundry out, because they talked about that sometimes. I'm sure they must have had some additional household help. But Grandfather was a farmer, but not a very good farmer. He was an educated man, and I guess he didn't like it much, and they had some farmland outside of Fredericksburg. But I think he was, maybe he was similar to our county agents, or something of that kind, too, because I know he went around and talked to people about this, that, and the other. And I'm not too sure where those programs were in the government at that time, whether they were anything similar to what we have today. He inherited that farm from [Note - information on tape has been corrected to read as follows: his father, Robert Howison, who had taken it over when his brother, John Howison, lost it because of debt. This Uncle John had built the house, "Braehead", but the Battle of Fredericksburg was fought in this area, and things were just hard after the war.] Anyway, Mother's life there was very, very happy and then, well she went two years, I suppose, just

to the Fredericksburg Normal School. She and Aunt Nannie drove a buggy into town to go to school. She used to show me where they hitched the buggy, somewhere almost close to Sunken Road, I think, and that was the hitching post along there. They hitched the buggy there in the morning and took classes. When she finished the two years, then she was eligible to teach school. And she went down on the Rappahannock -- is it the Rappahannock that comes right there in Fredericksburg? The Rappahannock River, and it's hard to believe this is true, and took a boat down the river. When you look at the Rappahannock now it doesn't have enough water in it for a boat. But she took a boat down to King George County where she taught in the village of King George, and I guess it was just for the one year that she taught there. But she had these cousins, these Adams cousins who were-- her grandmother was an Adams, my mother's grandmother was an Adams -- from Rockbridge Baths, and so some of the-- and also her Thompson aunt lived at Church Hill, and they all encouraged her to come to Rockbridge County to teach. And she and Aunt Nannie, I know, would visit the Thompsons periodically at Timber Ridge. The Howisons made some effort to have her know her mother's kin people, and I know that Mother and Aunt Nannie together would come sometimes and spend some time at Church Hill [78 Sam Houston Way] with the Thompsons. Once upon a time, she visited her uncles. One of them -- I have to think about this -- was named Lewis and one of them was named-- I've forgotten what the other one's name was. The uncles lived in the Memphis area. And while she was visiting one of them she got typhoid fever and lost her hair. She talked about that. So I know that she kept up with some of these Thompsons and visited them sometimes. So she came to Rockbridge Baths, and lived with her great aunt, I guess she was. She was a Wilson. She called her Aunt Lizzie, and she had married an Adams. Then her daughter married a Gibson and then her daughter married a cousin of my dad. Her daughter married a Sterrett. It was Aunt Lizzie Adams. She was a Wilson, Elizabeth Wilson married Hugh Adams and they owned the house where the Lewises live now [32 McCurdy Lane]. Her daughter, Mary Adams, had married a Gibson and I think Mary and Cousin John [Gibson] were really the housekeepers, keepers of the home by that time, and I think mother's great aunt, Elizabeth -- she called her Aunt Lizzie -- Adams, her husband had died and she was older when Mother came there to teach. But Cousin Mary and Cousin John were the housekeepers, the owners of the house, or whatever. And mother lived upstairs. You know that house has sort of a double back porch, and upstairs there were two bedrooms off that, and I think she had one of those bedrooms. I don't know how my dad really met her, but I know there are pictures of them riding horseback together. I think he must have had several horses. Or maybe this is a possibility: she would come over to visit her aunt at Church Hill, at Timber Ridge, and he and his uncle [Stuart Thompson] -- whether the aunt was still living at that point, I don't think so -- came to Timber Ridge to church, and I expect he met her there at Church Hill and so forth, something like that. But the Thompsons were Associate Presbyterians, not the mainline, not the Assembly Presbyterians. They always went to ARP churches. My uncle Thompson, Uncle Edwin Thompson's grandfather was one of the first, one of the early ministers of the Associate Presbyterian Church. And anyway that's another whole part of my ancestry, but this is not very Brownsburg.

Isabelle Chewning: Well we're laying the foundation.

Mary Lipscomb: You're laying a big foundation here, a large foundation!

Isabelle Chewning: So we laid the foundation.

Mary Lipscomb: Right.

Isabelle Chewning: And then they got married in Fredericksburg.

Mary Lipscomb: And lived with the uncle for a while. They got married in Fredericksburg, and we have pictures in the yard at Braehead where they were taken. They were married in the church in Fredericksburg. She was the only one of those three daughters of the Fredericksburg family who was married in the church. One of them was married in the Great Hall at Braehead and one of them eloped because she married a Yankee, terrible, terrible. [Laugh]

Isabelle Chewning: That was Aunt Nannie?

Mary Lipscomb: That was Aunt Nannie, yes that's right. So back to Brownsburg. So they were married and they honeymooned in Baltimore, I remember, and then they came back to Uncle Stuart's and lived for -- they were married, what did I say, in '22? So they lived there for four or five years, five years or so I guess. Mother had some recollections of living there, but both of us [Mary and her brother, Mc] were born when they were living there. And then they moved to Brownsburg in about '27. I think that's about right.

Isabelle Chewning: Which buildings were there on the farm when you moved there?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yeah, I remember quite distinctly. There was the big barn that we kept horses in, which is the typical horse barn.

Isabelle Chewning: The log barn?

Mary Lipscomb: No, the one with the hay mow and all that.

Isabelle Chewning: Closest to your garden?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes close to the garden, right, uh huh.

Isabelle Chewning: It was the calf barn in my lifetime.

Mary Lipscomb: Right but all those stables, all those stalls were [for] horses. And then on the left, as you look at the barn from your house, on the left was a sheep place. Sheep stayed in that section on the left. I don't remember a thing about calves. There was a section with a low roof, just a one story part at the back where we milked the cows and drove in the cows. I don't know what that was used for in your day. But anyway, that barn was there, and the one we called the old barn which was the log barn. And then the granary that burned in the years in the years while I lived there, in the '80s sometime, 1980s. And then out there where the dairy barn is now, there was a chicken house. I think we have some pictures. I have some childhood pictures that show that. That was just a small building. And then a lot of that was fenced in where the sheep came out and ate in troughs outside. I don't remember much about cows at all. I remember those sheep, and I remember the horses because, well after we were older, Mc and I did particular things with the horses. I don't know how many horses. I would guess you had to have at least six. You had four for everything almost, and then -- I don't know whether we had that many or not. Maybe only four at first.

Isabelle Chewning: Do you think your dad brought horses from Uncle Stuart's farm?

Mary Lipscomb: He seemed to have, yes. He seemed to have. I guess by that time he owned some things of his own, and I'm sure he brought two, as many as two, and maybe he bought some others or maybe he brought four. I really don't know. But I feel sure he must have. Uncle Stuart was older by that time, and I really don't know how much farming he was doing. And he lived a lot of the time with his daughters after that. He died when I was maybe in the fifth or sixth grade, somewhere along in that neighborhood, I think, and I expect he wasn't very well, probably.

<pause>

Isabelle Chewning: So we're back on the tape now and we were talking about--

Mary Lipscomb: I needed to take a little rest. We were talking about whether he had horses that had come from Uncle Stuart's farm, and I'm sure he must have. He must have owned a good many things by that time, himself. He always loved riding horses, and he had riding horses, but I don't remember any riding horses at Mulberry Grove until later, until much later because we had a car and I guess he'd given up with the riding horses by that time. But he always loved horses and your brother did not love horses, I mean your father, my brother [Mc Sterrett] didn't care about horses too much. They were always a big nuisance for farming. It was so nice when tractors came along and you didn't have to-- the first thing you had to do in the morning was round up the horses and that was always a big nuisance.

Isabelle Chewning: So they didn't stay in the stable. They were out in the pasture.

Mary Lipscomb: I guess they did at night pretty much in the summertime anyway, because it was cooler and better for them, and they grazed, I guess, some but they mostly slept. But I suppose in the winter they stayed in the stable pretty much. I remember I didn't dare walk in there. They were big old horses when I was little, and you'd get kicked or something. When you walked behind them you had to be really careful. But I don't remember a lot about those very earliest times.

Isabelle Chewning: Were there other outbuildings around the house at that point?

Mary Lipscomb: There was the smokehouse, but that's still there, and I don't remember any--

Isabelle Chewning: What about that thing called the office?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, that was never in my day at all. We used to see the foundation of that which is in your front yard, but after Alex [Mary's husband] and I moved there we undid the front yard. When it got really dry, and the grass would die, it would dry in this little rectangular space as if there had been a little building there, in what's your front yard. But we didn't see anything at all in the way of foundation when we redid the driveway when we moved there. So why the grass would die around it, really I don't know.

Isabelle Chewning: Why do we call it the office?

Mary Lipscomb: Somebody in our ancestry had said – you know that was the back yard until about the later 1800s I guess -- that there had been a building there but, I don't know. Lots of people would tell my dad and Mother things that I've forgotten about or never knew about -- their ancestry. But one of the persons who told us more about it was Tate and Jim Alexander's grandmother, Ida Willson Fultz, who had lived there with her grandparents a good deal, because her father was Robert Tate Willson. And I don't know why she seemed to-- I don't know whether he didn't have a farm, or what it was. Or maybe he lived there, too, with his father for some years and she kind of grew up I think, Ida Willson Fultz, at Mulberry Grove with her grandparents. And she could tell -- she lived into my lifetime. In fact, I was teaching school when she died. But she could tell us some things, and I expect she's one of the ones that did tell us. She's the one I remember who told us about the servants coming across your back yard, I mean what's now your front porch, to the room where Sallie Willson handed out the daily supplies and things of that sort.

Isabelle Chewning: And she's [Ida Willson Fultz] the one who had the memory of the soldiers camping in the meadow.

Mary Lipscomb: Yes, that's right. She's that one, uh huh. She was a little child at that time.

Isabelle Chewning: Can you tell that story?

Mary Lipscomb: Is it time? It's not in chronological order here, but that would be earlier on in the history of Mulberry Grove. We're going to talk about that. You were asking me about, originally, about buildings around the house. And also one other thing about that is that I remember very vaguely, that there was a falling down dairy attached to what we now call the old kitchen. It was stone. I do remember that there were troughs in it and we've all dug up pieces of this clay piping that had been used to pipe water into this dairy. And Samuel Willson had evidently done that and piped water from up at the Martin farm up on the hill up there [1913 Sterrett Road] somewhere all the way down. It had to be piped by gravity, of course, to this dairy that was attached to the house and you -- can't you still see a little line on the old kitchen wall on the outside where there was-- ya'll have taken down that wall, so you won't see it now. But in all of my day, there was a slight line on the old kitchen outside wall where you could see that this building was attached. The stones were, it was sort of falling down-ish in most of my childhood, and it had no water in it. Nothing was piped into it by that time. But Samuel Willson was quite an entrepreneur and did a lot of things of that sort. What did you ask me about?

Isabelle Chewning: Can I ask you a question about the stones from the dairy?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah.

Isabelle Chewning: Did they get sold to somebody else?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah, they sold them to Camp Briar Hills and they built a wall with them down there. I was always kind of angry about that. I think Mother was upset about that too. I don't know. I think everybody was kind of glad to see that stone building gone because somebody was scared it was going to fall on somebody someday. I wish we could have restored it because it was such a-- to me it was sort of a romantic kind of thing. I don't know why as a child I felt like this was the better day of living and all that stuff. Well you asked me to talk about Mulberry Grove during the Civil War. During the time, I guess it was about '64 wasn't it, 1864 when Hunter, General Hunter decided -- well the Valley was just about to be overrun by the Yankees by that time in '64. And this general named Hunter was assigned to move to Lexington from the upper Valley, from Harrisonburg, Winchester, that area, to Lexington to burn VMI because they had been supplying soldiers for the war forever. And so Hunter and his armies came through the lower Valley -- I guess that's what we called it. I always get mixed up about which is upper and which is lower -- anyway, through the Rockridge area moving toward Lexington. And they came in three columns, and one of them came on what is now Route 11. One of them came on what is now [Route] 252 going through Brownsburg, and one of

them came closer to the mountain, like the Walker's Creek Road. They all were to converge on Lexington to burn VMI and take care of Lexington. There was a general named Crook who came through Brownsburg and he -- they always were looking for places that were flat where they could encamp near water. And they camped down near Bellevue [952 Hays Creek Road] which is on the western side of the village of Brownsburg, and they camped, some of them, in the meadow across from the house at Mulberry Grove. One of our cousins named Ida Willson, and she married a Fultz, lived there with her grandfather, and she and a lot of little cousins who seemed to be there, lots of little-- she had some brothers and sisters too. I don't know whether they were cousins or brothers and sisters really. They were little children when the Yankees were camped across the creek. Whether there was one division or more, I don't know what it was. But anyway, General Crook himself, I think, was there with some part of his army. What is now the back of the house was at that time the front of the house and this Cousin Ida, Ida Willson would tell us and her grandchildren, Jim and Tate and Jack Alexander, she'd tell them all this story. She would say, "When we were little children, we were hanging over the front porch railings yelling, "Ray rah for Jeff Davis!" at the Yankees who were camped across the creek from the house. And when Alex and I, my husband and I lived there, Alex said there was no way they would have done that. There was no way they could have been heard or anything. No, that's wrong. I said "I wonder if that's a true story", because I know that they hid the horses up what we call the back road. I heard tales about hiding all the horses in that direction, trying to be away from where these Yankees were. And I said, "I bet that story's not true." And my husband would say, "Oh, but you don't know anything about the noise of an army encampment. There would have been so much noise that they couldn't have heard these kids." I don't know whether they were telling the truth or not. They probably were telling the truth. I said--

[End of Tape 1, Side A]

Isabelle Chewning: Did your father have help on the farm or did he do everything himself?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, no, he had help. There was a black man named William Halliburton, who was there when we got there who had worked for the Moores. And I think he was -- we called him Dude, and everybody else called him Dude. He didn't have any children. He had a wife and they lived about a quarter of a mile, I suppose, from the farm up the road [Haliburton house no longer exists, but it was located across from 1981 Sterrett Road]. And he had a car forever, as I remember, and always drove down to the barn every morning. My dad always said that Dude was of great help to him about knowing who was who in the community, and with whom to deal, and with whom not to deal, and things of that sort. And he died when I -- My dad went from general farming into the dairy business in the late '40s and Dude was always very much a part of the dairy. I expect he lived into the '50s. He died after I was married because I came to the funeral. Alex and I came to his funeral after -- in the '50s I would say. He probably lived -- I don't think it was the early '60s, probably in the late '50s he died. I don't know when. There was a family named Strickler who moved into the house where the Thornes now live [2166 Sterrett Road], the one closest to the barn, that house. I always

remember them, but I somehow don't believe they were there when we came there. But I don't remember anybody else who lived in that house. And there was a mother and a father and two sons, and I don't know how those sons, how old they were, but they both got married. I remember them both marrying after I was maybe 12 or 13 years old, something like that or maybe ten or 12 along in there. So they must have been pretty young these two sons. One of them was named Ollie and the other one was John, I believe, John Strickler and Ollie Strickler.

Isabelle Chewning: And did they work on the farm?

Mary Lipscomb: And they worked on the farm, uh huh. And I don't know how we afforded all those people. I guess it was sharecropping, maybe some of that kind of thing. I suppose that's what it was at that point. But I don't know what about Dude. As far as I know, Dude was always paid something. I don't think he ever was in the sharecropping business, but I can't imagine there was any money to pay these people, so I really don't know what the arrangements were. But it took a lot of people to make hay because it was such a labor intensive thing. You had to cut it. We had a mower, a horse-drawn mower. Or to thresh and cut the wheat. We had a binder drawn by horses. Everything was drawn by horses, and it took people to stack all this stuff. You had to stack it. A binder would put out sheaves of wheat or whatever, and you had to go along behind it and put the wheat in little stacks. And then you cut corn by hand, and that's what general farming was all about in those days. We had some hay, some wheat, some corn and you fed it to the animals, or you took the-- I remember going with, I guess with sacks of wheat, to the mill. One of the most exciting things all summer would be the threshing of the wheat. Sometimes the wheat would be-- well, you cut the wheat in later June or early July and stack it in little stacks in the field. Then it would dry there I suppose and sometimes you would put it-- sometimes the threshing machine would come, and we didn't have a threshing machine. Nobody owned a threshing machine, but there was a man named [Porter] Beard in the Brownsburg neighborhood who was the neighborhood thresher. How do you spell that word, is it thrasher? I always say "thrasher" and I'm not too sure what that is. Anyway, he had a steam engine and pulled this threshing machine and it would come either to the field and the horses and, I guess your neighbors, would help with this. They'd bring their wagons and some horses and they would go around in the field and stack the wheat sheaves on the wagon and pull it up to the threshing machine and thresh it in the field and you'd have a straw stack in the field. But I remember more it seemed to me we did this much more: they brought it, I guess after it dried some, they brought it into the barns and put it in the mows down in that old barn. And there were two large mows on each side of it. That barn had just mows on each side and a driveway between, and they would put all the wheat in there. We also raised barley, and I don't know when they did that, whether they threshed it, or put it all in there at the same time, and rye, too. So we had all three of these grains. But I don't remember that -- when we threshed, we always had wheat grain, it seemed to me. I don't remember barley grain, but maybe we did. I've just forgotten. But anyway, the threshing machine would come pulled by this-- Mr. Beard would come -- pulled by this steam engine. And he'd come in by that lane that goes right down by your house, between your house and the dairy barn now, and that was the driveway to the barn. And he would blow the whistle of this steam engine and that was so exciting to go down to the barn, and then he'd drive around back of the old

barn and put the threshing machine in that driveway. The steam engine had a belt between it that ran the threshing machine and fire up that thing and the next day--

Isabelle Chewning: With coal?

Mary Lipscomb: Wood, no wood. This thing was fired with wood and you had to be constantly poking wood into the steam engine. Then the straw stack would be, there would be a fenced area around in front of that barn. In front of the old barn there was a fenced area where you blew the straw that made a straw stack. In the wintertime, I guess a lot of the cattle, cows, we didn't have any cattle per se. We had some milk cows and that was about it. I don't remember ever having -- for quite a long time -- having beef cows but I guess we did. We must have sold some, had cows and calves or something of that sort. But anyway, lots of the black people in Brownsburg would come and help and some of the other white people. I don't know who came, but you'd have to go around and scurry up all this help for the day you were going to thresh. And the poor black people, no wonder they had every kind of disease, always had to build the straw stacks, and they would be out there in this horrible dust. As you built the straw stack it had to be done correctly, so it would be a cone shape when you got through and then it would stay there. It would blow over if it weren't built right, and these people knew how to do it to build it, wide and heavy at the bottom and smaller and smaller and smaller until you got toward the top. In those days in the wintertime, well some people would stay-- Back to the threshing itself, some people would stay in the mows and throw the sheaves of wheat that had been put into the mows earlier into the threshing machine. Some people would build the straw stack. And some people had to catch the grain, put the sacks around the area where the grain came out, and load them onto wagons, I suppose and we'd take that to the mill or whatever. But anyway we always had to have all these guys who were doing all this work stay to dinner and that was a big deal. Of course, the black people didn't eat with the white people. I remember once in a long time Mother used the old kitchen, would fire up a stove down there. And very often Dude's wife, Maggie, would help, and his sister, Edna Pleasants, would help, and you had to have a number of people helping to cook dinner for all these people. You always, of course, had what was in the garden, potatoes and green beans and some kind of-- I remember Mother would cook either shoulder, ham, shoulder meat or some kind of fried meat and lots of it, I guess, lots of biscuits and things of this sort. I don't remember much about dessert but I remember-- Mother's meals may have been not as good as lots of people's wives around there. [Laugh] I think she just wanted to do it and get it over with!

Isabelle Chewning: How many days did it take?

Mary Lipscomb: I only remember one.

Isabelle Chewning: It was a one day operation?

Mary Lipscomb: Just a one day operation, I think, but it may have been more than one sometimes, but I don't believe it was. I don't remember many more days than that. That was the story mostly with wheat. And, as I said, I don't know about the barley grain and whether that was threshed at the same time. I know we raised rye. But you must ask your dad [Mc Sterrett] about those things. I'm sure he'll remember more about that. But I do remember, now this would be when we were maybe 12 and 10 or in that area -- the way they did hay, I guess you'd cut it with a hay mower, which was drawn by horses, and let it lie there on the ground until it dried. And then I guess they had some people who sort of put it in little stacks, just little round stacks around the field. And then we'd use grapevine, I remember, and Mc and I could do this. They would have a horse with a single tree. That's one little round thing hooked behind a harness of the horse, and they would hitch that to maybe a little rope or chain or something, and this grapevine would go around this little stack, and we would ride the horses and pull that little stack up to where a man would put it on a bigger stack, and make a haystack in the field. And I don't know whether this -- I don't remember the cattle being out there in the wintertime eating. You had haystacks out in the field where cattle could come up to it and eat from that and we didn't have to-- there wasn't any baling thing and putting it all together in little bales at all. You stacked it. That's what preserved both straw and hay.

Isabelle Chewning: You didn't put any of the loose hay in the barn?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yeah we had loose hay in the barn, too, and that was in the barn that was the horse barn more. And there was a great big fork. They would drive up to the barn with a load of hay on a wagon, loose. Maybe we put those little stacks on the wagon and brought them to the barn. I'm really not very clear about that. This big fork was on a rope, and Daddy would let it down into the hay that was on the wagon and they would push it down into the hay and lock it in some way. It was pulled by a rope that went up to the hay mow and across the top of the barn and then he had-- whoever was in the barn had a rope they'd pull it with, but this fork would let it loose and drop it into the barn. Well that had to be pulled up by a rope that went down on the back of the barn and hooked to a horse at the back, down in the barnyard. And Mc and I would often lead that horse when the time came to pull, lead that horse down through the barnyard to pull this fork of hay up. Oh, and that was very exciting. We had a big old horse named Bill and he was the one that they used to use to pull up the hay into the mow. And it seems to me that Daddy would always be the person in the mow because we would hear his voice yell when he meant for us to stop with the horse. I don't know who, maybe one of these Stricklers or I don't know whether Dude or somebody would be on the wagon. But that hay in the barn would be used to feed the horses in the wintertime, and I suppose the sheep too stayed in that same barn. Do they eat hay? I've forgotten. I guess they do.

Isabelle Chewning: Were the sheep just for the wool?

Mary Lipscomb: No, we had lambs that we sold. We had wool. We had lambs. Oh that was another whole story. When you're dealing with sheep and lambs you always have ones that their mother's don't have any milk, won't take them, mothers die, so that you always had lambs on bottles. It seems to me I remember lambs in the kitchen in boxes being nursed sometimes and that didn't last forever. They got big enough to take back outside, we would take them outside. But you always had to bring them in. Some of them would be so weak when they were born, or something like that you'd have to bring them in, give them brandy, and feed them with a bottle for a while. And then I don't remember this much at home. I remember this more when I was first married. Alex's Aunt Midge had lambs – sheep. Feeding a lot of them when they got bigger on bottles. But I'm sure if you had sheep, you had to feed them on bottles, I think, and sometimes you'd have to feed them forever almost if their mother had died or something. Yes, and the wool, we sold the wool.

Isabelle Chewning: Did somebody come and shear the sheep?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes. Somebody came and sheared. I think some of the Swishers in the Brownsburg area were the sheep shearers, Mr. Hen Swisher, maybe. I don't remember really much about that, who did it but I remember they set up a table of some sort out beside the barn, and had to catch the sheep and put them up there, and shear the wool.

Isabelle Chewning: Did you eat lamb?

Mary Lipscomb: We did not eat lamb. The most I remember about lamb and mutton was after I was married and I cooked it then more, and we ate it more. Alex liked it. I remember when I was pregnant, I cooked some lamb in the pressure cooker and it was the worst -- I shouldn't have ever cooked it in the pressure cooker. It smelled up the whole place, made me so sick. When Alec [Mary's son, Bruce Alexander Lipscomb, Jr.] was born in the hospital in Lexington, for Sunday dinner they had lamb. I could really eat it. It was very good. But we never did have lamb. We had hogs and pigs, a good many of those. I forgot to mention that. That's what, as I said, general farming is all about.

Isabelle Chewning: Where did the pigs stay?

Mary Lipscomb: You know I've really forgotten. It seems to me in those-- there were some little pig sty things, just little coop type things almost, not very big, down behind where your smokehouse is, somewhere between there and the granary, somewhere in that area. And then we had a building out to the-- all this is so taken up now by the silos right in that place where the silos are next to the big barn, to the dairy barn in that section. It seems to me there were some hog pens right in that neighborhood, somewhere along in there. I don't remember.

Isabelle Chewning: That's where there used to be a lot of apple trees too, weren't there some apple trees in there?

Mary Lipscomb: I don't remember apple trees out there, maybe one or two very old ones. I don't remember apple trees. The apple trees were behind the old barn in that field where Larry [Swisher] has his pumpkins.

Isabelle Chewning: Okay, right, right.

Mary Lipscomb: And that had a whole lot of apple trees in it when I was a child. You could still see where it really had been a big orchard but we used those apples all the time, from those trees. There were probably two good rows all the way across that field and I don't remember any other apple trees, I don't think.

Isabelle Chewning: Did you have the pear trees then?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes, we had the pear trees then, and Mother used those a lot. She canned them, and there were more than there were when I lived there the second time [from 1984 to 2002]. There were at least two [pear] trees between the smokehouse and the gate that goes out, the first little gate that goes out into that field. And then there were probably three from the gate out toward the road. But out toward the road, of course, along that fence row at the end of it was where the icehouse had been, and you remember that probably, a hole in the ground right in there, no? We filled that in when we moved there in the '80s. It was still a hole in the ground but we used it for a dump place, always dumped the tin cans and stuff in there and so forth but it was a pretty big hole. It had been an icehouse and it was a good-sized hole in my childhood. I guess my daddy put some dirt over it or something, but it was still an indentation at least, quite a little hole when we moved there. We filled it in. That's why it's so bad. I think it was not topsoil or something. It's bad gardening out there toward the road and all that stuff.

Isabelle Chewning: Maybe that was outside. Was that outside the fence before you straightened up the fence? Wasn't there like a--

Mary Lipscomb: That's right. It was out there in that driveway part. It was, uh huh. It wasn't a part of the yard until we did that.

Isabelle Chewning: Straightened out the fence, right.

Mary Lipscomb: Worked on it, changed that fence row. I don't think about that much because I never lived there as an adult until we moved back there. You don't remember. I remember how things were vaguely as a child, but you don't catch onto those things until you're out there mowing the grass and digging in the dirt, and things like that.

Isabelle Chewning: So your father was a general farmer.

Mary Lipscomb: And also one of the things we did, it was very important that we had hog killing in the fall, in the winter. You had to wait until the weather got cold enough -- because you had no refrigeration for any of this stuff -- to kill hogs. I remember lots of people who did public works, worked on the road, the highway and things of that sort always butchered on Thanksgiving Day, because it was usually cold enough at that time. But I don't remember ours ever being done on Thanksgiving Day, but they did it on-- I don't know, they maybe butchered five or six hogs. I think they had, I don't know whether they had other people, but I remember the Stricklers and Dude were there at that time, and that may have been all the help we had to do that. They would kill the hogs down in the barnyard and then they would hang them up and had to scrape the hair off. Then they would cut them up. Then they would bring all these cut up pieces up to the old kitchen, and there was a big table in the old kitchen. They would continue to cut them up and cut the fat off and put it in a big pot and make lard in the big pot in the old kitchen. They'd have to stir that for a long time. I don't know which they made. They made sausage.

Isabelle Chewning: How did you preserve the sausage? Was it canned?

Mary Lipscomb: I think we canned it. I remember later we canned it. I can't remember if we did anything different with it. Lots of people made sausage cakes, and fried them, and then put them into cans. I've eaten at other people's houses and out of cans come sausage cakes already fried. But my dad always just put them in tin cans raw and then we put them in a big pot of water and cooked them. And I don't know which came first the cooking of the sausage or the making of the lard.

Isabelle Chewning: But how did you seal those tin cans?

Mary Lipscomb: They had a little sealer.

Isabelle Chewning: So you'd go to the store and buy the cans?

Mary Lipscomb: You'd go to the store and buy the cans. But, as I said, there wasn't much going to the store and buying cans in my very early childhood, and I don't remember what we did with the

sausage. Maybe we had to eat it all early. I'm just not real sure. We had tenderloin, and maybe Mother canned it in glass jars for a long time. That's a possibility, that there was all this great canning in glass jars sometimes. And I guess you could boil those. They must have been unbreakable or something and you could boil them. But one of our favorite Sunday dinners was to open one of these cans of tenderloin and that would be, I guess, in lieu of pork chops. They would cut out what they call the loin and it would be-- it would come out in a long piece, a strip like a pork roast, that sort of thing, and slice it and put it in the cans. Anyway, it would come out. Mother would take these pieces -- they'd be kind of small at that time -- and roll them in flour and fry them, and that was so good, canned tenderloin. I've eaten that somewhere recently, people canned tenderloin. I believe there's a place in Stuarts Draft, I believe that does it now. It's almost like Mother's was. We always had rice for Sunday dinner because it was easy to cook after church. Tenderloin, tenderloin gravy, and rice, the best thing in the world! And somehow maybe those were glass cans to start with but then I remember the tins cans later. And then my dad would cure the hams. He would use salt and pepper -- I don't remember these curing things that you bought from the store later -- and sugar, brown sugar that he put on the hams, and hang them in the smokehouse. He also cured the shoulder part of the meat too and hung them in the smokehouse and they would have to stay for I don't know how long to be cured, to really absorb all this curing stuff. I remember that mostly in my early childhood we'd sell the hams because that's how you got some money. We took them. There was a fellow named McCoy who had a grocery store in Lexington. I remember it's where Alvin-Dennis [102 West Washington Street] is now. And he would take the hams in there, and Mr. McCoy would buy them, and that was one of the money making things. You had lambs. You sold the lambs in the spring. You had wool. We had some cream that we sold, and I can tell you about that, and a few things like that, and maybe some eggs. And then most everything else, I've forgotten what else brought in money, but not many things brought in money. That's why money was so scarce all the time. It was difficult to come up with money.

Isabelle Chewning: Was there a barter system where you traded things?

Mary Lipscomb: We took things to Mr. Whipple's store, I think, eggs. The only thing was the eggs. But you made your own butter. You bought sugar, I'm sure, and we didn't buy flour because he would take the wheat to the mill and have flour made, and come back with some flour. And I don't remember barrels of flour. I've heard people talk about barrels of flour, but I don't think we got it back in barrels. I don't know what. You didn't buy much at the stores. For breakfast we'd have eggs, and batter bread, and apples. Mother was a genius with an apple. Apples were the fruit, you know, winter and summer pretty much. We didn't buy oranges. We had oranges at Christmastime, and that was about it. And you didn't buy grapes and all these things that we buy now. Some people raised celery, very few people that I knew, really. In the spring you'd eat greens that came from the fields, like cress. And Mother would go out and gather poke when it was really young and little. Oh, in the summertime we'd walk out the back road which was the road that goes by your dad's house [2244 Sterrett Road] and it was a road. It had fairly high banks in my childhood. Somehow all through that area, on that road, there was more fruit! We'd go most every afternoon and pick strawberries, and then we'd pick dewberries. Do you even know what a dewberry is?

Isabelle Chewning: No.

Mary Lipscomb: It looks like a blackberry but it grows -- when there was no fertilizer much for fields, weeds would grow. And this dewberry thing would grow on the ground, sort of flat on the ground and the berry itself was like a blackberry, but it was sweeter and it would come earlier than the blackberries. I remember more of those. We didn't have blueberries at all. They're not native to your area. We didn't have raspberries on that farm. A lot of people did have raspberries. But we'd have strawberries and dewberries and blackberries and we'd have those for supper every night practically all summer long. But that meant -- every afternoon Mother would take a nap, and then after that we'd get up and go in the summertime, berry picking every day, practically. And, oh, we had cherries. We had -- in the springtime there'd be cherries, and she'd can those, and there were cherry trees on the farm.

Isabelle Chewning: They were wild cherry trees?

Mary Lipscomb: They were not what you'd call the wild cherry trees that are poison. They were black cherries and red cherries, and they're quite edible. There are a good many of those still on the farm at Timber Ridge at Joe and Alec's [Mary is speaking of her sons' dairy farm, Timber Ridge Dairy on Route 11]. Sometimes they have -- the birds, there are so many more birds than there used to be at that point. The birds eat them so badly now, you can hardly get to them before the birds do. But we used those a lot for fruit, and mother would can those. And then she'd can peaches but I don't remember where the peaches-- we must have bought the peaches. There would be guys that would go by from Nelson County, who would come over and drive by in their cars and trucks or something and stop and sell you peaches. I don't remember much of anything except peaches that we bought, and she would can those and we would have peaches in the wintertime. I think we're just now more into what we grew, and what we ate and those things, and where it comes in my period of life, I really don't remember. This was – I would be ten. I started school when I was six, and I pretty much remember things from then on, but prior to that I'm not real clear about a lot of it. One of the things I wanted to talk about is the year that the Stephens came and lived with us. My dad -- this was, let me see, I started school in '30, and the worst of the Depression struck about '29 and '30. This Aunt Nannie, about whom I've talked, was Mother's -- like her sister, but really her first cousin with whom she grew up at Braehead in Fredericksburg. She married this guy she met during the First World War. Quantico was really pretty close to Fredericksburg, and there was a Marine station there and these Marines would come into Fredericksburg to church, and Grandmother would have them out to Braehead to dinner and things of that sort. And Mother had a lot of pictures of her and Aunt Nannie, and I think Aunt Mary Graham, and Aunt Margaret, too, maybe. Pictures with these Marine guys who were stationed at Quantico. Aunt Nannie married Uncle Steve [Wallace Stephens] who was one of those. He was from Michigan. I don't know whether-- he'd been around a good while, and knew Grandma and Grandpa, but whether Aunt Nannie just felt like they wouldn't approve of her marriage, but anyway they eloped and got married. And they went off to live in Michigan. I know Grandma went up there when Graham was born I think, when her [Nannie's] first

child was born; maybe Bruce, too, her second child. And I don't know for whom he [Uncle Steve] worked, whether it was one of the automobile-- he'd been to Michigan State, her husband. This was Wallace, his name was Wallace Stephens, and he had been a Marine and met Aunt Nannie, and they were married, and went back to Flint, Michigan to live. What he worked for, I don't know but the things that were most horribly affected by the Depression were the automobile companies that were in Michigan. Whether he worked for one of them, I don't know, because as a child I didn't know these things. But he lost his job. He moved back. They moved back to Virginia with no job, and they came in the early part of the summer. I expect I'd finished the first grade, and was probably going to the second grade, so it would have been about '31 or maybe '32. I know I was going into the second grade. But, anyway, they spent the whole summer with us, and it was just like one big house party. [Laugh] We had a wonderful time. Graham and Bruce were, they were just little things. Graham remembers a lot about this, I'm surprised. I must have been seven, and Mc would have been about five, and Graham is two years younger than Mc. Maybe they're just one year apart. They [Graham and Bruce] could have been just three and two or maybe they were four and three or something like that. But we would make up all these stories about these funny people that we-- Graham remembers. We called them the Dogeys -- that's this family that we knew, and we'd go out the back road and walk out there. I remember walking out there with Graham and Bruce and Mc, and all the four of us, and of all of our funny stories that we had made up. We had the best time playing. Uncle Steve had a big old automobile called a Hupmobile, and it had a front seat and a back seat, and two little jump seats on each side in front of the back seat. Aunt Nannie and mother worked hard fixing --I guess we had dinner in the middle of the day basically. But very often they would-- farming wasn't quite so intense as it was during my married life and your childhood, but they would finish by maybe five o'clock or something like that, and we'd pack that Hupmobile, and go to Wilson Springs. We went to Rockbridge Alum Springs a lot, and had picnics for supper. That was to get us all out of the house, I'm sure. It was more fun at Rockbridge Alum, because that was before anybody had done anything since it had fallen out of favor during the heydays of-- what were those days? The spas were, were they after the Civil War? They were before the Civil War, weren't they? But Rockbridge Alum Springs was one of those wonderful places where -- and I guess that would be in the 1830s and '40s, more in that time. Rockbridge Alum Springs had a spur of the railroad that went through Goshen, and all these fancy people from Richmond would come up to spend the summer, and get out of the hot weather. That's what all those spas were, so many of them in southwestern and western Virginia, West Virginia and all those places. Anyway, we'd go out there and where the swimming pool had been was all overgrown. There was a family named Paxton [who] owned the whole thing at that time, and they were some kin of Jim Alexander. His mother was a Paxton, the orchard Jim. This Mr. Paxton was living there in a big, old brick house, and there was what had been the dance hall, or big main building, or something had VMI colors hanging down over the balcony, but it wasn't totally falling down. There was enough of it for us to see that it was a wonderful era. It would have been in the early 1900s I guess that it was still being used. That was the heyday of the spas. It was more in the 1920s [after] the First World War. Maybe that was it, along in that time. I'm not sure. But anyway, there were some little cottages still surviving, and there were a couple of really nice old homes, but nobody lived there but Mr. Paxton himself. And we'd have our picnic and we would all have to go around and look at all these interesting old places that were wonderful. A lot of times we went to Wilson Springs or somewhere along the [Maury] river and

had picnics, but I just remember that as being such a fun summer. Uncle Steve was not-- he didn't know anything about horses or anything and one of the horses kicked him in the ribs. He helped Daddy on the farm all the time. I guess we didn't pay him anything but we kept them. I'm sure that was the way it worked. Then it came time to go to school, and I was the only one that had to go to school. [Laugh] The reason I know I was in the second grade is because I walked to school that year in the middle of the day. I only went to school half a day in the first grade and second grade. In the first grade, you went to school until the middle of the day, and you came home if you lived close enough to come home. Or you had to sit around and wait until the bus went or something. I used to declare that there wasn't any bus when I was in the first and second grade and Mc, my brother, tells me that's not the truth. I rode to school in the first grade, when I first went on the bus, but I walked home in the middle of the day. I guess if the weather got really cold I guess I stayed and rode the bus. But I remember when the Stephens were there and Uncle Steve made up this song about Mary who had to go to school. He was the cutest thing! Uncle Steve was so much fun, and he was just really a delightful person. He always was, and I just was so fond of Uncle Steve. But anyway, I was the only girl in this whole crowd, of course, and all this stuff, But I had to trudge off to school. At that time – well now I remember. Now it's coming back to me. There was a family named Buchanan who lived in that house [2166 Sterrett Road] where the-- and the Stricklers probably didn't come until after. But the Buchanans had a whole bunch of children, and one of them was my age. She and I would walk all the time to school. We'd either walk home -- I remember walking home, and I remember walking to. And so I think Mc is right. I probably walked, when the weather was good, but didn't go until the middle of the day and then I would ride the bus home. And that's what I remember doing when I had to go off and leave Mc and the two Stephens boys, and walk to school. It was horrible. [Laugh] But he [Uncle Steve] got a job that fall with the Park Service. The Park Service had just begun, the National Park Service in Yorktown, and he was the head ranger in Yorktown. When they did all that work with the Yorktown Battlefield, that was his job. And Aunt Nannie and the boys went back to Braehead and lived there, and they lived there for a long time, because there wasn't any kind of housing in Yorktown, I suppose. She got a job. She worked for the-- she was in the Clerk of the Court's office in Fredericksburg for a long time. When we used to visit them, you would go to see Aunt Nannie at the Clerk's office. And somebody else, Aunt Mary Graham or somebody would be keeping the boys at Braehead. No, that's not true either. Where on earth did all this other happen? It must have been after that, that Grandma and Grandpa moved into Fredericksburg and lived next door to Kenmore. There was a little house that Kenmore owned. Anyway, back to Uncle Steve and Aunt Nannie leaving us; he went to Yorktown, and she went back to Braehead to live. Shortly after the Yorktown business, the Skyline Drive was begun, and he was transferred to Luray. I guess that was pretty soon -- I don't guess he stayed in Yorktown too long, but the whole family then moved to Luray, where he was the Chief Park Ranger on the Skyline Drive. I don't know whether the part that came down here to Waynesboro. Well, it wasn't finished, when he started there, because when my dad worked there, it was not finished. I think Uncle Steve and Aunt Nannie had been there a little while in Luray when he got there. But I'm not really sure about all those years. But the boys basically grew up in Luray when he was at the Park Service there. But I remember visiting in Fredericksburg, as I said, and Aunt Nannie working at the Clerk's office in Fredericksburg. But Aunt Nannie had been to Dunsmore [Business School], I guess, or maybe some part of Mary Washington and taken some business courses I guess after they had

gone to-- after she and mother went to Fredericksburg Normal. Aunt Nannie never taught. She always did secretarial type work, stuff of that sort. But that was our story of our life at Mulberry Grove during the summer of 1931, I suppose it was. Great fun in those days. [Laugh]

Isabelle Chewning: What do you remember about starting school? Do you remember your teachers?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yes. I had the same teacher in first grade as I had in second grade, and we were in the brick building that was the academy, had been the Brownsburg Academy. It was still in use when I started and, in fact, it stayed in use until I was almost a freshman in high school, I guess, maybe a little further. I've forgotten. Anyway, the first grade room was at the back of the-- I think it originally had been just a perfectly square building with no attachments, and this thing where the first grade was, was obviously a little addition, sort of a one-story little lean-to type thing and it was at the back of the building. It was kind of a long little room and my teacher was Isabel Leech and she married a man named Huffman. Mostly what I remember is, she made me write with my right hand. My mother had asked her to please teach me to write with my right hand, because I was mostly left-handed. Mother didn't want me to be a left-handed writer. It was very mortifying. If I would go to the blackboard -- she had us go to the blackboard to do things -- and start it with my left hand, and she'd have to tell me to use my right hand, and I did that. I hated it at that point. I do remember that, but that's mostly what I remember about the first grade. [Laugh] And I don't remember anything about the second grade, except by that time, I guess, I wrote with my right hand. But when I went to college, I was ever more thankful that I could write with my right hand because none of the desks were ever fixed for left-handed people, and the poor left-handed girls were having to write upside down and all kinds of awful things all the time. I've really been very thankful that I can write with my right hand. It's supposed to do awful things to your personality and all that. [Laugh] Isabel Leech taught both the first and the second grade. She'd teach the first grade for half the day and then the second grade for the next half of the day. I guess the children who rode the bus just sat around in there until the afternoon to come home if they were in the first grade, or in the morning when they first got there. A whole lot of people lived near enough to walk. There were people, I guess, the Buchanan girls all rode the busses [from 763 Hays Creek Road]. I don't remember anything about Anne [Buchanan McCorkle] talking about walking.

Isabelle Chewning: She talked about riding in a horse and buggy sometimes.

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, really?

Isabelle Chewning: Mag would drive the horse, and chauffeur them all to school.

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, I see. I remember the Fauber boys, Benny and his brother Ralph, rode or drove a buggy -- or the horse was attached to something, a wagon or a buggy, I believe, because there was a little barn, you know where the-- I don't know who lives in that house now, but as you turn into the school it's the white house where the Whipples used to live a long time ago on the left [2685 Brownsburg Turnpike] as you go up the lane. And right at the back of that lot, the very back, bordering on the road that's right in front of the school, was a stable. And I remember the Fauber boys would put their horse in there, but they're the only ones I remember that had horses that they drove to school, or a buggy. In my little childhood before I started school, like when I was three and four, five years old maybe, a whole bunch of people drove by our house. The Ervine girls, Ellen Ervine and Hope Ervine. They lived up the road from us [1913 Sterrett Road]. Oh, and there were a couple of Browns, Margaret Brown, Margaret and John Brown. I guess they were -- their half brother was a whole lot older than they were, well not that much I guess. But some of them would all drive. Margaret Dice who lived next door to us [2081 Sterrett Road]. I think they all went in horse and buggy. I guess that bus business must have started about the time I started school, because I do remember their going by with the horse and buggy to go to school.

Isabelle Chewning: Who drove the bus?

Mary Lipscomb: I don't remember at first. I remember Hugh McNutt drove it later, but I don't remember it all. I don't remember a thing about that bus early on. That's why I kept declaring to Mc that I didn't ride a bus, but he kept declaring that I did. But I don't remember going out there by myself to get on it. I remember when he and I together would go and get on it. I just blocked that out of my mind entirely for some reason. [Laugh] Where are we now? Oh, what the first and second grade was like. I think Margaret Brown's mother [Mrs. Ida Brown], Margaret and John's mother, taught school and I think she maybe was my third grade teacher. She was a really good teacher. So was Isabel, Isabel Leech. Isabel married Hugh McNutt, and she lived with the McNutts. The McNutts lived where Alice and Pat Patterson live now [3334 Brownsburg Turnpike].

Isabelle Chewning: Did you say she married --

Mary Lipscomb: Hugh McNutt, Isabel did, and they were divorced later. He was a terrible alcoholic. Then he married later Mrs. Whitesell. You probably remember that and that era of stuff. He got better of the alcoholism and he built our little early dairy barn for instance. He was doing building work by that time. Then Isabel married a man named Huffman and they lived just outside of Lexington, the Airport Acres neighborhood, and belonged to the Collierstown Church probably. And she lived until a few years ago. She would come to our class reunions maybe as much as four years ago, I went and she was there. She's only been dead about four or five years.

Isabelle Chewning: She was probably just a really young teacher.

Mary Lipscomb: Yes, I imagine that was her first year. I think it was, probably. She was probably 18 years old when she started teaching. And then in the fourth grade there was a gal -- she was Leech. She was either a Leech or a Hotinger. I think she was a Leech from the Oxford neighborhood and she played the piano. She and Mollie Sue [Whipple] -- maybe Mollie Sue had gotten there by that time. Mollie Sue didn't come for a little while when I started school. But anyway, this gal named Thelma Leech her name was, and she married somebody. I think she was a Jones in the neighborhood, lived somewhere in the neighborhood. Then there was another one named Miss Wade and I think she was from Staunton. She was my fifth grade teacher.

Isabelle Chewning: Did they board somewhere in Brownsburg?

Mary Lipscomb: Lots of them boarded with Mrs. McNutt. She took teachers. There was one -- Mollie Sue lived with Mrs. McNutt. Mollie Sue Hull when she first came to Brownsburg. There was a Miss Montgomery who taught in the high school when I was in high school. She lived there. Some of the teachers lived in that house, the blue house just as you turn from Sterrett Road into Brownsburg [2766 Brownsburg Turnpike]. What's that gal's name who lives there?

Isabelle Chewning: Gwyn Campbell.

Mary Lipscomb: Campbell, right. Later, there was a family who lived there and they must have moved to Staunton, and what was their name? Anyway, they must have rented that house to Miss Trimmer who was the principal of the high school, of the whole school and a Miss Amole that taught me in the sixth grade, I think, and maybe a couple others, maybe four of them, I think, rented that house and lived there.

Isabelle Chewning: So Miss Trimmer lived there with some of the teachers who were working for her?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah, right.

Isabelle Chewning: I wonder how that got along?

Mary Lipscomb: I think it worked very well. I never did hear. I didn't know much about it, but they all came to church, and they all sat together at church and stuff like that. They sat right behind us maybe, at church, this group of teachers. It seemed to work very well, but what do I know about this! I maybe was in high school. I guess I was in high school when they were living probably there. I don't even know. It seems to me, I don't remember having very good friends, really good friends in the Brownsburg School. More of our entertainment, it seemed to me, involved around the [New

Providence Presbyterian] church, because we had a Pioneer Society when I was -- I guess middle school age would have been when that was. And that was a pretty active group. We had a large group and we'd come to Massanetta in the summertime together. That's where it seems to me where you saw people, and did things with the other people in the community. And besides that, we got that whole new group of friends who went to Middlebrook to high school -- in the church. The people who live north of New Providence. And we haven't yet talked at all about my going to Sunday School, and our going to church, nor who our neighbors were, and things of that sort, but we might do that now.

Isabelle Chewning: Okay.

Mary Lipscomb: Our closest neighbor was Mrs. Dice who lived where Mc owns the house [2081 Sterrett Road] . Daddy bought Mrs. Dice's farm when she died, or when she had to move away or something. It's the house that he has always used for men on the farm, just a little bit east of Mulberry Grove. And, as I said, once I think it belonged to Mulberry Grove sometime back in the Willson's day or some of those days. But anyway, Mrs. Dice was a widow and she had a farm. It was a small farm. I've forgotten how many acres, about 140 maybe, or something like that but Daddy bought it. Maybe it wasn't that big. But that's one of the things I think about that telephone, way down at the other end of the house. Mrs. Dice would call with this-- Mother would get so upset about it-- with this terribly sad voice. "Is Mr. Sterrett there?" [Laugh] She'd have a cow that was having a calf. She needed him to come, you know. And he would have to go up there and deliver lambs and deliver calves and do all this stuff all the time, [laugh] or go chase the bull, or something. That was all a part of being telephoned, would be Mrs. Dice calling to need help or something. But he spent a lot of time having to go up there and help her, get the ox out of the ditch kind of thing. [Laugh] Mrs. Dice drove a horse and buggy all of her life. She never had a car, I guess. She would drive to church and she would go out that back road to church, going down that road came out on the Goose Creek Road just east of the McNutt's house. And once in a while we got to ride with Mrs. Dice to church and, oh, that was great fun! We enjoyed that very, very much. She had chickens, lots of chickens, and she had a daughter who was one of those that was still in high school. She graduated from high school I remember before I started school. Mother said Margaret had invited her to the graduation and she wanted to go, and I can't remember the rest of that story. She had to find somebody to baby sit with us. Only she was going. For some reason Daddy wasn't going. But anyway, I think she finally got there but there was some kind of a struggle. But anyway, Margaret graduated and she went to UVA and took nursing and she lived in Charlottesville and married a Charlottesville man the rest of her life. She nursed at UVA from then on, I think. People would go over there. They'd always see Margaret. Margaret Updike was her last name when she married. She [Mrs. Dice] lived in that house. And then you went up the hill to where the Ervines lived [1913 Sterrett Road] and there was Mr. Ervine and Mrs. Ervine. Adelaide -- I don't know whether Adelaide was the oldest one -- and there was one named Ellen, and one named Hope, and a boy named something. You'll have to ask Lou [Martin Sterrett]. They were her uncles. And one named Bill, who was maybe a year older, or two years older, probably two years older than I. And they lived up there on the top of the hill. Mrs. Ervine we never knew about Mrs. Ervine. She had great depression

and mental illness, and spent a lot of time in a Western State [Hospital] and I just didn't know any-- I don't remember what she looked like. I think once in a while she came home, but all these girls kind of raised themselves, I think. They may have been older when she had to leave, but I never knew her at all. And then across the road in the house where -- the log house -- I don't know who lives there, where the Herrs have recently lived [1926 Sterrett Road]. There was a family who came -- he taught at Smith College -- named Powell, and they came every summer and that was always very exciting, because they were such interesting people. She wore these wonderful long pongee dresses, and they walked every afternoon, they'd come walking down. And he was very stately looking, and wore these knickers, and you know, really looked like a professor. He taught English at Smith College. They were always there in the summertime, and they had a really good friend who boarded with Mrs. Dice every summer, Mrs. Davidge. Mrs. Dice gave her three meals a day: breakfast, lunch, and dinner. And every evening after dinner, Mrs. Davidge would walk up the hill, up Ervine's hill to the Powells, and visit with them. We'd be sitting on the porch or something, and every evening when she walked back to Mrs. Dice's -- there wasn't that much traffic on the road, you didn't have to worry about that -- you'd hear this call. Mrs. Davidge had gotten safely back to Mrs. Dice's. [Laugh] It was always so funny, but it was so typical of how few people there were around, and the road was dirt. It wasn't paved at all. Mc would go up there and work for Mr. Powell in the summertime, he and Hugh Grimm [?]. He was the nephew of Mrs. Wade who lived up in that house that faces Goose Creek [1727 Sterrett Road], anyway both of them. This guy was about Mc's age, and they would go up, and I don't know what they did for Mr. Powell, but he'll tell you. They worked for him, made some money in the summertime.

Isabelle Chewning: I think they dug out his basement.

Mary Lipscomb: I remember their being under the house, something about it. Is that it?

Isabelle Chewning: I think they dug him a cellar or something.

Mary Lipscomb: Well it could be, yes, sure enough. But then down toward Brownsburg there were mostly the black people who lived along the road.

Isabelle Chewning: Did you know them at all?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, there was one named Mariah Fisher who baby sat with us sometimes when we were really little. Mother and Daddy had friends. They'd go out and play bridge with them and stuff like that sometimes, the Buchanans and Mr. Bill Buchanan and Cousin Fanny. Who else? Oh, there were a whole bunch of people in that group. They'd go to Wilson Springs in the summertime for a whole week. They would hire a black man in Brownsburg to cook for them, and these couples

would rent a cottage in Wilson Springs and spend the whole week and who they were I can't-- maybe the Easts.

Isabelle Chewning: Did you go?

Mary Lipscomb: No, we stayed. We always had this wonderful time because we stayed with the Walkers out on Walkers Creek and they were Mary Moore Mason's uncle and aunt. They were not married. They were a bachelor and a maiden lady. And they wanted us to call them "Cousin" and we were no more cousins than anything, but they thought that was a lovely way, and so I called them "Cousin Maggie" and "Cousin Tom" Walker and we'd go back there. I don't know how Mc ever endured this, but I loved it. They had an older black woman who cooked dinner and she had a daughter named Charlotte, and Charlotte was probably not a whole lot older than I was. I guess I wasn't in school. I don't know, whether I was six or something. Charlotte would entertain us and sort of take care of us, and she was probably maybe in her lower teens, maybe 15 or so and I'd be, I don't know how old Charlotte was. Anyway, she could crochet, and she would crochet little caps for my dolls, and play with us, and oh, more fun! And we would spend the whole week with them. And their beautiful niece, Mary Moore Mason, who was Mary Moore Montgomery would come sometimes when we were there, and she would ride horseback, and I thought she was the most elegant thing I'd ever seen in my life. And Mary Moore would have been an upper teenager probably, maybe a college student. She was 97 when she died. The first year I was here I was 79 when I came here [to Sunnyside], so she was almost 18 years older than I. She was just old enough to be this beautiful teenager that could do everything, and I thought she was absolutely the most! Well I was talking about, so what Mother and Daddy would also go play cards, I guess, or something with some of these friends too, during the wintertime, and Mariah Fisher who lived in one of those houses down along there would come and stay with us. I was pretty little I guess, pretty much at that time, because one of the stories was that one night I wanted to kiss Mariah goodnight. We called her "Aunt Mariah". We always called the black people "aunt" -- well some of them, not all of them. I never called anybody "aunt" but her, I think. I remember her saying "You can't kiss me goodnight. You don't kiss me" or something like that. She had a husband but I forgot what his name was.

[End of Tape 1, Side B]

Isabelle Chewning: Okay, I think we're on the tape, now.

Mary Lipscomb: So there's a different road that goes up to the houses where Camp Briar Hills was. Now, and it goes right up by the house that the Fishers lived in. And then just to the east of that was a house where the Shoultz's lived, and there was a mother in that family, and some sons, and I don't think-- I think one of the sons lived there in my lifetime, but--

Isabelle Chewning: Was his name Frank?

Mary Lipscomb: No. This was Bill Shoultz, I guess who lived there. Frank, I think Bob was Frank's, maybe Frank's father. I'm not sure. Bill. Bill was the one who lived there, when-- what was her name? Her first name? I don't remember her first name. But all of the black houses, I guess this came with the period right after slavery, when the black people didn't particularly want to be seen. And they all, even the ones in the village, and the ones, those houses around, and that one particularly, had all kinds of shrubs around it. You didn't see the houses very much. They were, they'd go in there and be sort of behind all this shrubbery and stuff. Well this house had the most gorgeous old boxwoods that Bill Heffelfinger bought, they gave them to him or something. And they're the ones that line the Heffelfinger house [Level Loop at 567 Hays Creek Road] now, all the time. But you know, what did we know about gorgeous boxwoods? [Laughs] You'd go behind all those things, and-- what was her name? And she would be back there, and we'd visit with her, and she was very-- they were elegant black people, just really had wonderful stories and things of that kind. But the stories that I don't remember. But you would always find her back there behind all this beautiful shrubbery. But we would visit her, Mother and I would go down there to see her sometimes. But then next-- I don't know, that house that -- I don't know who lives in it now -- but the next, well there was another, there was another family, with-- Jim, who married Lucille, who worked for us.

Isabelle Chewning: Brown.

Mary Lipscomb: Brown. There was another house where the Browns lived, and they were, oh they were so poor, it was so sad. And her husband was Lum Brown. He was a big old strapping man. And I don't think I remember this much, but I've been told this, that he used to walk across that mountain, across the mountain to Craigsville, and worked in something at Craigsville. He'd walk over there. Well, it really isn't in Craigsville, just walked right over the mountain, I think there was a, maybe a lumber mill, or something like that. But he could walk over there. I don't know whether he did that every day or not. But his wife was never very well. She always limped, and she had to come across the road, and cross the fence, I think she had a stile, and went down to the creek, I guess there was a spring at the creek, in front of that house, to get water. And you'd see, Ethel was her name, and she would walk back up over that hill carrying that bucket of water. I was always so sorry for her. And she had these – Jim -- these drunken boys [laughs]. He and the other one had a nickname. Oh, I've forgotten what it was. Anyway, but they all, all those black people lived along in there. And then you'd go all the way down to the, where Mrs. McManama lives now [2580 Sterrett Road] there was a family named Berry who lived there.

Isabelle Chewning: B-E-R-R-Y?

Mary Lipscomb: B-E-R-R-Y. And I think your dad has -- the Berrys must have died, and there was a sale there or something. And that cupboard that's in your dad's kitchen came from that sale. And I somehow vaguely remember -- I don't think I went, I don't know, but I remember them talking about the sale, and that cupboard came from there. And that was our main cupboard for a long, long time. It stayed in the living room, I guess, and the living room was kind of a combination living room/dining room, for many, many years.

Isabelle Chewning: Was there a fire, a fireplace?

Mary Lipscomb: No, we had a stove, never had fire in the fireplace. That stove had to heat -- any kind of heat there was in the what is now the library, in the bedroom -- just opened the door at night and heated a little bit, but it was really cold as ice in there, as was the kitchen. [Laughs] That poor kitchen. But those were the people who lived, you know, up and down the road right next door to us.

Isabelle Chewning: And were those three houses there [2597, 2613, and 2623 Sterrett Road]?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes, those three houses were there, and in the big house, in the big house where the Andersons lived [Sleepy Hollow, 2645 Sterrett Road] were the Pattersons, Mr. Rufus, and Mrs. -- we call them “Cousin”. Cousin Et. She had been a Kinnear, and she was vaguely some kind of kin people -- lived there, and then their son built that first one where the [Phil] Lunsfords live now [2623 Sterrett Road]. Mr. John Patterson and his wife who taught school, Mrs. Rosenell. Those were a couple of Mother's and Daddy's good friends. Their friends we called Miss So-and-so and Mr. So-and-So. I called Anne's [Buchanan McCorkle’s] mother “Miss Marjorie” -- I believe I did. “Mr. Gene”. I did, I did. Mr. Bill was her uncle, and Fanny, we always called “Cousin Fanny”. And “Mr. John” and “Miss Rosenell”, and they were, they were all Democrats together. They were the-- it was a really strong democratic community at that time. Except the Whipples, The Whipples were always Republicans. The people who had money, you know who dealt with money, like store people, and those people were Republicans, I guess. And then all the Wades -- I don't know about the mill Wades, but the Pattersons were avid Democrats. And the parents, Mrs.-- I didn't know Miss Jen's and Mary Wade’s and Margaret, I didn't know their father, he was dead before I got there. But Mrs. Wade and all those girls were avid Democrats. And then the next of those three houses we were talking about, the Pattersons, and then Mr. Hugh Wade and his wife lived in the second one. And Mr. Dice, Mr. Charlie Dice was his name, lived in the third one, and his wife.

Isabelle Chewning: And was he related to the Mrs. Dice who --

Mary Lipscomb: He was brother of Mrs. Dice's husband. I didn't know Mr.-- Her husband's name was Robert, and I didn't know him at all. But yeah, but they didn't seem to ever have much relation. And there was another brother who lived in the village where the Drivers live [22 Hays Creek Road].

Mr. Walter Dice was his name, and his wife. She taught me in Sunday School, I recited my catechism to her. Around on the back porch at one of those-- what did I just say? The Drivers have taken down those porches, haven't they? We'd have porches with cedar, they had up and down-- the up and down pieces were cedar, I remember. I remember I looked at it a lot when I was reciting my catechism [laughter] I guess, or something like that. But anyway, those three brothers, the Dice brothers, but they had, I think it, they'd lived in Dutch Hollow, they had a farm back in Dutch Hollow. I guess they sold that, and sort of moved into the village. They were pretty much-- I don't remember any of them ever working, those Dice men, but anyway. They'd go out to church all the time, and-- I don't remember Mr. Charlie Dice going to church, I don't know. But anyway, they lived in those three houses along there. And I suppose that – I don't know who -- whether the McManamas bought that house from the -- from this family named Berry who first lived there, when-- maybe they did, because I don't remember anybody else living there, at all. But those are the folks who lived nearest to us on that road. But we would drive the three miles to church around like we go now [Sterrett Road to Brownsburg Turnpike].

Isabelle Chewning: Oh, rather than take the short cut [the back road to Goose Creek]?

Mary Lipscomb: We didn't do-- seem to drive the car much over that back road. But Mrs. Dice always drove her buggy.

Isabelle Chewning: Was it a state maintained road, or was it a-- just a private --

Mary Lipscomb: I think it was. I think they went through there now and then and did something to it. Very little, very little. But you know, after I was married, I don't think it was in your childhood was it?

Isabelle Chewning: Uh-uh.

Mary Lipscomb: And so, it just -- and then your dad took down the fences and made it all into one field. Or your grandfather or somebody did. But back to the church business, we had, we always went on Sunday, we went to Sunday School. And I don't know whether I remember, or whether -- this class, this Beginner's Sunday School class, I taught in that class, even when I was in late high school, and whenever I'd come home from college or teaching in Staunton or any of those places, I always taught in there. So I can't remember what I remember -- I can't divide what I remember as a four year old or five year old, in the Beginner's Sunday School class, or whether it's the years that I taught in there. But there was a teacher named Miss Sally Reid McClung, and she and her brother, Mr. Morton McClung, owned the property and farm that, where Jen and Bill Heffelfinger lived.

Isabelle Chewning: Level Loop [567 Hays Creek Road].

Mary Lipscomb: Level Loop, that's it. And she was the Beginner's Sunday School class, and this is where you learned to pray. And you learned to pray for the missionaries. She always prayed for the missionaries. [laughs] And I don't remember a thing about who was in there, really, who was in the Sunday School class, but-- Then later we had, oh we had, mostly what I remember about though was Bible School. And we, we'd have two weeks of Bible School in the summer. And we had a cattle truck come around to pick us up, and it would drive [laughs] --I guess it would start about our house maybe, or maybe it started -- I don't think there was anybody in Brownsburg, other children much. And it probably started at our house, and go around through Goose Creek and all around through there, and pick up people for, a good many people. And by the time we got there, we had a pretty good [laughs] -- back of this truck load of people. And I remember -- Mr. Hanna was the first minister I remember there. And he and his wife lived in the big manse where--

Isabelle Chewning: Trenton Beard lives. [3882 Brownsburg Turnpike].

Mary Lipscomb: Trenton Beard lives now. And he [Mr. Hanna] was such a gregarious person. I remember he'd come out from the bottom of the church, from the basement, and greet us as we came on the truck. He was so glad to see us, and we'd have, I think I may have made this up, but I somehow had the notion that we had, you know, between 400 and 500 people who came to that Bible School. [laughs] Have you ever heard that, that there were that many? I can't believe that was true, but--

Isabelle Chewning: There were, I bet there were 200 when I went.

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, really? Uh-huh. Well, it could have been, you know, 300 or 400, but it seemed like an awful lot of kids to me. And [laughs] of course there would be these same type buses that would be coming from Augusta County. From down about -- I don't think our church drew much as far as Middlebrook, but between Newport and Middlebrook, there would be people-- all the Hogsheads came from where Dr. Marsh lives [5814 Middlebrook Road], do you know where he lives? And everybody in Newport came to New Providence and-- and some of the, you know, outlying, people in Pisgah, the bus would run all around through the – all the Gordons came, and the Smileys and, you know, all those folks we'd get to know at Bible School [laughs] all the time. And so we'd -- I don't know whether there was still Sunday School. Yeah, there was still Sunday school at Pisgah, though. And there was a little chapel, you go up behind the Beard's, on the road that goes up by Castle Carberry [34 Beard Lane] and behind the Beard's barns, was a road that goes through there, comes out over on Spotswood Road, or somewhere in that neighborhood. And there was a chapel called McNutt up in there. And both of those [McNutt Chapel and Pisgah Chapel] were outposts of New Providence when I was a child. And I remember that there would be --

Isabelle Chewning: So does that mean the minister would preach three sermons? He'd preach three times?

Mary Lipscomb: I don't know whether he went to those places every Sunday, but maybe, I'm not sure. I think he went to Pisgah a lot, because there were a whole lot of people out there. But I think-- but I think those kids all came to New Providence for Bible School. But I couldn't declare that was true. But that, that chapel was more active and the McNutt one closed, I think, earlier than the Pisgah one did. But we would have a really good time at all that Bible School business. And I think, you know, there you learned to play games, and I guess you did in school, too. But we did a lot of things in that-- seems to me that Bible School. Then--

Isabelle Chewning: Would it be half a day? You'd go in the morning and then--

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah, come home.

Isabelle Chewning: -- go home for lunch.

Mary Lipscomb: --we'd come home for lunch, it'd be half a day. It was always in August, because that was the time when farming sort of came to a little halt. That's when we ever-- that's when Mother and Daddy would go to Wilson Springs. I guess you'd finish with the hay, you didn't raise alfalfa at that time, that you had to cut three or four times a year. You just did one or two crops of hay or something like that. Grasses. And the wheat would be in the barn, or already threshed or something, but sometime in the middle of August, farming always came to a slight halt, things calmed down a little bit. I guess that was before the corn crop, you know, if you were growing corn. And I don't think anybody, as I said, it wasn't so intense as it is now, at all. And so the Bible School was always in August, when farming kind of came to-- None of this business of right after school. [laughs] And it was -- you hadn't seen all these people all summer, so you would, you know, it was kind of fun to go back to see all these people. [Laughs] But as I got older, and we had a very, as I said, a pretty active middle school group we called the Pioneer Group. And Elsie Wade and Miss Carrie Lucas, who lived in Newport -- Elsie was the oldest of Winston's and Jimmy's [Wade] sisters, and she was a whole lot older than Jimmy, for instance. But they were the advisers for the Pioneer crowd, and we would -- we had a meeting every Sunday afternoon, a little devotional type meeting, and we had to take part, and we had to do all this stuff. And somebody had to take you, you know, your parents had to take you to the Pioneer meeting every Sunday afternoon. And Mr. Hanna, I suppose was still there at that time, Mr. and Mrs. Hanna. They had children our age. Charles was, I think Charles was Jim Wade's age. Jim was between Mc and me. Sidney Martin was that age. And Charles Hanna was that age. And they had a son named – I've forgotten what the next boy's name was. I'll think of it in a minute. He was a little bit younger than Mc, it seems to me. And then there was a girl named Betty, who was younger still. And there was another child named Margaret, and I don't believe Margaret was born until after they left us. But anyway, they had three children were there, the two boys were kind of the same age as we were generally. And they were always in these things. But there were two Martins, Sid and his sister, Frances Bell. There were a whole bunch of Wades, Frances-- Frances and Jimmy. And Winston was older, a little bit older. And then, oh there

were, I don't know, Anne Buchanan and David McCorkle and-- and all these, a whole bunch of kids. Oh, the Slussers, George Slusser.

Isabelle Chewning: The Beards.

Mary Lipscomb: The Beards, yeah. And Richard, yes, all of those. There were a whole lot of people who just lived, you know, close around, and then, I don't know whether – there were Lucases who came from Newport, and I don't know whether the Whitesells came, John Layton and Marjorie Ann came to the Pioneer Group? I don't remember their ever going to Massanetta with us. But-- but anyway, there were a whole bunch of us. And the church was just big, and there were a whole, you know -- we had 500 to 600 members in the church, whole-- whole lot of them didn't come. But the church was full every Sunday, with all the, you know, everybody. And that's when we had stoves in the church in the wintertime, with big pipes that went up [laughs]

Isabelle Chewning: Where were they?

Mary Lipscomb: There was one -- I think there were four of them --

Isabelle Chewning: In the back, where there used to be a gap in the pews?

Mary Lipscomb: No. They were on the sides. One of them was where Mollie Sue's piano sits now. Pretty much in that area. There had to be chimneys, are there still chimneys out there?

Isabelle Chewning: I don't know.

Mary Lipscomb: Maybe they took the chimneys down. One of them was across the church in the same, just across there. And then there'd be one, I think there was another one in the back by those pews, right in the, between those, on the side where the pews--

Isabelle Chewning: Right.

Mary Lipscomb: And the same thing is true on the other side. I think they were in those places. And Jess Lotts was the sexton and he lived in a house that they -- I guess they tore it down or something. We used to always go, when we went into the church, we went into that parking lot in front of the church, and we'd go in that upper driveway. Is that driveway still there?

Isabelle Chewning: That goes through the cemetery now?

Mary Lipscomb: No, I don't mean that. Before from the road, from the highway, from the [Route] 252, to come into the-- just--

Isabelle Chewning: It goes past the little mini-manse [3821 Brownsburg Turnpike]?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah, and it goes all the way out to the road, still? Does it?

Isabelle Chewning: Mm-hm.

Mary Lipscomb: Well just as you, just as you came into that road, there was a house up on the bank, where Jess Lotts lived. And he and his first wife lived there, then he and Mary Stuart lived there. And he always, he had to make all those fires in the morning. And in addition to that, fires in all the Sunday School rooms. [Laughs] In the wintertime. And all the Sunday School rooms had stoves. And it was a big job, I'm sure, getting wood in all those, you know, for all those stoves out there.

Isabelle Chewning: It's a wonder the place didn't burn down.

Mary Lipscomb: It really is. It's a wonder all churches don't burn down, and some did, of course, in those times. But as I remember, we always went in the winter time. I don't remember not going. But it was, we'd go and it would, we'd have Christmas pageants and things where there'd be all this great snow across the front parking lot. I remember one time, I think we took some of those teachers from that house that I was mentioning. Must've been the Christmas pageant or something. And I remember one of them had on, Miss Thelma Leech had on heels, great heels, and I remember her clomping it down and stuff [laughs] in the snow to get from the parking lot into the church. [laughs] And you know, you remember all kinds of funny things! [laugh] But we would go, you know, and we had elegant Christmas pageants, with everybody in the world dressed up in their bathrobes. [laughs]

Isabelle Chewning: [laughs] For shepherds!

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, I remember years I had to be angels and hold my arms up forever. [laughs] And all those things. But you see how much more I remember about the church than I really did about school. And I remember being in plays and stuff in my high school years, but I don't remember a whole lot of things that we did in-- and certainly no social things -- in the school, in my

elementary years, and things like that. But of course, by the time I got to high school, we had basketball teams and we did, you know, all that kind of stuff. We had girls' basketball, boys' basketball. We drove around over the county to other schools to play basketball, such as that.

Isabelle Chewning: Did you play basketball?

Mary Lipscomb: I was on the team, but I was never very good! [laughs]

Isabelle Chewning: [laughs] Did you play basketball left handed or right handed?

Mary Lipscomb: Left handed. [laughs] I do almost all those other things left handed. But in the schools with that basketball business, you know, girls' basketball in my day was divided into three courts. There was-- two people sat in, stood in one corner, a forward and the guard, and two people were in the center. And then two people were at the other end. And you didn't go from of this, one section to the other, you stayed in your own section. And I've forgotten, I think I played in the center. The forwards had to shoot, and the guards had to guard the person who was going to shoot on the other team. But the centers just passed it from the one end to the other all the time. [laughs] And so forth. But I did ride the bus to all these other schools, and you know, we were always fascinated by going to Effinger and Natural Bridge and all those--

Isabelle Chewning: Gosh, that's far away.

Mary Lipscomb: That was far away, yeah. [laughs] And so forth. But I don't ever remember, you know, ever remember going to VMI or to Washington and Lee to see basketball games and things of that sort, because we didn't do that very much. But we did, in my early childhood, we rode the, maybe the Model T, even. I remember my mother wanted very much to see the movie "Disraeli." And I don't know why she was so particularly interested in that. But we-- we would pile in that Model T, and nearly freeze to death, I guess. Going at night, once, oh, I don't remember going to see but about one or two movies. I don't remember what the others were. But we'd come home, and the house would be cold, and then Mother would put irons on the stove, flatirons, that she used to iron with, you know. Wrap those up and put them in our beds. [laughs] Get the bed kind of warm. And it seems to me, we didn't take things like that. I remember, you know, before us, before my time in buggies and places, they always had heated things in the floor of the buggy, like hot irons and things of that kind. Hot bricks and stuff that you put your feet on. Trying to keep from freezing to death.

Isabelle Chewning: Did she did drive the Model T?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes, she did.

Isabelle Chewning: Oh, she did?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, she did, yes. [laughs] That's how, you know, we'd go down to, we'd go around with her to visit people. I think she and Mc and I would go hither and yon to visit people.

Isabelle Chewning: Did it break down very much? Or it was pretty dependable?

Mary Lipscomb: No, I don't know. They had flat tires a lot. But I really don't remember. No, the car itself didn't break down, I don't think, so much. But we did have flat tires. And I don't remember Daddy's getting out and fixing tires very much. But I remember a story that he said Uncle Edwin, this is the Thompson, mother's uncle who lived at Church Hill, spoke of going to Staunton one time in his Model T, and had 32 flat tires. [laughs]

Isabelle Chewning: [laughs]

Mary Lipscomb: On the way. But I'm sure we did, because that was the name of the game. But you, I just don't remember his being out fixing tires much at all. We always, we never went to Lexington by Route 11. We never went to Fairfield, and to Lexington that way. We always went to Brownsburg, because that really was paved, early on. And I think it was paved all the way, maybe, but that's the way we always went to Lexington. Of course, that's the way that Daddy knew, more, going by Uncle Stuart's. And that's the way we'd always go to Lexington. But I remember one time, one of those times we were going, maybe to a movie or something, but I think it was still, it was daylight, or we might've been going to see somebody. But it was snowing, and we got about, where Jim Alexander lived, Jim and Sarah, Cherry Grove [5239 Lee Highway]. And we had to stop, I suppose, for Daddy to clean the windshield more, or something, I believe, because it was snowing a lot. And there was this car in front of us from California, and Daddy [laughs] asked this man, I remember him saying, you know, "Why on earth are you traveling in Virginia at this time from California?" And I don't know what the conversation was, but I was just—I remember that was absolutely the strangest thing I'd ever heard of. And I suspect he was driving a better car than we were, a bigger, better car. But anyway, there he was in this coming down snow. But I doubt if we were -- maybe we were going to Lexington. We went to Lexington, I don't remember much, any kind of shopping 'til much later in Lexington. But I don't know, I'm sure he would go to sell those hams and things like that, to sell meat. And what did we-- we bought material in Brownsburg, at Whipple's Store, and Mother sewed dresses for me, I think, mostly from them.

Isabelle Chewning: And which one was Whipples?

Mary Lipscomb: Where Dick Barnes' house is.

Isabelle Chewning: Okay.

Mary Lipscomb: That store that was there. The remnants of it were in your lifetime, I think, weren't they? Yeah. That was Mr. Dave Whipple's store, that was Fred's father. And they had a lot of things in that store; you could buy material and just most everything, or just kind of a general store. And I think about, who had the one where Dick Barnes is--

Isabelle Chewning: Supingers?

Mary Lipscomb: Supinger did later, but seems to me before him there was somebody. I guess not. I suppose maybe he had that most of my lifetime. Mr. Supinger did. And Bud Wade's Barbershop was in the back of that. And that's where I got my hair cut, Bud Wade would cut my hair.

Isabelle Chewning: Oh. [laughs]

Mary Lipscomb: Straight around [laughs]. And I think most everybody, all the other girls' fathers cut their hair, or something, I don't know for sure. But I remember, he'd always put this white, white cloth around you, and nearly choked me every time. [laughs]

Isabelle Chewning: So you had short hair.

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah. I had short hair all-- just, it was straight around, just sort of straight around, I got--

Isabelle Chewning: Did a lot of girls have long hair?

Mary Lipscomb: I don't remember. I really don't. Why don't I remember that? [laughs] Probably not. Maybe we all had kind of shortish hair. I believe we did. But you didn't -- I'll have to ask Anne [Buchanan McCorkle]. [laughs]

Isabelle Chewning: Can you talk a little bit about when Granddaddy [Madison McClung Sterrett Sr.] worked at CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps]?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah.

Isabelle Chewning: What it was like being on the farm without him?

Mary Lipscomb: That's right, yeah. Along with about, I guess, I was maybe in my -- maybe 32 or 33, somewhere along in there. I remember we rode with him over to Vesuvius, where there was one of the first of the CCC camps. And it was, you'd pass the, you remember where the Whitesides lived, the big old brick house just beyond the main village of Vesuvius [on South River Road]. You passed that, and you went just down the road a little bit, and there were all these little barracks type buildings, along the road. And their main job at that time being there, was to work on the road to Irish Creek, up Irish Creek, and to do something about the St. Mary's Creek, I believe it was. And to work maybe on that road from Vesuvius down, just down to wherever, back there. I've forgotten. I often wonder about what was their main reason for being there, and I'm not really sure. Anyway, this was before the Skyline Drive and all that. This was the very first. And there lots of the CCC camps around that had nothing to do with the Skyline Drive. And they continued to be in operation during the time that Skyline Drive was being built and all that business. But anyway.

Isabelle Chewning: Why did he take the job there?

Mary Lipscomb: Because he needed the money. And you know, it was just less and less of the money to pay the, what, you know, what we owed for the farm itself, and to make a living, in general. And he, I remember, we – the first man we saw was this young man, and Daddy asked him if he was the Superintendent, he said, "No, I'm not, I'm the clerk," or something like that. And then he went into this other building and talked to Mr. Gallier, who was the Superintendent. And Mr. Gallier had been in the Army, I think. He wore an Army uniform with one of those round World War I hats all the time. But he was the superintendent. And I know there was great writing to Willis Robertson, who was our Senator. And Daddy knew him, grew up with him, I think. He lived in Lexington -- they used to go swimming together. He'd come out to do this, that, and the other. He was our Senator. And Daddy had to write to him about this job, possible job at the CCC camp. And so anyway, he got the job, at Vesuvius. And he, for about -- I don't know how long, maybe two years, I guess he drove over there every day. And he would -- I've forgotten which direction he went. He came out where, you know, at the Kooglers, where Linda Koogler lives now [314 Oakland Circle]. He came out there somewhere. And that was -- I guess he went up to the Ridge Road, and went across somehow, and that was the closest way. I don't know what, he'd get up early and go over there every morning. And of course I was self-centered with my school at that point. And I don't know whether I was maybe in the fourth or fifth grade when he started that. And-- but he was home, and we had the-- when I talked about the Stricklers, I don't believe they came, because that family named Buchanan was there, and maybe just he and Dude [Haliburton] did the farming together for a long time. And then the Stricklers didn't come 'til -- they were there the whole time he was in the CCC work, I'm pretty sure. But I think they were there when he went to Vesuvius first. But anyway -- or maybe they came just when he went. But he realized he was going to have to have some more help on the farm if he was going to keep it going at all. But anyway, they probably came about that time, and this family named Buchanan with the gal that I went to school with, and there are a whole bunch of them still around. They would, so--

Isabelle Chewning: Did they pay rent for the house? The Buchanans?

Mary Lipscomb: I guess they did. He [Mr. Buchanan] worked on the road, on the highway, and I suppose they paid rent. There are a whole bunch of their descendents there. Mrs.—well, we used to all -- all these kids and I-- Mc and I used to go swimming in the creek, every afternoon. [laughs] Build dams. It was fun when they lived there, I'd about forgotten about that [laugh]. Anyway. But he worked there in Vesuvius for, as I say, maybe – I don't know if it was as much as two years. And then the Skyline Drive was to be built, or was being built. And this camp was moved to near Luray. It was about, I've forgotten how far it was from Luray. But he had to go if he was going to stay with it. So, he managed the boys that went out -- he was a foreman -- that went out to work on whatever the projects were they were doing. He was not a part of the military. It was sort of a military place. The boys all were regimented in a way that they had to get up and make their beds, and get up and come to reveille, and go to bed by "Taps" and a few things like that. And this Superintendent was a part of the Army. And it actually was not Army, but it was run like an Army installation. That type thing, more. And that's, now have you ever been to Big Meadows?

Isabelle Chewning: Mm-hm.

Mary Lipscomb: Have you been recently?

Isabelle Chewning: No.

Mary Lipscomb: Have you ever seen that movie?

Isabelle Chewning: No.

Mary Lipscomb: We will have to go, you will have to go. Because it's the best explanation about what the CCC boys did. And what he did with them, they planted trees, hundreds and hundreds and thousands of trees. The mountains in this area had no trees along the road. They'd been denuded by people who lived there, you know, and used them for wood and all these kinds of things. They planted shrubbery. You can't believe, you know, now that such a woodsy area, with all these big old trees, that a lot of these, these boys, but they planted big old trees. And a lot of this I learned from this movie, that I, you know, I really didn't know, from his work. But anyway, he moved down there, and he would come home every weekend--

Isabelle Chewning: And how old were you?

Mary Lipscomb: I know I was in the sixth grade some of that time. But it was all during the time I was in high school, too. But I was in the sixth grade, seventh grade, and then we had first of year high school, along in there. So-- maybe from about the -- I would judge that I was probably in the fourth grade or third grade when he went to Vesuvius. And then I remember the sixth grade business, seventh grade, when he, after he'd gone to Luray. He rode -- we would take him often down to Vesuvius -- and he'd get on the Norfolk and Western [Railroad], and then they had to make a special stop. The train master at Vesuvius would get out with his lantern and wave the train down if he wanted. [Laughs] And it was an uphill grade coming into Vesuvius, so they weren't going very fast [laughs] to start with. But they never did really like to stop there too much because it was this uphill grade. But we would take him down there, Mother would drive sometimes, and then this one named, this younger one of the Stricklers, Ollie Strickler, would drive our car sometimes, and he would go with us and drive down there. And we'd put him [Daddy] on the train. And then he would come home on, that would be Sunday night. He'd come home on Friday night, and he rode with this guy in, who lived down near Vesuvius, who worked at the CCC camp, too. And he, I don't know what he did, but he wasn't regimented like the boys. He was older and he had a car. I think he had a little Model A Ford or something. But we'd take him to Steele's Tavern, and Mr. Lawhorn [ph?] would come up from Vesuvius and he'd get in the car with Mr. Lawhorn and they'd go that way. Somebody had to meet him all the time, when they went on the Norfolk and Western. I don't know how he worked that out. But maybe other boys or other people would be places and they'd meet this train in Luray. And I think they were about ten miles from Luray, up the mountain. But the road wasn't very good. They had nothing -- I don't think the CCCs did anything with the big road building. They did a lot of moving of rocks and building all these walls along the-- and planting and planting and-- more things of that kind. But I've seen pictures of them, using wheelbarrows, wheeling dirt hither and yon. We don't have any pictures of, you know -- On the back porch at Mulberry Grove, while I was married, sometime I was over there. And I found a picture of some of these guys all dressed in their uniforms, the people who ran the camp, and the other Foreman and the Army people and those folks, and Mother had torn it in half. And I don't know why I didn't rescue it. You know, I don't know. Somehow I had this notion that this was important, but I, you know, I didn't take it and put it together or anything. But I figure -- I don't know whether I thought there would be other pictures or what, but we just, we don't have any pictures, I don't know of anything, unless your dad knows of anything in the way of pictures of the time that he was there. But when he'd come home on Friday afternoon, I don't remember whether he'd get there at night or drive -- it ought to be night, I would've thought. And I don't remember going over there to meet him on Friday, but I guess we did. Oh, no. Lots of time he hitchhiked, he would hitchhike home on Friday. And you did that in those days, that was very--

Isabelle Chewning: From Vesuvius?

Mary Lipscomb: No, this was from Luray.

Isabelle Chewning: So he hitchhiked all the way from Luray?

Mary Lipscomb: All the way from Luray, he'd get rides down [Route] 11. I guess we'd have to meet him in Fairfield or something like that, he'd get rides to Fairfield very often. And I suppose Mr. Lawhorn came, and sometimes he'd ride with him. But I can't-- But he always came home, I don't remember his not coming home on the weekend at all. And whether he'd hitchhiked home, I know we had to take him back to the train. That would probably be -- maybe Mr. Lawhorn wouldn't be -- maybe he had to work every other weekend or-- I just don't know why. But sometimes it would be one, and sometimes the other. And I remember one time he came home, and it was snowing, and we couldn't get to Fairfield. And I think Mc got on a horse and when he got to Fairfield, they met about where Roosevelt Staton lives [984 Sterrett Road]. I remember something, and Daddy had walked that far. And Mc had gotten two horses, one for him and one-- But we must've known he was coming or something, and rode the horse up. That's a very vague memory, but I think that had to do with his coming home from there. But Mother was pretty much involved with the farming at that point. And I think it sort of fell to her to tell the Stricklers and Dude what to do, you know, some of the times. But he would pretty much plan, I think, the week's work for them.

Isabelle Chewning: And so would he work Saturday and Sunday when he was home, or did he take Sunday off?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, he took Sunday off. We never did anything on Sunday, ever. Nobody ever worked on Sunday like we do now. And [laughs] he would always try to take a nap and, on Sunday afternoon, and Mary would dress up in these clothes, in somebody's high heels and come clomping down the steps. [laughs] He'd get so mad at me, waking him up from his nap, clomping down the steps in high heels. But I must've been fifth grade or so, doing all of that. [laughs] Anyway. But, yeah, he was always there, we always went to church on Sunday, when he was there. And-- but he would work on Saturday. And as I said, you know, during the wintertime, well I don't know what we did about those sheep, because lambs always came in the wintertime. But during that time, we had people staying with us. Mother didn't like to stay by herself, just with us. And the first time that we had, I suppose, was this gal from Vesuvius named Josephine Whiteside. And she was the, as I said, mother was not a great cook. She could cook if she wanted to, and we had plenty to eat and things were fine, most of the time. But Josephine was such a good cook, and we'd never had a good cook like this before [laughs]. All these, the scrambled eggs were even different when Josephine was there. But we would get, we'd get her, I guess, when -- I don't think we had anybody living with us when he worked at Vesuvius, because he came home. But as long as we had just a girl, another girl in the house, Mother was perfectly happy, but she didn't like to stay just with us, by herself.

Isabelle Chewning: Did she have to pay Josephine?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yeah. Mm-hm, she paid her, mm-hm. And, well, by that time there was some money coming in, which was pretty unusual. From, Daddy had, every two weeks I expect he got a

check or maybe, I've forgotten whether it was every week or whatever. But-- what else? So, what in the world Josephine did all day, I don't know, because there wasn't that much to do. You stayed in the house and you did all this, but by that time, some of the Wades had moved from Castle Carberry into Mr. Hugh Wade's house where they lived, Mary, and Margaret, and Eleanor, and all of them lived there. And Jen. Jen wasn't married. And Mother would, most every afternoon, seems to me, when we would come home from school, she'd be gone, and Mother'd be gone, and--

Isabelle Chewning: [laughs]

Mary Lipscomb: And she would be down visiting the Wades, and that was her-- that's how she survived, really, with those friends, during those years when Daddy was gone, visiting them, just most every afternoon, it seems to me. But maybe not every afternoon. She'd have a Circle meeting, she'd have this, that and the other. And visit Miss Faye Thompson, who lived, you know who she was, who lived where D.W. [Whipple] lived [1790 Sterrett Road]. And she was D.W.'s aunt. And they were good friends. But mostly, and I don't know whether the Wades had moved in there, when Daddy first went to the-- they were, their mother was still living at Castle Carbury. And I remember her, and I don't know when she died, exactly, and it was after that that these, all these sisters then moved. They had one sister named Kate, who was, who had heart valve leakage, I guess it was, and she was pretty much an invalid, she stayed on the bed. And somebody was always there, at the house in Brownsburg. And so you could always go visit there [laughs] and see somebody. And they had a cook, Virginia Bell Franklin cooked for them all the time. She was always -- Kate planned all the meals, and Virginia Bell cooked it. Jen worked in the bank and Eleanor wasn't there much, because she taught school away. And Margaret was at Montreat [North Carolina] where she taught. And Mary was pretty much the housekeeper, and Jen worked in the bank and those are the only three, really, who lived there all the time - winter and summer. But, Margaret would be there in the summertime when she wasn't teaching and so would Eleanor be there in the summertime. That was always a great fun place to go because they were so entertaining. But after Josephine - Josephine stayed a while. I believe she got married, and then we had somebody named Virginia Blackwell who was the-- You went to school with some of the Blackwells, I'm sure. One of my contemporaries was named Rebecca Blackwell. I don't know who would have been your contemporary.

Isabelle Chewning: David [Blackwell].

Mary Lipscomb: David?

Isabelle Chewning: David was in our class [Rockbridge High School, 1970].

Mary Lipscomb: He was probably a nephew of this Virginia, who was a young woman. She was in her 20s, I suppose or something like that. But we had to go over to Timber Ridge every Sunday

afternoon to get her. She lived on Mount Atlas, and she lived with her grandparents. Her parents must have been David's grandparents, I expect, and there were a whole bunch of them because this Virginia had a number of brothers and sisters. The youngest one was my contemporary named Rebecca. So she [Virginia] was kind of farmed out to her grandparents and they lived almost to the Timber Ridge village. And so we had to go get her on the years that we- and she would come and spend the day -- the week with us.

Isabelle Chewning: Where did they stay in the house?

Mary Lipscomb: Upstairs somewhere. Maybe in the little room upstairs. I bet that was their room. I think it was. I'm not really sure.

Isabelle Chewning: And you had moved upstairs by that point - your room was upstairs?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes. I had what is your bedroom now for a long time [the room above the dining room]. After I graduated from the hall upstairs, I moved into that room. Mc was in the little room [above the current office], I guess, before we put up--

Isabelle Chewning: Oh, before the dormers?

Mary Lipscomb: Before the dormers. I was a freshman in high school, I believe, when we did that - probably in the seventh grade or so when we started it. About that time, at that time, we had the back room. Mc and I had those two rooms -- his room at the back and mine at the front. But yes, I was in that room, what I used as a guest room, and which we later used as a guest room. I used that room. I remember it had a stove in there. I don't know whether Mother came up there and started the fire -- I've forgotten. I think I pretty much went downstairs and dressed a lot of the time, in the wintertime. I just don't remember, but I don't ever remember dressing in the cold up there so much. But anyway, but there was a stove in there, I know. It had had that register in it, which you may or may not remember. That was there in your day. Did you all close that this time around? But it was supposed to get heat from down below, but there never was any heat down below [in the dining room] unless you were having Christmas or something. We had a stove in the dining room. It was only used for Christmas, and that's about the only time during the wintertime. We used that dining room in the summertime. But I remember being in there more in the summertime. I just couldn't have spent a lot of time, I don't think, in that room in the wintertime. But she stayed with us a long time, and I know Mc would get up and milk in the morning, and sometimes -- but we had another girl later. I guess I was too small to milk for a while. I'm not sure. But we had somebody - what was that other girl's name? She was a Mason, and she came from Fairfield, and she and I would milk in the afternoon. We each had to milk about two cows, I think. About two cows all this time. But I must have been in high school or something by that time because I remember that pretty

much. Mc, I think, would get up and milk in the morning before he went to school with one of the Strickler guys, I'm guessing. Then in the afternoon -- I don't remember getting those cows in there from the field, but I remember milking them. I remember exactly what they looked like - the two I had to milk. But I don't remember a thing about getting them in there. They were Guernseys, and they didn't give a whole lot of milk. Well, back to my childhood more, and this may have been still going on when I was in high school -- I expect it was. We had, on the lower back porch, there was a separator, and this was before my dad went off to CCC camp. We had a separator and Daddy would milk and bring the milk to the house, and we would separate it, and it had a big bowl on top. Have you ever seen one of these things?

Isabelle Chewning: No.

Mary Lipscomb: Sometimes you see them; you know those antique places. It used to be Rocky's would have things of this kind. You poured the milk into this big bowl and the workings of the things had a whole lot of little cups that fitted on top of each other. You turned the handle and the milk would come out cream on one side and milk on the other. I don't know what made this thing work. But anyway, you separated it into the milk and the cream and we'd feed the milk to the hogs and we sold the cream to McCrum's Creamery. Once a week, a truck would come by and we'd have to set this-- It would be sour cream by that time, of course. We'd try -- I guess, kept it in the basement. It would stay some cool, but not very. In the wintertime it was no problem. In the summertime it would be. I suppose you had to keep it from freezing in the wintertime. But you would set this -- you had asked me about out buildings, and there was a garage right out there, right at the road in my childhood where we just drove the car into the garage from the road. We'd set the cream out there by the garage, and this guy from the creamery would come by and pick it up. You'd get a check for-- I remember those things were five or six dollars -- it was a lot of money - or maybe ten dollars a week for -- it wouldn't be that much. Must be for the month, maybe -- for this cream. McCrums would make butter out of it when they'd get it. But later, how did we sell this milk? Some of that time when I was milking the cows, we had a sort of a trough in the backyard. We'd put the whole milk in cans in there and maybe Augusta Dairy came by and got that. I believe they did. But that was just cooled with cold water, and by this time, we had electricity and mother would take some ice cubes out there and dump in it every now and then. But I don't know how often that was picked up. It wasn't every day. I suppose it would be pretty much on the sour side by the time they'd get it and make what -- I don't know – out of it. I guess there would be-- It seems to me there were ten gallon cans and there would be about two or three of them, but we used a lot of milk. We drank it like water when I was a child most all the time, just always had it on the table, a pitcher of milk- - always. So those three ladies, those three people stayed with us all those years. And then after the -- in about the – about the time the war began, I don't know whether it was late as '41? I believe it was before '41, we were beginning to do defense kinds of things. Maybe in '39 and '40, the whole CCC work came to an end. There was no more funding for it. Everything went to war preparation. Daddy went to work for construction companies, and they built -- I don't know how he got these jobs – in Newport News. Back when I was going to Longwood, he was working in Newport News. They were building zillions of houses for people who came to work at the shipyard. I think Dolly and Herman [Straub]

lived in some of those houses that he was responsible for. He worked for some contractor. But by that time, he'd learned to manage people, you know, and all this work was-- Then later, he went somewhere else. It seems to me he went to Cleveland or somewhere else. Maybe this company moved to Cleveland. But about that time, I think he stopped and came home. But what was I doing? He had been home a while. Before they -- not too long before they built the dairy barn. And they built the dairy barn -- he must have been home during most of the war. No, he was still working in Newport News during part of that time. Maybe he came home in forty-- But the war [was] from '42 to '45 and he probably came home in 1943 or 1944. He didn't work away from home anymore after that. But he was living at home when I graduated, because they came to my graduation. He went with me when I went to college, too, but I don't think -- he wasn't living there then, I don't believe. I don't think he finished that. I remember one time, I know I had come home for a weekend and he rode with me on the bus when he was going back to Hampton or Newport News or wherever it was, when we went by Farmville. So I know that may have been even just when I was a freshman, but it could have been when I was a sophomore. I don't remember. I remember that I had gone home for some special reason; some cousin or somebody was going to be there. Tom Bosworth was at Hampden-Sydney when I was in Longwood, and I remember I got a ride home with him on this weekend. And he must have been -- Tom probably was going off to be in the Navy. He was in the Navy about that time, I expect, because he didn't come back. That's why Daddy rode the bus with me. I came back on the bus with Daddy, and we had both been there because somebody special was visiting us, and I can't remember who that was. Anyway, so that would have been, and I expect Tom had to go in the Navy; it was probably the fall of '42 or something like that. I've forgotten which. I also remember that I had to get back at a certain time on that Sunday because I was in the choir and we had some kind of choir practice. It might have been in – I don't know what time – I was trying to figure out what time of year that would have been. We did all these things at Christmas time in the choir and it probably was in the fall. But that would have been in the fall of '42 probably, maybe I was a sophomore. I wasn't in the choir my freshman year, so it would have been the fall of '42 probably and that would have been about the time everybody, all the college guys had to go into the Service and that's probably about the time Tom was going in the service, all that time. But those are the things I remember mostly about his being away. What else?

Isabelle Chewning: How about childhood diseases? What did you have?

Mary Lipscomb: I had chicken pox. I wasn't going to school, I don't think. I remember this awful sore throat with chicken pox. I know we had the measles, but I can't remember when. I never did have the mumps, I don't think. I thought once when I was in college that I had the mumps. I remember I spent almost a week in the infirmary, trying to decide what it was and it may have been because Mc had had the mumps at home. I had been there and I thought surely this was the mumps, but it never did swell up much then. I never did have the mumps after that, so maybe I never did. Maybe that was it.

Isabelle Chewning: Did you worry a lot about polio and things like that?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes, we did. Yes, we did. We had at least two big scares about polio. I remember one summer, we couldn't go to Sunday School. None of the other children went to church, nor Sunday School. We didn't have Bible School. Daddy went to town and bought us a croquet set. [Laugh] I thought this was so much fun. I think there were maybe a couple of summers like that. But it seems to me that wasn't the only one. We just had to stay at home, but I never did know anybody who had polio until the year before I was married. The year that Alec was a year old, the McGuffin kids had polio. One day, Alec Junior had this terrible temperature. Dr. McClung came out there in 15 minutes - five minutes almost. He was afraid maybe that's what it was because our neighbor's children, Susan and Beverly, had polio the year that Alec was a year old, and Beverly was pretty sick. I don't think Susan ever had it very badly, but Beverly was in the hospital, I think. I don't remember anybody else, and I don't remember anybody in our neighborhood in Brownsburg having it when I was a child.

Isabelle Chewning: How about small pox? Did anybody have that?

Mary Lipscomb: We were all vaccinated. You had to be. By the time I started school, we had to be vaccinated. We didn't have small pox.

Isabelle Chewning: Scarlet fever, rheumatic fever?

Mary Lipscomb: One year, we went to-- I don't know what age I was at all. It must have been when I started school, but we had planned to go to Fredericksburg for Christmas. And this was, to me, the most romantic and wonderful thing. I'd heard mother talk about they had a black man who would bring in the plum pudding. It was all lit and all this stuff for Christmas dinner, and that this was the most wonderful thing. And Mother got this horrible sore throat, and she was pretty sick and we couldn't go. I guess we had the doctor. I don't think it was scarlet fever, but everybody was pretty concerned it might be. But no, I never had scarlet fever, neither one of us ever did.

Isabelle Chewning: Who did you call for the doctor?

Mary Lipscomb: We had a doctor in Brownsburg. All the time that I remember, there was a Dr. Green when I was little. One time, I got a straw stuck in my throat, and his office was up above the bank. We had to go up there and he just took something and reached in there and got the straw out of my throat [laugh]. Then there was a man named -- I bet Anne [McCorkle] could tell you what his name was. It wasn't Pinkerton, but it was something like that. I don't ever remember anything about him. I don't know whether they all, at that time, lived where the Pattersons live now [2744 Brownsburg Turnpike]. The first one I really remember much about was one named Bailey, and he lived there. I don't know when he came, but he was there when I was in high school. I don't remember—

[End of Tape 2, Side A]

Mary Lipscomb: How long do these things [the tapes] last? Do they last 15 minutes?

Isabelle Chewning: I'll just try to stop in 15 minutes.

Mary Lipscomb: Well, anyway, Dr. Bailey was sort of an enigma. Nobody quite knew anything about him. He had a wife that maybe really wasn't his wife. [Laugh] We were all kind of -- Nobody really ever knew exactly. There seemed to be some wife when he first came, and then there was another wife later.

Isabelle Chewning: And he's the one with the airplane, right?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. I'd forgotten about that.

Isabelle Chewning: That shocked me.

Mary Lipscomb: Where did he keep this airplane?

Isabelle Chewning: He landed it in the flat out there along Hays Creek, one turn before you get to Level Loop [567 Hays Creek Road].

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. I remember sort of an airplane show or something out there one time, but it wasn't Dr. Bailey and his airplane. I'd forgotten all about that. I know some of your people whom you've interviewed must have mentioned that, but I don't remember anything about that.

Isabelle Chewning: Can you tell the tonsil story?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, horrors! [Laugh] Have you interviewed your dad?

Isabelle Chewning: No. I think Dick Anderson is going to interview him.

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, I see. How did you learn the tonsil story at all?

Isabelle Chewning: I guess from him, because he tells it pretty well.

Mary Lipscomb: Well, I know that I was seven years old, I think. I don't know whether I had been to school one year, maybe. And there was something about there wasn't any money to have our tonsils taken out. And all of a sudden, somebody gave Mother fifty dollars, I think. Who was that? I'll maybe remember that someday, but there was a decision made that we would have the tonsils taken out at the same time that Davidsons -- this is Jack and Cornelia, who were-- Frank was younger than we are. These were my first cousins. They lived in Lexington. There was a doctor; I guess this was Dr. Mitchell, at that time, and he lasted a pretty long time as an ear, nose and throat guy in Lexington. So we all had to go to the hospital, which was where the [Stonewall] Jackson house is now. We were all in a big room -- which I think, is now the [Stonewall Jackson House] living room to the left -- at the hospital. I don't remember a whole lot about this except I think Cornelia-- Maybe Cornelia was the youngest, and she was taken first, and she must have come back and looked pretty sad. Still not much out of the anesthesia, and Jack probably went next, and then it was Mc's turn. And here I was. As the oldest, I had to wait until all this was over, and I don't remember that I was terribly undone. But Mc had a -- just a fit when the time came for him to go. I remember him screaming and yelling and hanging onto the bottom of the bed before they took him. [Laugh] Then I had to go next, and I don't remember much about my going at all. I do remember that we got ice cream afterwards, after we were well enough to swallow anything. But hardly before I was out of the anesthesia, I remember Aunt Margaret, one of my mother's first cousins and I called her "aunt," came to the hospital and they were moving that day from Roanoke, where they had lived, to Baltimore, where they were going to live. They were passing through, and Aunt Margaret spoke to me when I was semiconscious, I think. I just remember her being there and saying she was there, giving her my love and so forth and so forth. I don't remember a thing about coming home or how long it took us to get well. All this was in the summertime. I know that, you know. We weren't in school, but I had probably been to school one year at that point. That's mostly what I remember about it. But when I go to the Jackson House, I can almost look at that room, and think about the four of us in that room, each in a separate bed. It was kind of a little ward, and going off to have our tonsils taken out. Is that the story he tells?

Isabelle Chewning: Oh, yes. I think he says he was last, though!

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, he did? I'm sure he was <u>not</u> last because I remember his going. I don't think he was last. [Laugh] Because I was the oldest, I had to be last. I could be wrong. I don't have any idea-- What else special? What other things have been brought to mind?

Isabelle Chewning: Can you talk a little bit about the politics?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yes! That's very exciting. We did all these fun things, politically. As I told you, everybody was a Democrat. I remember, once there was a rally, a Democratic Rally in

Williamsburg – that's not right. What is that place in Bath County? Oh, fiddlesticks. That's not its name. It's Williamsville. Williamsville, I believe it is. It's somewhere between - anyway. I've been through it. It's before you get to – what's in Bath County? Monterey's in Highland County.

Isabelle Chewning: Millboro or Millboro Springs or Warm Springs?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah. I guess it's between Millboro Springs, probably, and getting into Highland County, and Monterey and that area. Somewhere in that area. It was a wonderful sort of a picnic ground or something. But I know the Buchanans went. I remember Anne [Buchanan McCorkle] went with us. Anne doesn't remember a thing about this, but I do. Because this was the Democratic group and it was a rally, I don't know who was running for what. I have no idea. But this was just a wonderful outing, and a great picnic. There were these marvelous grapevines, and we had the best time swinging on the grapevines at this picnic. [Laugh] I do remember this, you know, but this was a whole day. We went for the day, and I suppose there were speeches in the morning, speeches in the afternoon, la-de-dah. It could have been for our cousin Tate Sterrett, who was in the House of Delegates, and he lived in --

Isabelle Chewning: Fassifern.

Mary Lipscomb: Hot Springs. Fassifern [get address]. You know, in back of Hot Springs, more like Warm Springs. And maybe because it was in the Bath County area, it could have been a rally for him, and maybe that's why we were all there particularly, but he was in the House of Delegates.

Isabelle Chewning: Do you remember people campaigning in Brownsburg? Someone mentioned to me that, because there was really no TV, no other way to campaign, that people actually got out and did stump speeches in these little villages.

Mary Lipscomb: I don't remember anybody doing-- I remember people coming to the stores and greeting you if you happened to be in a store. They'd come and stop at the stores and speak to whoever was there -- that sort of thing. I don't remember anybody ever stopping by our house. I know my parents would go to Democratic fundraisers, I guess they were -- dinners in Lexington and things like that. They belonged to a group called the Young Democrats. I remember that. I hadn't thought of that, and all these people were-- my dad was in his early 30s. The Buchanan guys [Gene and Bill] were some older than he was, but not a whole lot, I suppose. And Mr. John Patterson was probably not a whole lot older, but a little bit older than he. And who would be the other people? I can't remember. But anyway, those were the people I remember mainly who were in this Young Democrat group. But not until later did Daddy work at the polls all the time. You know about a wonderful story about-- I guess I was teaching then, and he must have been the Chief Judge at the polls or something, and we had a primary. In the summertime this was. The Republicans were

having the primary at the same time and the voting place was in the back of the bank, and they couldn't find anybody to be a Republican judge. Have you not heard this story? He conned me into being a Republican judge at a polls because they were scared they were going to throw out the Democratic primary because it was supposed to be both Democratic and Republican. So I think I was teaching -- not a college student. I might have been a college student, but I couldn't vote. I couldn't vote until I was teaching. So I was 21, the first year I was teaching there, so I must have been teaching. Anyway, I was upstairs and that morning, he got up. I remember he was yelling upstairs, "Come on you damn Republican. You have to get up and go to the polls." [Laugh] I went off. I think I had Mrs. Whipple, and I don't know whether anybody else voted in that primary. [Laugh] Mrs. Whipple always came to anything Republican, anything that opened up.

Isabelle Chewning: This was Fred's mother?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes, Fred's mother, right, but she was about the only Republican. I'm sure that Fred and Mollie Sue voted Republican, but I don't think they were as careful – you know, let everybody know all the time. I don't remember Fred's coming to vote that day. Everybody was kidding me about my one voter or two voters. [Laugh]

Isabelle Chewning: So that area was really predominately Democratic.

Mary Lipscomb: Predominantly Democratic until when? I don't know. I guess it's been the last 40 years, probably, it's changed or sometime. We've gotten a lot more. Well, at the time of integration, when the South all began to -- all the Democrats, like the Byrd Democrats, and all these people all changed to the Republican party. Mills Godwin was the Democratic governor once upon a time, and then the next time he ran he was a Republican. He was governor twice. Nobody in that group liked the Byrds. My dad was avidly opposed to Harry Byrd, who never did like President Roosevelt or anything he did. Although he was a great camper, you know, and loved the mountains and all this stuff, he never did like-- He was against everything that Roosevelt did. Of course, that's moved into this Valley where I am now, in Harrisonburg. The paper is owned by the Byrd Group. Every newspaper from here north is owned by the Byrd Consortium. "The Northern Virginia Daily" -- is that what it's called? It goes to Front Royal and that area. And I think there's one in Winchester, and then there's -- I don't know whether there's anything between that and Harrisonburg or not, but this is called the "Daily Record" here, and it's in this Byrd Group, but it is so horribly conservative and oh, they still like Mr. Bush!

Isabelle Chewning: Well, was Granddaddy [Madison McClung Sterrett Sr.] on the School Board at the time of integration?

Mary Lipscomb: No. He had been retired from it, or was he? Because he was on the School Board during the time they built the high school that you went to [currently Rockbridge Middle School].

Isabelle Chewning: He has told me that he took the dousing rod out, and figured out where the well should be at the high school.

Mary Lipscomb: He did, yeah.

Isabelle Chewning: And that he picked the well at the barn.

Mary Lipscomb: He probably did.

Isabelle Chewning: But Daddy doesn't have any recollection of that at all.

Mary Lipscomb: No, I remember his telling us that, and I'm pretty sure he did the one at the high school. I didn't know about the one at the barn. If he was capable of doing that, he could have done it. I don't know how you do this, but I've heard him say that, that he did. Yep. So anyway, did integration come – it didn't come for a while.

Isabelle Chewning: It was the eighth grade for me [1965].

Mary Lipscomb: That's right, yes.

Isabelle Chewning: So I was 14, so 1966 [Note: correct year is 1965].

Mary Lipscomb: You all were in that school, you went to eighth grade in that school, didn't you?

Isabelle Chewning: Right, and that was the first year of integration – 1966 [1965].

Mary Lipscomb: Well, he may not have been, you see, because that school was built in 1960. Bobby Alexander was in the first graduating class, and I think that was 1960 or 1961. John Miley [Whitesell] was in the first graduating class. He probably was not on the School Board at that time at the time of integration, but that wasn't a big problem in Rockbridge County. We'd been through all that mess of schools closing like the one in Front Royal, and the one in Farmville, and all that stuff. That was in the – those were in the early '60s, weren't they? Or late '50s. I've forgotten exactly

when they were. That awful -- what was it called -- the law that if a black child comes to your school, the school would close. You don't know about that?

Isabelle Chewning: I've read -- in Farmville, wasn't it?

Mary Lipscomb: Farmville was the worst one. They just didn't have any public schools for five years in Farmville for the black kids at all. Everybody went to that academy, and there was no public school. The white kids all went to the private academy there was no school at all for blacks. But you've read more recently about those black kids who went to live with their cousins and uncles in hundreds of different places, and tried to get an education. Some of the Hampden-Sydney boys -- those are the years that I stopped giving to the Alumni Association at Longwood. I said, "If you all can't do any better than this." There was one professor at Longwood, who really stood for doing something about it. All the rest of them, they were State paid and they were this, that and the other, and they were scared to death, I guess.

Isabelle Chewning: Were you conscious of it when you were growing up? That's just the way it was.

Mary Lipscomb: Well, I was some conscious of it. You know, I watched all those little kids while I rode the bus to school, to walk down there, to school all the time. Like Willie Howard [Pleasants] and his brother Clarence, and who else lived up there on the hill north of us – I mean east of us. But no, it was -- I've heard you say that Bud Martin said that this concerned him a great deal. I don't think I thought that much about it. It was just the way it was, sort of. I do remember what I told you about Ethel Brown and how their health situations weren't good. And I do know, but there was a whole family named Franklin who lived right as you go into Castle Carbury [34 Beard Lane]. Have you ever been out there where the Wades lived? You have to drive to the back of the house and turn? Well, just as you got to the back of the house, there was a little long brick building down there, and what was his name?

Isabelle Chewning: Zack.

Mary Lipscomb: Zack Franklin lived in that house and he had a whole bunch of children - Dan, Dan Franklin, and Virginia Bell, and on and on and on. And they were all swarming outside the buildings and things like-- Outside that teeny little place. No wonder they swarmed outside. But I think I was aware, I know that I was aware there were health problems. Their teeth never looked good, and stuff like that. But I really didn't know them very well at all. I knew Willie Howard. We used to ride bicycles together or something I think. He and Mc were fairly good friends, I think.

Isabelle Chewning: Would he have been Dude's [Haliburton] nephew?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah. His mother was named Edna and her last name was Pleasants, but she had been a Haliburton.

Isabelle Chewning: Who lived with Dude and Maggie?

Mary Lipscomb: They had no children. They lived by themselves.

Isabelle Chewning: But wasn't there--?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, they had somebody named Pinky.

Isabelle Chewning: Wasn't there Annie Laurie or Aunt Laura?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes. Maggie had an aunt, I suppose she was, who lived with them some, but not forever. They had raised a child who was gone, and I think maybe she's the one that still owns that property. I've heard your dad say something about he had -- maybe 10 or 15 years ago she came by and he saw her or something. But I don't know who these children-- I think there were two of these children -- a boy and a girl -- maybe that they'd sort of raised. By that time, they'd gone off to Washington or somewhere and gotten married. I don't ever remember her living with Dude and Maggie. But this aunt--

Isabelle Chewning: Who was Pinky?

Mary Lipscomb: She was a girl who lived with Dude and Maggie, and she must have been a niece, or Maggie's niece maybe. But this Aunt Laura, I believe that was her name, was Maggie's -- and Mother had some kind of connection with her. I believe she may have been the one who taught in a black school in Rockbridge Baths when mother was teaching. There was somebody in that family who taught in a black school. I remember Mother saying they'd meet her every morning. She'd be going one way and they were going the other, you know. They were going to that little school, that square school, and the black school was-- you had to go almost where you start climbing Jump Mountain. If you pass the Bethesda [Presbyterian Church] manse [49 Walkers Creek Road], and go out that road, then I think the school was off to the left, sort of in that neighborhood. I didn't know any of the Rockbridge Baths black people at all. It must have been a good many people for a school.

Isabelle Chewning: Is it time to quit?

Mary Lipscomb: We better quit, yes.

Isabelle Chewning: Thank you.

[End of Tape 2, Side B]

Isabelle Chewning: My name is Isabelle Chewning. Today is November 29th and I'm back with Mary Lipscomb to finish our interview, or at least continue it. I don't know if I'll finish. Last time we left off, we'd been talking about the black community in general and some specific individuals that you remembered, and I wondered if you remembered much about the black school that was in Brownsburg.

Mary Lipscomb: I remember that was sort of a long, low building. It was one story and I remember that Carrie Peters taught. She's the only teacher that I remember. I guess there were others after sometime, I'm sure. But I've always understood that she was a very good teacher and that as far as the school went -- it only went to the seventh grade, I suppose -- the students were pretty well educated because she was a really fine person. She lived in house back of Brownsburg [1486 Dry Hollow Road]. Everybody walked. I'm sure she walked. I think I vaguely remember that she had a car but I don't remember whether she – I doubt if she drove to school. She probably walked. And all the black children walked by our houses to school. I think we may have mentioned that before. But I don't remember much about the school until about the time of the Second World War, it was made into a cannery. Is that right?

Isabelle Chewning: I think they did close it and then everybody had to go over to Fairfield to school.

Mary Lipscomb: Or Raphine? Did they go to Raphine? I don't know.

Isabelle Chewning: I think Fairfield is where they went.

Mary Lipscomb: They went to Fairfield to school? I don't know where the school was in Fairfield.

Isabelle Chewning: Somewhere down along [Route 11] where the Moose Lodge is, I think [6363 North Lee Highway, near Jonestown Road].

Mary Lipscomb: I see. Along where those black churches are now.

Isabelle Chewning: Right.

Mary Lipscomb: In that neighborhood, the Jonestown neighborhood.

Isabelle Chewning: Right.

Mary Lipscomb: I see. Now that I don't remember at all. But that was before they were bussed into Lexington. I guess that was before that because I was married when that started happening, I think. Maybe in the 50s.

Isabelle Chewning: Well I think if they weren't going to high school -- Well I don't know that. I don't know.

Mary Lipscomb: Some of them did go to high school. They went to Lexington and lived with friends and family. I know Willie Howard's [Pleasants] brother, Leo Pleasants, who was college educated. I'm sure he must have gone into Lexington, because Leo is as old as I am, or older. I can't remember whether he was-- Anyway. I'm sure he went into Lexington. There must have been others who did go and live with their families.

Isabelle Chewning: I see. So there was no transportation to get them to high schools?

Mary Lipscomb: There was no transportation, no. I don't know how they got to Fairfield.

Isabelle Chewning: There was evidently a bus.

Mary Lipscomb: Is that right? When they closed the school in Brownsburg -- that I don't remember at all. I remember about it's being turned into a cannery and we went in there and canned things in the summertime. That was probably during the war, during the time I was in college. People used the cannery. It was government supported, and you could can in tin cans. It was something that was difficult to do at home. It was sort of maybe part of the Victory Garden idea during the Second World War, and I think that was when it was promoted more. It may have begun before the war, but it seems to me that that was part of the war effort. Where we got the -- I guess they were aluminum cans? Tin cans, I suppose. We were, you know, so busy saving tin and all this sort of thing, where we got the tin at that point, to do this, I'm not really sure because we were collecting all kinds of metal for the war effort. But I've forgotten what we canned. I think maybe applesauce. We did our own canning of meat, I think, in the old kitchen [the 19th century kitchen at Mulberry Grove, 2249 Sterrett Road]. I don't ever remember going in there [to the cannery] -- maybe

it wasn't even open in the wintertime. But you know, it must have been, because people evidently did can meats and things in there. But I remember being there with Daddy one day. I don't know whether we were canning corn, maybe, or something that we'd taken. But we didn't do that a lot. But we'd go sometimes and some people would -- people with larger families really used it a great deal.

Isabelle Chewning: How did it work? Did you prepare all the vegetables and everything at home and then--

Mary Lipscomb: No, no. You prepared the vegetables there, I think. And maybe people did different things. I know they had the equipment and the water and the space for doing these things that you could -- Lots of people made soup, and I do vaguely remember that. They'd bring all their different vegetables and prepare them there. You did this maybe as a -- You didn't go in there by yourself very often, it seems to me. It took you and your friends, or you and your neighbors, or you and your family members, more of that sort of thing. People with large families really used it a lot. But I do remember the putting together of corn and tomatoes and butter beans. Things of that sort. Why am I saying "tomatoes" [pronounced tuh-may'-toe] when I ordinarily say "tomato" [pronounced tuh-mah'-ta? [Laugh]

Isabelle Chewning: Was there an employee there? A staff person, a government person?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes. Yes, there was a staff person and I don't know -- I can't remember who -- they were men very often because you put these -- It seems to me you put things into big vats of water and put them in hot water and things of that sort, and there were men who lifted these large number of cans out of these vats of hot water. I don't remember who any of those men were. And there may have been a woman. I just don't remember at all.

Isabelle Chewning: But that was mainly during the war you remember that?

Mary Lipscomb: That is my [memory] of it. I'm just not really sure.

Isabelle Chewning: Were the Victory Gardens a big thing?

Mary Lipscomb: Well, in our area, which was very rural, it was mentioned, but it was no different from what we always had, really, I suppose. I think in more urban areas people had new gardens and they were conscious of growing their own food for the first time maybe, calling it a Victory Garden.

Isabelle Chewning: I see.

Mary Lipscomb: But we used the term a little bit, but everybody had big gardens. That was a part of life. So it wasn't a new and different thing.

Isabelle Chewning: Did you work in the garden a lot?

Mary Lipscomb: Not a lot, but we had – Mc and I, I remember had to pick potato bugs when I was a child [laugh] and that was a most horrendous job! And you didn't have the kinds of bug killers that you do today, and so you had to go through the potatoes and look for the bugs. I think we did the same thing on the beans, and I picked beans and things. But Daddy did the main part of the garden it seems to me, the planting and the weeding. He would take a horse, and they had a little plow, a one-digger plow, and I guess they made the rows wide enough so that a horse could walk through and plow the garden every now and then. Plow the weeds between the rows. But no, I didn't work in the garden a lot, but I did some. It wasn't a major part of my life. Daddy and the farm men did more, and Mother did the harvesting, I suppose. And I suppose I helped with that some, bean-picking and things like that, because I certainly knew how. I did more of it after we were married, after I was married.

Isabelle Chewning: Let's talk a little more about World War II since we were sort of there.

Mary Lipscomb: All right.

Isabelle Chewning: What are your recollections of that? Were you very conscious of it, what was going on?

Mary Lipscomb: World War II encompassed my whole college career. It began in '41 when I was a freshman at Longwood College – at Farmville State Teacher's College, it was then. And it lasted until the year I graduated. And in the summer after '45, when I graduated in '45, it was over. But when I go back to class reunions, there's only one other group who lived the same kind of life that I did, there being war during my whole college career, and that was a group from 1861 to 1865. And we talk about that, you know, in my class reunions, that this was an unusual experience that our whole college career was colored by the war. And we had – Longwood, Farmville State Teacher's College at that time, is seven miles from Hampden-Sydney College. And during the winter of '41 and the spring session of '42, and even '42 into '43, the boys were pretty much the same, the students who had come. And they weren't drafted and taken out of Hampden-Sydney maybe until the middle of '43. We didn't have any boys at Farmville State Teacher's College, so mostly what we knew about men in the war had to do with these guys at Hampden-Sydney. But by '43, there were hardly any civilians at Hampden-Sydney. The same thing was true at Washington and Lee and all

other men's colleges at that time. And I remember that -- I guess I must have been a sophomore. And for some reason… Tom Bosworth had a car. Tom Bosworth lived in Brownsburg and he went to Hampden- Sydney. And he was at home, or maybe he hadn't gone [back] to college when I went to school the first day. And he went with us, I think, and he was very gracious about showing us where to go into the buildings. He was two years older than I, and had been at Hampden-Sydney and knew Farmville State Teacher's College, had a girlfriend there. And he took us into the buildings and showed us how to get into the buildings, where we were supposed to go, and things of that sort. This was Mother and Daddy and I, and Tom showing us around. But I remember that for some reason I went, or he may have asked me if I wanted to go, and you didn't go any place by '43 -- I guess gasoline was being rationed. And he drove home to Brownsburg, and I went with him to visit my parents, and that was the day he was leaving Hampden-Sydney. It was in the middle of a school year. It wasn't the end of a year at all. And he had joined the Navy, and he was going off to Naval School. And that's about the time that most all the men from colleges left. They were drafted or they joined something. So many of the college students, though, applied for officer's training and that's what he was doing. He was going to be in an officer training school somewhere. But after that, Hampden-Sydney was used for a Naval – oh, I'll think of the name of it in a minute. It was a Naval school. I can't remember the name. It's a common thing, lots of colleges were used for various things. And it wasn't ROTC or officer's school, it was -- what would you call the naval recruits, things of that sort. They weren't preparing to be officers. V-12. That's what it was called, the V-12 Program. For instance, Washington and Lee was taken over by something called the Special [Services] so the guys who came to Washington and Lee were trained to do -- not necessarily to fight, but to be special officers maybe, or not, in education maybe, or recreation, or some of those kinds of things. Entertainment. But that was Washington and Lee's role. Hampden-Sydney's role was with this group of V-12 Naval people, and they were everywhere. But they came and went. The town of Farmville, where Farmville State Teacher's College was located, was the town for Hampden-Sydney. Hampden-Sydney's just out in the country, and if they came to the movies, they had to come into Farmville to the movies. And I never dated any of the V-12 boys, but one of my suitemates married a V-12 boy, whom she met in the V-12 area. There were a few civilian students who probably were not subject to the draft, something of that sort. And so every now and then you'd see these civilians. But we would always -- the thing we did was go to the dances. We were not very far from Camp Pickett, which was an Army installation. They would bus us out there on a Saturday night for a dance, or something of that kind. And then there was a USO, what does the USO stand for? I can't remember. It was the recreation place in Farmville that the Army, any service -- I guess it was the United Service Organization maybe. Any the service guys could come there to this building, and just talk to each other, sit and talk, or entertain a date. And I did date some of these boys. And mostly what you did when you were a student -- because you didn't have a car -- you walked. We would walk out places, and hither and yon. There'd be dances, this was in Farmville, there was a big building in Farmville, and there'd be dances there at this USO building. But Farmville owned an estate about a mile out of town and on a Sunday afternoon, there was nobody in the home in the big house. It's now the President's home, but at that point it was not occupied, but the college used it for various things. And on Sunday afternoon, they'd serve sticky buns and tea or something of this sort. And we could walk out there with our dates and have sticky buns and whatever. [Laugh] But we knew, you know, that most everybody, most all of my

contemporaries were off to the war. And I think about how little I knew though, about the horrors of war. You just -- we didn't have the kind of communication that you have [today]. I think everybody knows that the first time we ever saw war was the Vietnam War, that we saw a lot on television. Civilians just didn't have any conception of how awful it was.

Isabelle Chewning: Were you afraid? Were people afraid?

Mary Lipscomb: That we'd lose? No.

Isabelle Chewning: Not that we'd lose, but that the war, the United States would become a front for war, that the European armies would drop bombs on the United States?

Mary Lipscomb: I was never really afraid of that. We had blackouts. They were just one-time like fire drills, you know, that kind of thing. We'd have to cover the windows, and we'd put blankets over the windows, and turn the lights off. I never really was afraid, and I think part of that was plain stupidity, because you know, being here on the eastern shore, on the eastern coast of the United States, there were – now we've read a lot about submarines pretty close and they could have done real damage. But we didn't know that then. These things we've learned later. And neither did we know how -- all the dealings between Roosevelt and Churchill, and what we were doing prior to the war. I don't think we understood that either at all. The Lend Lease Program and all those things were -- I learned more about it after I began to teach. You teach American History, you get a nice little newspaper all the time. So you learn a lot about -- when you're teaching, you have to learn about what's gone on recently, and I learned more about what was going on after the fact, after the war. But the best thing I had in the way of teaching to help me understand the war was a course in geography that I took when I was a senior. Her name was Moran, Miss Moran, and she had fairly recently visited Russia. And she had a wall map of Europe, and we began to follow things. And this was the fall of '44, you see and things were -- we were already in Europe, and we followed the Battle of the Bulge and those kinds of things. The parts that were happening at that time. But when I think back about how little I knew of the fall of France, and I was pretty shocked when I visited France six or seven years ago. And there were people who were my age who said, "Your country was so wonderful to liberate us, and how you came." These people were, I don't know, I don't think the younger generations think about this, but the grandparents of one of the boys [exchange students] who came over, who lived here with Alec and Mary Lynn [Lipscomb, son and daughter-in-law of Mary Lipscomb] were especially thankful, and they went over and over this a lot in our visit. But they were my contemporaries and they may have been, I don't know, in part of the French Resistance. I'm not too sure what, you know, what their part of it was. But anyway, we knew practically nothing about it when I was a 20-year-old and in college. But anyway, those are some of the things I think about. As far as Brownsburg is concerned, I would come home in the summertime. We hardly ever came home, because we had to travel by the most awful worn-out old buses because everything had gone to the war. And sometimes they'd break down and stop on the mountainside. [Laugh]

Beginning in the fall of ’42, we didn’t have any Thanksgiving holiday, and we didn’t have any -- You didn’t go home between the time you went and Christmas at the height of the war, ’42 and ’43 and those times. Well, I guess in ’42 we were pretty scared still because things were not going well in the Pacific at all. So I stayed at school, you know, so I don’t know what went on in Brownsburg much during that time. But I was always there in the summertime and that’s when we would do the canning. Oh, yes, we did an airplane watch. I was a part of that. I think we went out to the [New Providence] manse maybe, and watched for airplanes. It was called a civilian -- it was some kind of a civilian watch program where people -- if you saw an airplane going over you called a number somewhere and reported this airplane. And so people were careful. I don’t know how long that went on. It seems to me things got a little more relaxed after the invasion of Europe in ’44, I guess it was. But of course there was gasoline rationing, and that meant you couldn’t go places and do things. Farmers had some kind of allotment. But I had a ration book, and it was for sugar, and shoes, and I don’t know what else. I’ve forgotten. But I remember I had to take my ration book and probably some other food stuff and hand it in at the college at the first of the year. And they kept them because of their food budgets. They had to use our ration books for their purchase of food items for us. I had a ration book, but I think I gave it to the Rockbridge Historical Society. I hope I did. I don’t know. I think it was mine, or maybe it was Mother’s or Daddy’s. There were books for gasoline, and I didn’t know much about that because I didn’t have a car. And there were, I remember shoes were rationed, and I don’t know what else.

Isabelle Chewning: How much was your tuition?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, that was amazing. Daddy would give me a check for two hundred dollars -- we were on a quarter system -- each quarter, and I would take it to Longwood and put it in the bank. And that was supposed to take care of everything, and it did. It paid for my books, and it paid for the tuition, and so it was six hundred dollars a year for three quarters. Isn’t that amazing? [Laugh]

Isabelle Chewning: It is amazing.

Mary Lipscomb: But you know, that was good. Other girls would have to write home for money and all this kind of thing, and I had to live within that two hundred dollars, but I had it. You know, and I could do it. I thought that was very -- a very nice way to live, and I learned to live within it.

Isabelle Chewning: Did you have any summer jobs or part time jobs?

Mary Lipscomb: No, I didn’t at all. The only thing I did was, well I worked one summer teaching riding at a summer camp in North Carolina. That was after my sophomore year, my second year, so that would have been -- I took riding at Longwood, and the riding teacher -- this is horseback riding – had worked at this camp in Little Switzerland, North Carolina. And she wasn’t going to do it that

year, so she recommended me. I went in the summer of, what would that have been, '43? I suppose it was. And worked for the great sum of sixty dollars. That was hard work! On the way to Little Switzerland, I remember Margaret Wade was the Dean at Montreat College, and for some reason she was going back to that area in North Carolina, and I rode with her on the bus. I worked for maybe two weeks at Montreat in the dining room. Then I had to get up one morning early and catch a taxi and go to somewhere at the foot of the mountain, Marion, North Carolina I guess it was, at the foot of the mountain near Little Switzerland, and catch the mail truck to go up to Little Switzerland where the camp was located. This was all -- The director of the camp had written me all about how to do this. And that was an experience and a half. [Laugh] The mail truck had chickens on it and all kinds of things. But then again, this was during the war, and this is a pretty rugged mountain in the mountains of North Carolina. Not too far from Mount Mitchell. And this chugging chugging mail truck going up that mountain that day. And of course I had a trunk, a small trunk because I had all this riding gear, boots and all that stuff that I had to take. And I got there with all of that and the director of the camp met me and we drove. The camp was about maybe as much as two miles away from Little Switzerland, which is a resort, a little town. It's bigger and much, much more changed now of course. But it just had some nice little houses and cabins around the very, very little village at that time. So I worked that summer.

Isabelle Chewning: What was the name of the camp?

Mary Lipscomb: It was called Camp As You Like It, at that point, and it's been changed to something else.

Isabelle Chewning: Oh, it's still there?

Mary Lipscomb: I'm not sure it is now. But it was changed to something else because I met a couple of people who'd been girl campers there once. I've forgotten what the name was, and I've forgotten who those people were who had been there. But that's the only summer work I ever did really. I didn't go back the next summer. It was hard work. You had to manage about seven or eight horses. This lady was from Charleston, South Carolina and she had family in Wilmington, North Carolina and so they drew girls from both of those cities. And I always say this is something you do when you're young and dumb. Because to manage -- I think there were seven horses, and all the girls wanted to ride all the time. You had to make all these schedules, of course, and the riding ring was on a little plateau. You had to go up the mountain on this trail to get to the riding ring. We would go in single file, and I used a lead rope when I had seven year olds. Can you imagine now, going through the mountains, and get up there and you'd have a thunderstorm. We didn't have any accidents that I know of during the summer. But it was just a wonder that some horse didn't bolt off through the mountains somewhere. [Laugh] But it was an experience. When I think back on it, it had the best food you've ever eaten in your life because they had a couple of cooks from – they were either from Charleston or Savannah, and you just couldn't believe the good food we had. Of

course we had rice every meal, or grits, or something of that kind with each meal. But such good food. And the swimming pool was ice cold because it was right off the mountain water, right out of the mountain water. But Alec and Mary Lynn and I went there, I think it was maybe the summer after [Mary Lipscomb's husband] Alex died maybe, the summer of '96 or '97, somewhere in that neighborhood. We found several places that I could recognize, but one of the things that [coughs] --

Isabelle Chewning: You need to stop and have a drink of water?

Mary Lipscomb: You want to stop and have a cup of tea?

[Temporary break in audio]

Isabelle Chewning: We took a water break. We're back on the tape now.

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, I was just going to say that I really, it was such an unusual experience, this camp. I remember this, and it really has little to do with the war except for the fact that there were girls who were glad to be away from the coastal cities because they were a little afraid in Charleston and Wilmington. Wilmington is some kind of a Naval base, isn't it? It has a Naval base? I'm not sure. And their fathers were in the war, right many of them having those experiences. But these girls were just having fun. I remember that -- I guess it was the second day I was there, maybe it was even the first day that I arrived. The camp director, the owner of the camp was named Bunny, and I've forgotten what her last name was. She said, "We have to go down the mountain and get a horse." We needed one more horse. So I got in the station wagon with her and we rode and rode and rode and rode down the mountain until we came to this little farm, and here was this huge horse. The man had saddled and bridled and was ready for us to -- She had already arranged to rent this horse. She had six others. And I got on, and I remember I was starting toward the gate. Well, the man nicely said, "I see she knows what she's doing." I was about to go out the gate with the horse and he said, "Sometimes he lies down with you." I thought, "Oh my word, here I'm going to be on this [inaudible] road with this horse who might lie down any old minute." And I had to ride this horse, three miles I know, or maybe four or five. It seemed like ages. Up the mountain on a paved road to get back to camp. And I kept looking at the bank beside me and I thought, "Now if he decides to lie down, I will just slide off over here on the bank." But that horse never lay down all summer. But he was so large. The girls, none of the girls could ride him. So I rode him all the time. And he worked out very well. But I nearly always rode at the front of this group of seven girls, because when you went up this mountain trail to the plateau where the ring was, you went through the cobwebs and all that stuff early in the morning. You had to break the cobwebs and anything else that was in the path. And so I didn't want them to go [in front], but I-- You pretty much had to trust the ones who were way back yonder somewhere, and hope that things went well. The girls enjoyed it and I enjoyed it, but it was hard work. From seven o'clock in the morning until six o'clock at night.

Isabelle Chewning: You had a childhood experience with horses in the camps, right? When you rented your pony?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, Mc and I had this wonderful small horse, he was, or a large pony. I think he was in the pony family, but even my dad could ride him. I think Daddy's legs almost touched the ground, but I remember seeing him riding him to get the cows and horses and things out of the field. But that was, yes, that was a really wonderful experience, but that wasn't any how-to-ride kind of thing. Mc and I would both ride him bareback and all kinds of things. But we made our very first money taking him down to Camp Briar Hills, and renting him for the day. And we'd have to sit down there and wait all morning while, I guess -- I don't know what time riding started. Sometimes we'd get there and they'd be having prayers still so we'd tie up the horse somewhere or give him to the person who managed the riding. I think actually we rented him to Fred Whipple, because Fred was in charge of the riding I believe. And so we'd go sit on the porch with the boys while they were having prayers, I suppose. And there were various girl McLaughlins around. But Camp Briar Hills was owned by Henry and Sam McLaughlin, I suppose, the very first ones. They were sons of Dr. McLaughlin and it was just half a mile down the road from us [2508 Sterrett Road]. And we would get there and we were always very pleased that we made our -- that was our first enterprise in this world -- and made some money. I don't remember how many summers we did it, but we were not very old. I don't know if we were as much as ten and twelve or less, I'm not too sure. But there's a good picture of both of us on the horse and we could both ride him. But I'm sure we had to produce a saddle – which we didn't always use – if they were going to ride him at Camp Briar Hills. But that may have gone on for several summers. I don't remember how many summers we did that, but we were younger. And then we had a couple of riding horses. I remember one named Charlie, and Charlie wouldn't cross bridges. [Laugh] You had to get off and lead him across. We had a minister named Curry, Mr. Curry, and he had a daughter about my age. Her name was Gay Curry, and she and I would ride together. I don't know where she got her horse to ride, because I'm sure they didn't have one. And we didn't have two, but I remember she and I would ride together, just go out the roads and hither and yon. But I'd always have to get off and lead that horse across the bridges. He shied at a lot of things, and bridges he did not like at all.

Isabelle Chewning: And he's the one that kicked Daddy's [Mc Sterrett's] teeth out, right?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes, right. He was tied in the barnyard one day and Mc had dropped a bucket near him and he reared. And we always think his front feet must have hit Mc on the way up or he would have damaged his face more than he did. Knocked his teeth out. And I remember one kind of a roan mare we had, but I think I was in college at that time. I don't remember much about her. There was some discussion about my taking her to school to rent her to the school, but we didn't do that. Because they always needed horses too. And then there could be some training but I think she needed a good deal of training it seems to me. But back to the thinking about the war, two of my classmates were killed in the war. One of them was Troy Hickman, and one was George Slusser. And I had dated George some. We'd go to high school dances and things of that sort

together sometimes. I was getting ready to go to Little Switzerland, I guess. I was in McCrum's getting ready to get on the bus. Maybe that's not true. But anyway, for some reason I was at -- the bus station was always McCrum's Drugstore in Lexington. And George came in, and he was all by himself, he was dressed in his uniform and he was getting ready to go to his camp wherever it was. I don't know where it was. But I remember I walked with him down to the bus, which was down some steps and back out into what's now McCrum's parking lot in Lexington. The buses came up there. And he got on the bus and went off to wherever. And I suppose I was the last [local] person to see him because he was killed in the Battle of Italy. I think they both were killed in the Battle of Italy. I'm not really sure. I know Troy was killed as we moved up the Italian peninsula. The fighting was very fierce in lots of the mountainous areas. And I think that they both were killed in that same area. I don't think they were in the same division. Troy had a sister who lived with us. She was considerably older. They lived in Pisgah, and he was much younger than she. Virginia Hickman lived with us, just to help I think. I don't know whether it was even before I started to school maybe. This was not after Daddy went to the CCC camp. But there were a whole bunch of people, kids in this family, and Troy had come to live with Mrs. Dice, who was our next door neighbor [at 2081 Sterrett Road]. And he was a very good student, and I think he had one year maybe at Hampden-Sydney. He wasn't there when I was there, I don't think. Or maybe it was Washington and Lee. I think he'd had one year of college. He wanted to be a minister, and the church had encouraged him a lot, and I expect New Providence was helping him with the tuition, I imagine. He was probably a candidate from New Providence. But I'm sure he was drafted. Those were the two people that I knew best who were killed but then one guy who was older than I, George East. George had -- I don't know whether he had graduated from college maybe before the war, and he was a Naval officer. I don't know where he did his Naval officer training. But he went to Duke and graduated. He was killed. His ship was lost in the Pacific. I guess it was early on in that really bad part of the naval wars in the Pacific when the Japanese were sinking a lot of our ships. And those are the three people that I remember. At church we had a big flag. It was on the wall over the Amen Corner, in that section, and it had the stars of all the men who had gone to war. And for the ones who were killed, the star was removed and a gold star was put. There were lots of people who were in the war that I didn't know from the church. I didn't know the Gordon families very well, or the Smileys very well. They all came to church but they were different ages from me, and I didn't know them in school very well. But I'm sure, you know, many, many of them were among those stars. And I just don't remember. I guess the Tolley boys – there were two Tolley boys in my high school class, and I suppose they were both in the war. I just don't remember. I distinctly remember these two who were killed who were in my class. What else can we talk about? Any other specific questions?

Isabelle Chewning: Was there ever any talk of Daddy [Mc Sterrett] going to college? Was he just not interested?

Mary Lipscomb: He was not interested, I don't think.

Isabelle Chewning: He just wanted to farm?

Mary Lipscomb: He wanted to farm, yeah, that was it. I'm pretty sure. We had a minister named Walthal just before the war, and he went into the chaplaincy. But I remember I was riding with him somewhere once when, I don't know whether I was in college at that time, or whether Mc was about to graduate. He said, "I certainly do hope he goes to college. He's such good college material." But I think he wanted to farm. He wasn't much interested. He didn't like to -- I don't think at that point he didn't like to read, I don't think. He reads a lot now, doesn't he?? It seems to me that there was some sort of concern that he didn't like to read or whatever.

Isabelle Chewning: Was there a lot of paperwork to get him a deferment, a farming deferment or was it easy?

Mary Lipscomb: Well I think it was a physical deferment because of that eye problem he has. No, it was a physical deferment.

Isabelle Chewning: Oh, I didn't know that. So he's always had those migraines?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah. Gosh he was really -- He'd have really bad spells when he was a child. He'd be sick and couldn't do anything. I think that was -- I think farming went out as a deferment. Nobody was deferred much. I don't know. I'm not too sure about whether that's true or not. But no I think that eye thing – that pain thing was what deferred him. You know, I'm not absolutely sure about that.

Isabelle Chewning: We're backing up a little bit, I think. How about when electricity came through. When was that?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, that was, well, how can I remember so well? It was 1939. I guess it was a "Red Letter Year", sure enough! It was really exciting to have the house wired for electricity.

Isabelle Chewning: What was the first appliance that you got?

Mary Lipscomb: I guess the refrigerator was. The refrigerator was always in that room that I used, and you use for an office. And I'm sure you remember that your grandmother used it for a pantry. The refrigerator was in there. We never, never had a washing machine. I remember they gave me a washing machine as a present when I was first married, but the stipulation was that I was to help with the laundry some. [Laugh] I had to do some laundry. But didn't we talk about this on the tape?

Isabelle Chewning: No.

Mary Lipscomb: Mother sent the laundry out or had somebody come in. Della Smiley – Della lived in the house where Patsy and Harold Thorne live now [2113 Sterrett Road]. Della and Tuck Smiley lived there, and he farmed for Mrs. Dice, I think. Although he walked over the hill to the Rees's. I believe he worked for the Rees's more.

Isabelle Chewning: Mr. Walter Rees?

Mary Lipscomb: Mr. Walter Rees. And then later they moved over to the Rees's farm. They built a little house over there for them. But anyway, Della would come on some day, maybe Tuesday or maybe it was Monday, and she'd do the washing on a washboard by hand, hang it on the line, and then in the afternoon she'd iron. And I guess she just stayed all day. Did the washing and the ironing. And then later I think Daddy bought Maggie Haliburton a washing machine, and she did the washing and ironing. Things came back all ironed and nice. And there wasn't any such a thing as no-iron clothes; iron-free clothes. So you washed and ironed blouses and shirts and everything. Work clothes, all those kinds of things pretty much had to be ironed and not wash-and-wear type things that we know today almost entirely. So we didn't have -- Somewhere along the line, I remember we got an iron, and then we had a waffle iron. All these things were very exciting. But the refrigerator was the greatest thing of all, and we all learned to make ice cream in the refrigerator. We used to make ice cream down under the back porch with an ice cream freezer. Daddy would do that sometimes on Sunday morning in the summertime. Get up and have all this ice and make a beautiful freezer of ice cream. We'd come home from church and have fried chicken and homemade ice cream, things like that. But it was fun to be able to do it in the refrigerator, or in the freezer of the refrigerator. And I remember one time, Mother must have gone somewhere, and Frances Wade was visiting me for the weekend or something. Frances lived at the mill [55 Kennedy-Wades Mill Loop] and she was a couple of years older than I am -- one year older, I believe. But we must have gotten out some kind of recipe, and made this coffee ice cream. It must have been all cream or something. But it was the richest, best stuff in the whole world! [Laugh] It was so good! That was a real -- and of course to have things really cold. We had bought -- in the old kitchen, we had an ice chest. It was an upright, it looked like a refrigerator almost, but it was wooden, and it was an ice chest. What do you call them?

Isabelle Chewning: Icebox.

Mary Lipscomb: Icebox, yes. And it was large, and the iceman came by from Fairfield. The Engelmans I think in Fairfield ran an ice truck. I guess they'd come once a week and deliver a hundred pounds of ice, and it had a big top portion where the ice went. And then things were pretty cool in there. That was much better than nothing at all. And we didn't have a spring house or anything of that sort. We had to keep things in the basement to be the least bit cold in the summertime.

Isabelle Chewning: But that icebox was insulated enough that it would last a week?

Mary Lipscomb: Keep a week? I think so. I don't know what happened. I think she gave that icebox to somebody. It would be a real treasure, if we had that icebox now, because it was one of the large ones. I've seen other people's that were, you know, fairly small. And I expect it would last most of the week. Maybe it didn't last the whole time, but it was well-insulated.

Isabelle Chewning: I'm going to turn the tape over.

[End of Tape 3, Side A]

Isabelle Chewning: So the icebox was well-insulated.

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah, it must have been quite well-insulated to keep the ice that long.

Isabelle Chewning: Did you get plumbing in the house at the same time that you got electricity?

Mary Lipscomb: No! We didn't have water in the house until… Oh my, I was well in college. I don't know if it was after the war maybe, '45, '46, along in there. For a long time we didn't have water in the house. I think maybe I was teaching when we got water in the house.

Isabelle Chewning: So you didn't have a bathroom upstairs in the house until you got out of college?

Mary Lipscomb: Got out of college. And I don't know how unusual that was for people -- I guess it was not terribly unusual.

Isabelle Chewning: Because I guess you needed an electric pump.

Mary Lipscomb: To pump the water, right. I guess that was one of the reasons. Well, we couldn't have had it before '39, but we could have had it, you know, shortly after that I suppose if anybody thought we needed it or wanted it or whatever. So I assume it was -- when did we… we remodeled the house in -- I must have been maybe a freshman in high school. And in that house there was over the living room and what you use for the library -- and what Mother and Daddy used for their bedroom -- was one big room. In about – oh, it must have been '35, '36 after Daddy had been working for the CCC camp long enough that I guess they collected some money, Mr. Jim Withrow, who was Mr. Earl Withrow's father, did some remodeling of Mulberry Grove. And they took that big

room upstairs and made two small – they cut dormer windows. Two dormer windows in the front, and two in the back. They roughed-in the bathroom and made two bedrooms: one bedroom for Mc, and one for me.

Isabelle Chewning: So they were planning ahead for a bathroom?

Mary Lipscomb: They were planning ahead for a bathroom, but you know, at the time they did that there was no bathroom. There was no water. And that was even before -- that must have been before electricity, because I would have been maybe a junior or so in high school when electricity came. I think I was younger than that when they did the new rooms. I had a stove in there, a little stove in my bedroom. Daddy would come up there and fix a fire in the morning sometimes. But electricity really changed farming entirely. And that was, you know, if we hadn't had electricity there couldn't have been the diary farm and those kinds of things at all. And I guess -- But the dairy farming didn't happen until '47, '48. No. They put the barn in the summer of '46, I guess. I think it was the first year after I had been teaching. Yeah, it was the summer of '46. But at that point, we'd had electricity for eight years, of course by then. But nobody did anything much during the war. You didn't make any changes. There wasn't enough. You couldn't find, or you couldn't purchase building materials or any metal materials. All these things went either for ship building, airplane building, and the country was, what we would say right now, at a standstill really for automobile making. All these plants had been made into airplane-making and ship building and so forth and so forth. They built a lot of houses though, early on in the war in the Newport News, Norfolk, Hampton area for people who were moving down to that area to build ships. And that was of course part of the whole war effort. But it's hard to believe how involved the whole country was, and how uninvolved we were in college. I think about that so much. Aside from the fact that we couldn't do a lot of things, I suppose, in college. I just really didn't know the difference. But you know, outside of college, you knew it all the time. One thing I was going to say about college and the war. I can't remember what it was. Anyway. The electricity business, that's what we were going…

Isabelle Chewning: Did somebody come around and wire the house?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes. There was a man named Arehart I think. He was Johnny Arehart's father, I judge. Johnny your age. He was the electrician.

Isabelle Chewning: From Fairfield?

Mary Lipscomb: There was a man named Clemmer. I don't remember Clemmers ever being there but… that's the one that's Alex's aunts used all the time. I don't believe that's his name. Anyway I remember this Arehart man being there. There was one named Ted Arehart and I guess they were brothers. And then there was this other one who was Johnny's father. I can't remember

his first name. He died fairly young. But those two guys and some helper came and wired the house. And you know so much of the inside walls are brick, and so between the hall and the living room and various places lots of things had pull cords, because you couldn't wire certain things. I've forgotten how much we tore up the plaster and things of that sort. I just don't remember, it must have been something. But when Alex and I moved there we did a lot of -- We took off the plaster in the living room and what you and I used for the library. So we could put the wires in better at that point. The walls of the living room are brick, all sides of that thing. And so it was kind of hard to do all that. But until we took off all that plaster and got things inside more. But the house still wasn't heated all over with the furnace. We still had stoves in 1950 when I was married. And they didn't have a furnace until maybe '54, '52, somewhere along in there. I think it was shortly after I was married that they installed the furnace. But back to the business about the war, even in the summer of 1946, when Daddy built the dairy barn, the big dairy barn and decided to go into the dairy business, I remember his saying that he had promised to sell his milk to Augusta Dairy in Staunton and they helped him a lot with being able to buy equipment and things that were still very hard to get in '46. And I guess that went on until '47. I don't know whether they started milking in the fall of '46. They started in some fall. It was not the summertime, I don't think. Or maybe it was the summertime. I don't know, I've forgotten whether it was the fall of '46 or the spring of '47.

Isabelle Chewning: And they had electric milkers then, right?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah, if you're going to milk forty cows you need electric milkers pretty much at that point. But you know, everybody around us had had electricity long before we did. Electricity came to those three houses where the Billings live, is that their name? Those three houses out of Brownsburg, all the way there [2597, 2613 and 2623 Sterrett Road]. And see, that was less than a mile from us, but that's where Virginia Power decided to stop. And until rural electrification came, we had no reason to have electricity. The private companies were not interested in rural electrification. My dad's first cousin, John D. Sterrett, lived outside of Lexington and they had electricity. They milked cows long before we did. In fact they were out of the business by the time my dad went into the business and he bought some cows from them, I think. They could cool their milk and things of that sort, which after we got electricity in the house, and I don't guess we had it in the barns at all. We would have cans of milk in the backyard. Somebody had built a tub, a wooden tub, and we would put two ten gallon cans I guess in that, and they certainly couldn't have been sweet milk. It wouldn't have stayed sweet, but we kept it -- we put cold water in it. And where we got that water I don't know. Out of the cistern, I suppose. And then Mother made some ice cubes and we put that in. And I don't know how long -- We talked about McCrum's picking cream a long time ago back earlier, but I don't know who picked this up. Maybe Augusta Dairy did, and used that for -- it was whole milk by this time. Not cream. That's when I helped to milk, in the afternoon, that's where we would put the milk, in that tub thing to cool. It would be somewhat cool anyway. It wouldn't be cool like it would in a refrigerator.

Isabelle Chewning: What all did you use that cistern water for?

Mary Lipscomb: Everything. If it didn't rain, it was too bad. And I don't know what we did in those years of drought. '32 and--

Isabelle Chewning: So you'd boil it to drink?

Mary Lipscomb: No, we did not. We drank it right out of the--

Isabelle Chewning: Oh you did? You probably just drank milk all the time and didn't drink water.

Mary Lipscomb: Well that's pretty much true. We drank milk like water for every meal. We always had a pitcher of milk, and of course milk wouldn't last very long, so it was milk that you had to use. We got it somewhat cool by putting it in the basement, I guess, or somewhere like that. But we always drank milk and I guess we just didn't know the difference with really good, cold milk and half warm milk, which I suppose it was.

Isabelle Chewning: But you used that cistern water for everything?

Mary Lipscomb: Uh-huh. I don't remember -- there's a spring below Mulberry Grove. Between the property -- In my childhood, there was the family Dunaway who owned the house that my dad bought [2297 Sterrett Road] and some land around it, and that spring was right on their property line. I think it was ours, on our side, but Mrs. Dunaway used it for cooling. It was much closer to her house than it was to ours, and she would put her butter and milk and stuff like that in that spring. But it was too far for us to use for anything much at all. I don't ever remember using it. And then there was a spring up the creek. And the people who lived in the house named Buchanan where Bruce [Thorne] and his mother live now [2166 Sterrett Road], would walk across that field to the spring. There was a pretty good -- They must have used that water and they carried it from that spring I suppose. And that was a long way. People really carried water a long way. But she would go over there to the spring I think and do the laundry some. Probably in cold water. She had a lot of children. I don't know how people lived. I really was too young to think about all the difficulties that there were of doing laundry and things like that. I guess, well -- we would have to heat water out of this cistern to do the laundry.

Isabelle Chewning: Or to take a bath?

Mary Lipscomb: Or to take a bath, yeah, you did. You had to heat water for that. I think we took birdbaths more all the time, things of that kind. But electricity made a lot of difference in rural areas. That was the comment of the… things got very different for farmers, and we could go into different types of farming, specialized farming, things like that. When you could pump water, that just made

all the difference. And then my dad drilled a well near the new dairy barn, and we had -- but he didn't have that well when we first had water in the house. We used that spring – the one I was talking about down below the house, and pumped that up and that was sometimes satisfactory and sometimes not. I do remember something -- we had a party for -- I guess it was the same year I was married. A party for maybe Cornelia Davidson [Kraft]. My first cousin was married the same year I was, and we had a whole lot of people for lunch. And I remember if too many people flushed the johnnie at once there was no water. [Laugh] It didn't pump the water up there fast enough. I think I remember something about -- her husband was a New Yorker, and some of his family was there for this. It was a very elegant lunch. We had tables in the living room, tables in the dining room and all kinds of good stuff. And I remember asking these city ladies about do they know anything about rural bathrooms, and having to wait between flushings and so forth. But anyway, they liked different things. What else?

Isabelle Chewning: How about your wedding? What year were you married?

Mary Lipscomb: I married in 1950 and in that same year, I think everyone else I knew was married. [Laugh] My first cousin, Cornelia Davidson, was married. She was married in the early summer in the Lexington Presbyterian Church, and I was in her wedding.

Isabelle Chewning: What was the date of your wedding?

Mary Lipscomb: August the 26th in 1950. I was trying to think who else -- maybe my college roommate was married that same year, I believe, in Richmond. Margaret Bear. And somebody else. Somebody else in our family was married. [Another first cousin] Annie Laurie [Anderson Vanstone] was married in England somewhere in that same time, but not that year. But anyway, yeah, I was married -- Alex and I were married and we had…

Isabelle Chewning: At New Providence?

Mary Lipscomb: We were married in New Providence, and we had a wonderful summer of parties, it seemed to me, all summer, showers and great fun. I had taught three years in Front Royal [Virginia] and two years in Staunton and I met Alex through Jim Alexander and Sarah Jeffries [Alexander] who were later married, when I was teaching in Staunton. And we dated for a year and a half, something like that. I met him in the fall of '47. No, the fall of '48 was my first year in Staunton, and I met him that fall. I think we went to the Tech football game, I guess. No, he came to Stuanton to a dance when I first met him and then we went to the Tech football game in Roanoke, and then I dated him that winter, fall of '48 and '49 and then the summer of '49 and the fall. We were married in the summer of '50.

Isabelle Chewning: Was it a big wedding?

Mary Lipscomb: It was a big wedding. We had, yeah, I had seven -- six or seven bridesmaids and Anna [Sterrett], your mother was matron of honor, and Sarah Jeffries [Alexander] was maid of honor and I had… Cornelia Davidson couldn't come and somebody -- Alex's cousin Pat Alexander took her place. And my roommate, college roommate couldn't come either, but I knew she couldn't come, I had forgotten. I had two friends I taught with in Staunton, Anna Shepherd and Brookie Benton, and Isabel [Anderson] McSwain and her husband. Isabel was my first cousin, and [she and] her husband Mac were both in the wedding. And Alex had -- Jim Alexander was his best man, and his cousins Tate Alexander and Jack Alexander and Tork MacCorkle and your dad, Mc [Sterrett]. And a guy, a friend of Alex's named Scott Barnett, that was about all .

Isabelle Chewning: Was it a nice day?

Mary Lipscomb: Was it what?

Isabelle Chewning: Was it a nice day?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah, it was a really nice day. It was a nice August day. It wasn't really hot. And we had rehearsed. Well, all that week there had been parties. I had a really good friend, and she's living, she's ninety-some years old, named Frances Woltz whom I taught with in Front Royal. She came early in the week and stayed with us. Your mom and dad [Mc and Anna Sterrett] were living at Mulberry Grove in the house then. So they were there, and Isabel McSwain had a beautiful breakfast in Staunton. I go by that house when we go on [Route] 11. There was a home that served meals, and there was this lovely breakfast one day that week. The bridesmaids all came, I think, and were around anyway, and could go to the parties. The Heffelfingers, Bill and Jen Heffelfinger had a big, beautiful party one night. And we had parties all week, I think, and then there had been showers. Alex's family in -- Well I should mention the fact that when we became engaged, the people he took me around to meet were -- his father had worked for the Low Moor Iron Company and it was a company. His father was the Secretary-Treasurer of it. But it was a family-type company and everybody lived in Low Moor, and they all lived around and knew each other. And he took me to meet a number of these people. They were kind of his family. Although the iron company had gone out of business in the early 20s and they had moved from Low Moor to Covington where he went to high school, but he was in the sixth grade or so when they moved to Covington. But these people -- one of them was a banker in Staunton. And his uncle and aunt lived in Richmond; they'd all been a part of this company. And so it was, you know, an unusual kind of family that I met during our engagement time. The President of the company lived in Covington. He and Alex's father had gone into a retail coal business together when this iron company went out of business. And that lady had a shower in Covington, a beautiful shower. So anyway, all those people came to the wedding, and you know, the church was full for the wedding itself.

Isabelle Chewning: Was everybody invited to the reception?

Mary Lipscomb: No. No. The reception was at Mulberry Grove, and I guess most of the out of town people were invited to the reception. But no. Everybody was not invited to the reception. That always bothered me some. [Laugh] It didn't bother Mother. Mother would say, "I don't want all those people" and so forth. So we had the reception at Mulberry Grove and we stood in the receiving line in the dining room and then people came in from the front porch. I have wonderful pictures that Brainard McClung took. He was a cousin of ours, and his family was all there, and all the pictures have his family in them pretty much. Mary Frances, his wife and Sonora McClung, Andrew McClung's wife. I suppose Andrew was still living -- Brainard took the pictures. But anyway, a lot of wonderful pictures of people in the receiving line. You know, you could see all these cousins and uncles, great-uncles. Biggie [Edna] and Uncle Edwin Thompson are in the receiving line, and things like that. Then they went on down to the living room where they had cake and we cut the cake before. Everybody had to stand around out in the yard, I suppose, while we took pictures and cut the cake in the living room first. And then we had the receiving line and everybody went down to the living room where they had long tables of not much food. But some food, I guess there were ham biscuits, and la-de-dah, and punch, and the cake. Then they could go through Mother's and Daddy's bedroom, and to this day, I don't know where Mother and Daddy slept during that time, because they took all the bedrooom furniture out of that room and had long tables with all the wedding presents on them in that room lining all the walls. And I don't have the foggiest notion of where they slept because your mom and dad were in the room that you're in now, your bedroom. And Mc and I were in our two rooms, and I don't know where they were. Anyway, the wedding presents were there, and there were lots of them! And Alex's aunt and uncle from Richmond stood in the reception line. His [Alex's] parents were not living, and then he lived with two aunts who were not able to stand in the receiving line, but they were both there. They sat somewhere in the living room, I think, is where people could speak to them. And he had uncles and aunts, an uncle who came from Covington and lots of friends and people that -- not my side of the family all the time. There were the Alexanders and the Alexanders from orchard, all of his, you know, those of his family. But it was a big occasion. I remember this Frances Woltz and I – I remember why it was such a pretty day, we went out to the manse for some reason. I had to go sign something for the minister, or ask the minister something. Dr. Locke White was the minister. And it was a beautiful day. Frances and I drove out there for some reason, and then I think all my friends, your mom and your Aunt Ag [Patterson], and Ellen Patterson, and I don't know who else decorated the church. They took white sheets, I guess it was, and put them around the choir loft and put ivy all over it. I think there were two stands with white flowers, but Alex's aunt raised lots and lots of gladiola, Aunt Midge. She was the gardener person, and he cut those and we took them to the florist and she made bouquets for the bridesmaids of those and she called them-- they looked more like camellias after she put the gladiola blossoms together. But they were sort of in a fan shape, the bouquets that the bridesmaids carried, of those gladiola. And I was to have carried calla lilies. And about a week, maybe, before the wedding, the florist called me and she said she could not find any calla lilies anywhere. Anywhere. And so I carried Easter lilies which weren't the greatest. I was really disappointed about the whole thing, but they were lilies. I think you know, looking back on it, I would

have carried something else. But that's water under the bridge now. But we went to Gatlinburg [Tennessee] on our honeymoon, down in that area. And drove all the way down the [Blue Ridge] Parkway. I think the Parkway was fairly new. When I was working at the summer camp in '43, they were building the Parkway because it was not too far from there. You didn't see, but you heard this machinery somewhere over the hills in the mountains of North Carolina. We didn't go, you know, very far on our honeymoon, on our trip. And we came back through western Virginia, Tazewell, and all that section. We stopped at Jack Alexander's in Roanoke, I think, on the way back and spent the night with them. They had all been to the wedding and so forth. But we stopped in Blacksburg, I remember, and saw Frances and Bill Sterrett. This was Frances Wade that I mentioned earlier, married Bill Sterrett. He was Building and Grounds, he was head of Buildings and Grounds at Blacksburg, at Virginia Tech. And we had a little visit with them, maybe lunch or something I think. I don't remember much. I think we just stopped. But wandering around seeing people and so forth. And then we came back to live at what we called the green house now, the Gibson house at Timber Ridge [3775 N. Lee Highway]. But not any of this has anything to do with Brownsburg at this point!

Isabelle Chewning: Well, you're a Brownsburg native.

Mary Lipscomb: Do we continue on with the rest of my life?

Isabelle Chewning: I wanted to ask you about some of the furniture pieces in the house. I know before, you said when you all moved into Mulberry Grove that there was very little furniture, and I wondered if you remember where some of the pieces came from, like the desk that Barry's using now for his desk and Grandmother's corner cupboard.

Mary Lipscomb: I know those pieces both may have come from -- There was a man in Staunton named Mish who had an antique shop. And I know the corner cupboard came from there. With my first teaching money I bought this little chest of drawers [indicates chest in her apartment].

Isabelle Chewning: From Mr. Mish?

Mary Lipscomb: From Mr. Mish, yeah. Well I didn't have it in -- I may have had it -- I never had it where I was teaching of course, but I had it at Mulberry Grove. Also, we bought a rope bed that [Mary Lipscomb's granddaughter] Elizabeth [Lipscomb] slept in for a while, and I had in my -- I bought that. It was in my bedroom at Mulberry Grove, and it was never comfortable, and neither was it for Elizabeth when I gave it to her before I moved here, because I don't think I was using it then. I must have given it to her when we moved to Brownsburg [from Timber Ridge]. It may have been still at Mulberry Grove. I believe it was. It was still there when we moved to Brownsburg. I bought that bed and this [chest of drawers]. But the dining room table belonged to Uncle Stuart [Thompson] and he owed Mother some money for something that she had bought or something.

Anyway, he gave her the dining room table in lieu of the money had owed her. So it may have been a Thompson piece, not mother's Thompson kin people, but the Stuart Thompson that they lived with. I know that the corner cupboard that [Mary Lipscomb's daughter-in-law] Julie [Lipscomb] had came from -- I think they bought from the Mishes, and I'm just not really sure but I'm pretty the desk came from there.

Isabelle Chewning: I think it came from an antique store. There's a piece of paper in it. One of the beds I use in our guest room that was Dad's bed I think maybe came from an auction.

Mary Lipscomb: I don't know but that bed was always in -- in all of my memory, that bed was part of it, so they acquired that pretty early in their married life somewhere, but I don't know whether it came from an auction or not. I remember going to an auction at, I think there is a family named Snider who lived there. You know, during the Depression, a lot of people had to sell their farms, and a lot of people had nice old antique, nice old walnut furniture. Or maybe they weren't selling the farm, maybe they were just selling furniture or something. Nobody was really so excited about this furniture except that it would be valuable someday. This is where Alex's aunt bought a lot of things, because she was a nurse and she nursed in Norfolk, and she had some money. And when these family places were sold, she would buy nice antiques. And I don't think I have anything here that was hers that she bought like that. Most of these things belonged to Alex's mother. But I know that we went to this sale of this family named Snider. Who is that guy who is one of the deputy sheriffs who lives up the road from you?

Isabelle Chewning: Chris Blalock?

Mary Lipscomb: It was at that house [1445 Sterrett Road]. It was a family named -- and I was so little. I remember I was about to get lost or something from my parents or some kind of trauma and they may have bought that bed there. But that Mrs. Berry that we talked about earlier.

Isabelle Chewning: The cupboard came--

Mary Lipscomb: The cupboard came from there, and that bed may have come from there. But that's a nice bed. And then [Mary Lipscomb's niece] Aggie [Sterrett] has a bed that was always there in the old kitchen, stored there in my lifetime that really was a nice -- that was some of my dad's family's bed, wasn't it?

Isabelle Chewning: I don't know.

Mary Lipscomb: Well I know it came with him, I think. It could have been something that -- I always kind of thought it was something that came from the Sterrett family, maybe his mother and father. One of the things that I keep wondering if it could be very, very valuable. In fact, somebody looked at it once and said the thought it was, that little Mission couch that's in Julie's -- in the front hallway. Grant Griswold looked at that. I had it on the front porch when we moved to Mulberry Grove, and he said, "This is a museum piece. This is a Stickley." And so you know, Stickley was from New Jersey and made – was the inventor of that Mission furniture. And I got it because it was -- I remember when we were dividing things, Mc said to me, "You have some sentimental value in this, don't you?" And I said, "Yes, I do." We took a wagon and went to Fairfield and got it off the train. Grandmother had bought it in Richmond, this was when Grandmother was -- my Grandmother -- was working at Seminary, living at Seminary. And she had bought it for us, and it came on the train to Fairfield, and I sat up on it coming home from the train station to Mulberry Grove. And I forgot where it lived in Mulberry Grove when I was a child. But after Grant Griswold looked at it at that time, and said that about it, I brought it in off the front porch [laugh] and I kept it in the little office. It sat under the window to the kitchen in the little office. And when our house was open for Garden Week, we said it was a Stickley bench. I've looked under it, and it's not marked in any way. But a family came through who were from this area of New Jersey, and they were very thrilled [laugh]. And so I don't know whether it's a Stickley bench or not, but I keep hoping it is. When we divided Mother's and Daddy's things, we were still living in the house that Joe and Julie [Lipscomb] live in now at Timber Ridge [3808 North Lee Highway]. I had it on the back porch there, and it has a little tear in it because when Joe and Julie were married, they had a big old dog named Norma Jean. And she came rushing over and came in on the porch one time, and tore it a little bit with her toenail. But it has its original upholstery, and that's one thing that would make it extremely valuable, if it is valuable at all. Anyway, we call it the Stickely bench. And that furniture is quite valuable and Grant called it, as I said, a museum piece. I don't know if he knows, but anyway, we have a new respect for that piece of furniture, in addition to the sentimental value of my riding up on the wagon on it. But when we first made the new rooms upstairs for Mc and me, we had some furniture that belonged to Aunt Isabel [Sterrett Anderson] that she needed to put somewhere. And I had a dresser with a big mirror, and a marble top. You've seen a lot of these. And a bed, and I can't remember what that bed was like. But Annie Laurie [Anderson Vanstone] took those things when she moved [from England] to this country. I think that's because -- because they belonged to her. And that must have been when I bought that horribly uncomfortable bed. And it always made the worst noise. It was a rope bed and we never got the angle irons down in it right. I have a rope bed that [Mary Lipscomb's grandson] Will [Lipscomb] sleeps in now that had angle irons so the mattresses could to go down and fit like they're supposed to. But the mattress sat on top, the springs sat on top of the rope knobs and it never was right. But it's not a full bed. It must be three-quarter, and of course it's always expensive to get those things [custom-made mattresses]. But I think it must -- I don't know that Joe and Julie had -- they must have had angle irons put in it because it's a little more comfortable than when Elizabeth had it, but I think it's in their attic now.

Isabelle Chewning: When did you get a piano? Were you still living there when Grandmother got the piano?

Mary Lipscomb: I've forgotten when that was. That was…

Isabelle Chewning: And who did you take piano lessons from?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, when I was -- I guess when I was in elementary school, or maybe I was in high school. I don't remember whether I was in high school or not. But Mother had this friend who came every summer to Rockbridge Baths from Fredericksburg. And Mother had grown up with her. They were great, wonderful friends in Fredericksburg. I don't think they were any kin to the Howisons in Fredericksburg. But her name was Mary Powell Scott, and her husband was on a ship in the First World War where people were -- I kind of think he was a doctor. He may have been. I believe he was a doctor. And sailors were dying – many, just so many all of a sudden from the flu, the first of the flu. And he had horrible depression. And he did some strange things, I think, in Fredericksburg sometimes, but I never saw -- They came to Rockbridge Baths every summer and rented a cottage from Mrs. Blair. It's back of the spring house, where the bath house is, you know [4720 Maury River Road]. It was back in there, and it was called The Icehouse. And Mary Powell was a beautiful pianist, and she offered to give me piano lessons in the summertime and didn't charge us anything. And we would drive up there, I guess once a week, and I'd have piano lessons. We didn't have a piano. So I'd walk up to Mrs. Dice's [2081 Sterrett Road], who was our next door neighbor, and she had a piano and I would practice. She had, I think I talked about this earlier, Mrs. Dice had a summer boarder.

Isabelle Chewning: Right.

Mary Lipscomb: And she had to listen to me practice. [Laugh] She was very lovely about the whole thing though.

Isabelle Chewning: How was it that Mrs. Dice had all those boys who lived there? I know she had Don Firebaugh for a while.

Mary Lipscomb: That's right.

Isabelle Chewning: And you mentioned she had Troy Hickman. Were they just farm help?

Mary Lipscomb: Well they helped her. She didn't farm. She had a farmer, always but they would help her around the house, and the yard, and the garden, and things of that sort, I guess. And they probably needed somewhere to be. You know, the family needed--

Isabelle Chewning: Because their family couldn't afford to feed them? And she needed some help?.

Mary Lipscomb: That's right, yeah. Some of that. Right, some of that. You know, the – Pauline Patteson's family. What is it, Cox? So many of those Coxes lived with D. W. Whipple [at 1790 Sterrett Road] and Harvey [Cox] is over here in The Glens, one of them. He lived with D.W., and I don't know whether Eugene [Cox] did. Eugene lives near Lexington. But they would help with the horses, and go to school, and things of that sort. But that was a big family, the Coxes. And it was a help to them and certainly a help to D.W. And Miss Faye [Thompson] was living then and everybody loved to come because Miss Faye was a terribly marvelous cook. Miss Faye Thompson, who is D.W. Whipple's first cousin. And that's how people came to live with -- those boys came to live with Mrs. Dice. She had some welfare boys later from social services. That was after my day, and I don't remember much about that. I think Mc [Sterrett] would remember because…

Isabelle Chewning: I think we're getting through my list.

Mary Lipscomb: Good.

Isabelle Chewning: Any particular people from Brownsburg who stand out in your memory?

Mary Lipscomb: Well, we all mention Miss Osie Trimmer, who was the principal of the high school, who was very, very strict and a really good teacher. That was an unusual high school. Did I talk about this earlier? Have I talked about the high school at all?

Isabelle Chewning: Well I don't think we did but --

Mary Lipscomb: The McCorkles [David and Anne] did, I expect.

Isabelle Chewning: They mentioned that it was an accredited school, and there just weren't that many rural accredited high schools.

Mary Lipscomb: That's exactly right. We had very few offerings but we had four years of math – really what amounted to almost five -- four years of English, of course; four years of history; biology; chemistry; and we didn't have physics. We had agriculture after awhile. We didn't have agriculture all of my career. And Home Economics. And…

Isabelle Chewning: Latin.

Mary Lipscomb: Latin, oh, yes. Uh-huh. We didn't have but two years of Latin. We didn't have – my Aunt Mary Graham Howison taught Latin at John Marshall in Richmond, she taught four years of it. But we didn't have that kind of thing. But we had really good teachers. Mrs. Patterson, Mrs. John Patterson who was a contemporary of my parents and friends of my parents. I think I mentioned those people, I called her "Miss Rosenell." I called her Mrs. Patterson when she was teaching, I suppose. But as friends of my parents, I called them "Mr. John" and "Miss Rosenell." And she taught all the math, four years of the math. And so the continuity of these teachers made so much difference. You know, when I taught English, you never quite knew what they knew about grammar from the last -- when you were teaching. I taught eleventh grade and then tenth grade English. You didn't know -- you couldn't build on one year from the next. But in that kind of school, Miss Trimmer taught all four years of English, and the two years of Latin. Maybe she didn't teach all four years of English. I don't believe she did. But it seems to me she did. I don't know how she taught six classes, but maybe it was easy. Classes weren't very big. Then we had really good history teachers, a Miss Montgomery from -- I think she taught both biology and history, I'm not sure. And then we had people who came and went. I don't remember many of the other high school teachers. I've forgotten who taught chemistry -- I think Miss Montgomery taught chemistry too. But you were well-educated for college. I had trouble with Spanish in college. I had taken so many classes the first year it really ran me distracted. But I didn't have any trouble with the math at all, nor the English, you know, things of that kind at college at all. But Miss Trimmer ran a tight ship and made people behave, and spanked people when they were in little grades. And she coached the basketball, and the baseball, and everything else I think. I guess those were like the only things that they had.

Isabelle Chewning: And there were a lot of plays.

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, mercy, yes. Oh, yes. She did all the--

Isabelle Chewning: Were you in any of those?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yes. Oh, goodness yes, always. They were… She did an operetta every now and then and Mollie Sue Whipple talks about, I don't know, it was something about Robin Hood. And this was back when, I must have been in elementary school when this was. Not high school. We had no gymnasium. They had an outside basketball court. There was a square, brick building beside the current stucco building that's still there that was the early academy. The Brownsburg Academy. That was a boys school for boys who came and boarded in the community and went to the academy for lots of times. It never should have been torn down, it was an historical wonder. But anyway, it had an upstairs auditorium and classrooms downstairs and you entered the building and faced the steps that went upstairs to the auditorium. It had a stage and I think it had a little room off to the side, which was the library, which couldn't have been much of a library. But it had a fire escape down on the outside of the building, and I remember this operetta thing. They put the -- Miss

Trimmer had some of the big high school boys carry the piano out the window to the fire escape where Mollie Sue played the piano out there for this operetta which was down on the basketball court. [Laugh] It was the outside basketball court. And Mollie Sue declares that Mc [Sterrett] was Robin Hood I think and--

Isabelle Chewning: Little John.

Mary Lipscomb: Huh?

Isabelle Chewning: Little John.

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, Little John? Oh, I see. And she talks about Bud Martin was something or other. But I don't remember what -- I guess I was in it, I guess maybe just in the Glee Club or singing or something. I don't remember anything much about it except the wonderful sound that this piano made outdoors. It always just fascinated me so how the piano sounded so different outside from inside. [Laugh] But I don't know how often Miss Trimmer did these operettas, maybe once a year. I know she did a Steven Foster one year. I was in high school then, I guess. And we had these fantastic Christmas things. But we had, every -- I don't know if every class would have a play, but she always directed them all I think. I know the seniors always had a play, but it seems to me I was in a play every year. I had to memorize all this stuff.

Isabelle Chewning: It's good for your memory.

Mary Lipscomb: Maybe.

Isabelle Chewning: Look how good your memory is now!

Mary Lipscomb: Nearly 84 and I can remember all this stuff. [laugh] Anyway, yes. She really worked hard. There were no two ways about it.

[End of Tape 3, Side B]

Isabelle Chewning: Do you remember when Miss Trimmer left?

Mary Lipscomb: It was while I was in college. I don't remember her leaving, and things of that kind.

Isabelle Chewning: So she was there when you graduated?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes. She was there when I graduated.

Isabelle Chewning: Did she give a graduation speech? Did you have a graduation speaker?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, I was the valedictorian!

Isabelle Chewning: You were?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes. I mean there weren't but eighteen of us I don't think, or something like that. I don't know if Anne McCorkle was salutatorian maybe. We had outside speakers for -- I don't know who spoke at my graduation. I haven't the foggiest notion. But I remember you know, sometimes we'd have Dr. Gaines, who was the President of Washington and Lee, who was an outstanding speaker. We'd have Dr. Flick who lived in the Fairfield neighborhood who taught at Washington and Lee. He was very interested in education. I think he taught education at Washington and Lee. He would speak. And you'd have oh, outstanding speakers from Staunton or this, that, and the other for the speakers all the time, the graduation speakers.

Isabelle Chewning: Do you remember the dedication of the new school building? Did you go to that?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yes. [Laugh] We had to listen to it being built you know, all the time. I remember in the stucco building I had freshman English upstairs in the room that was, well, it was a square building, and there were maybe two classrooms downstairs. One on each side of the hall, and then they built on a cafeteria at the back. We didn't have lunches for a long time. Maybe I was in the seventh grade or so when we had something like a lunch room and you could get soup or something of that sort, but it was nothing like cafeterias. And everybody mostly brought their lunch even then. But upstairs over these two downstairs classrooms were the home economics department and then on the left was freshman English. And it was at the front, and I remember Miss Trimmer and Edgar Allen Poe, and a few of these people, and this noise outside with the building of the new building all the time. I guess I must have been a sophomore or junior. I guess I was a sophomore when we first started in the new building, I suppose. Because I played basketball in that building. That's the first time we'd had an inside gymnasium. And I must have been, I don't know whether it took two years, whether I was a junior in high school when we first got into that building. I can't remember… I think I had -- at the front of that building -- You went to elementary school in that building, didn't you?

Isabelle Chewning: Um-hmm.

Mary Lipscomb: Toward the Asbury Methodist Church upstairs on the second floor I remember having trigonometry. Some kind of upper math in that building. And I also had English and Latin I think in that same room. And so, I probably was a junior when we moved into that building maybe.

Isabelle Chewning: Was there a big ceremony, a ribbon-cutting?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yes. There was a big ceremony. I remember we had some outstanding speaker, and I can't remember who it was. But I don't remember much about it. I must not have been much impressed. Have you ever recorded anybody's vivid memory of it?

Isabelle Chewning: No. I don't think anyone asked Mrs. Whipple that. I wonder if she would remember.

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, I expect she would, because she taught. During the Depression we had all kinds of programs that you could make a little money and we had a program called NYA, National Youth Association. And I tutored some kids in her fourth grade or something like that, and I made a little money with this NYA program. That was in that building. Oh, I must have been a senior when I did that, and I think she was teaching fourth grade. I've forgotten what we talked about, but maybe it was English or history or some of those things. I don't remember what it was. I don't remember who the kids were, but I remember the money I made. Twelve dollars or something like that. [Laugh]

Isabelle Chewning: Did local people mostly build the new school building or were they--

Mary Lipscomb: I have no idea. I don't know at all. It may have been outside contractors. I doubt seriously that they were local, but I don't know.

Isabelle Chewning: Was the bank always there in Brownsburg in your memory?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah. The bank came during Dr. McLaughlin's time at New Providence. And he was gone by the time we moved to Brownsburg. He was instrumental in establishing a bank, and the Bank of Rockbridge. And it was always in that same place, and the telephone office was above the bank in my memory. And I suppose that's the only place the bank ever was. [Coughs] Excuse me. The telephone office had been some other places I've read somewhere, but I don't remember the telephone office being anywhere else. But yeah, the bank was there and Mr. Hugh Wade was the first banker I remember. And he lived – he had built, I suppose, the middle house of those three houses just as you come out on Sterrett Road [2597, 2613, and 2623 Sterrett Road].

Isabelle Chewning: And he was Margaret and Jen's and Kate's--

Mary Lipscomb: Uncle.

Isabelle Chewning: Uncle.

Mary Lipscomb: Their uncle, uh-huh. They lived out at Castle Carbury [34 Beard Road], which was their farm. Their father's name was Hamilton Wade and they grew up out there.

Isabelle Chewning: Was he the -- Did he have the mill down where Bill Dunlap lives? [803 Hays Creek Road]

Mary Lipscomb: No.

Isabelle Chewning: That was another Mr. Wade, right?

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah. Mr. Walter Wade at the Kennedy Mill [55 Kennedy Wades Mill Loop], and his brother, what was his name? I've forgotten his name, but he lived in the house that Mary Patterson lives in [109 Kennedy Wades Mill Loop]. Those two Wade brothers must have inherited a farm right there and divided it. And Mr. Walter Wade lived in the mill house and then he evidently built that other big house or something. And I've forgotten what his name was. But his son, Harold, was the miller where the Dunlaps live -- it was called the McClung Mill [803 Hays Creek Road]. And somebody else had that mill in my first memory.

Isabelle Chewning: But you always went to Wade's Mill?

Mary Lipscomb: We always went to Wade's mill. We never went down there. Anne Buchanan McCorkle was a friend of mine, and I used to visit their house [763 Hays Creek Road]. This mill was the next door neighbor of the Buchanans, and there was another family who ran that, and the Wades came there sometime in my, maybe high school years even. I guess he was farming at the -- I wish I could think of the name of his father but I can't.

Isabelle Chewning: Were they related to Mr. Hugh Wade?

Mary Lipscomb: They never talked about being related. They must have been somewhere back in the years, but…

Isabelle Chewning: And then Mr. Bud Wade and Mr. Kite Wade were another whole family of Wades?

Mary Lipscomb: That's another whole Rockbridge Baths group, and they didn't act like they were kin at all. They were always separate families. But Mr. Hugh Wade had a wife whom I very vaguely remember, and I've forgotten what her name was. But he was a widower most of the time that I remember. And then I don't remember Mrs. Jen [Wade] Heffelfinger and Mrs. Eleanor [Wade] Marchant's -- I don't remember their father at all. He had died before we came, I think, to Brownsburg. But her mother, their mother lived with them, and they had a brother who died of pneumonia. He worked in the bank with Mr. Hugh Wade, his uncle, I suppose. His name was John. And he was a young man. He couldn't have been more than 30 or so and had pneumonia and died. And people -- he was the last person that I remember who died of pneumonia. People after a while, you know after antibiotics and sulfur and those things, people didn't die of pneumonia, but he did. And that was a blow to them all, and that left just girls and women in that family. And then they began to -- Mary Wade came into Brownsburg to keep house for Mr. Hugh Wade. I think she was the first one to move into Brownsburg. That was when her mother was still living. And then when their mother died, I think Kate and Jen both came. And Margaret was away mostly. Margaret Wade, teaching at Montreat College, and Eleanor was away most of the time because she taught in various places. And then when they all came back in the summer, they'd come there to the house in Brownsburg [2613 Sterrett Road], and they did not open the house at Castle Carbury until Jen was married, I suppose. I don't think anybody lived there for a long time.

Isabelle Chewning: Did she live there for awhile?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes, they lived there before they bought Level Loop [567 Hays Creek Road]. I don't know how long they lived there. Their cousin, Miss Sally Reid McClung, and Mr. Morton McClung owned Level Loop. And they were the first people I ever knew to move to a retirement home. They went to Westover I think it was called, in Richmond. And they wanted to sell the farm, and so Bill Heffelfinger didn't own Castle Carbury. The Wade girls all owned it together, the daughters, all these women. And he didn't much like that, he wanted something of his own to do what he wanted to with. So he did that, a beautiful -- the first restoration we ever saw, really, in the Brownsburg area at Level Loop, and they moved there. I guess Grace [Heffelfinger] had -- I don't know whether Grace was born when they were still living in at -- I know Steve [Heffelfinger] was with them at Castle Carbury because I remember picking him up to take him to Bible School sometime when I would teach Bible School in the summer. Either I was in college or teaching school. But I've forgotten whether Grace was born when they were living in Castle Carbury or not. I remember they came to a Christmas dinner we had during the Christmas season, it wasn't Christmas dinner, when Jen was very pregnant with Grace. And I remember her sitting on the front porch trying to put on her overshoes or galoshes. [Laugh] They had to walk through the snow. She had trouble leaning over trying to put on her overshoes. But I don't know whether -- I think they maybe were still living at Castle Carbury but I'm not sure.

Isabelle Chewning: Am I making this up that he was a big football player?

Mary Lipscomb: His father was.

Isabelle Chewning: Oh, okay.

Mary Lipscomb: A big football player. He was outstanding -- he went to Yale and was an outstanding football player, Pudge Heffelfinger, and everybody knew him during the era in which he went to college. He was outstanding. But they were--

Isabelle Chewning: And how did Mr. Heffelfinger ever wind up in Brownsburg?

Mary Lipscomb: He came to the Special Services School at Washington and Lee and that's how she met him, in the Army. And I think that Fannie Bosworth, who was Tom Bosworth's sister -- Mr. Bosworth was married twice, and he had a son named Jim? I've forgotten. The older, and then a daughter named Fannie. And Fannie was very popular everywhere, and she always knew VMI boys, and everybody who came to Washington and Lee and everything, and I think maybe she introduced him to Jen sometime. I've forgotten how all that went. But I remember we didn't have telephones at college in the rooms or anything of that sort. If you ever talked to your parents we had to go somewhere else, and I've forgotten where the phone was. It might have been in the matron's office or somewhere in the main building. But there was this great conversation between me and Mother on this telephone about whether I should come for the wedding. Jen and Bill were getting married probably at Castle Carbury, I don't think it was in the church. He had been married before. I think -- I didn't go. I remember, you know, of course it was during the war and mother didn't seem to think it was that important. I don't think she knew it was going to happen, really. I think they must have been invited or been expected to be invited. I guess they went. I don't remember anything about it at all, how that happened.

Isabelle Chewning: Were the Heffelfingers considerably younger than they were? Than Grandmother and Granddaddy [Mc and Edna Sterrett]?

Mary Lipscomb: Yes. I don't know how much younger. Mother was Margaret's age, I expect.

Isabelle Chewning: And what was the order?

Mary Lipscomb: Of the Wades? I think Mary was oldest, and Margaret was the next, and Jen was the next, and John was the next, and then Eleanor was the next.

Isabelle Chewning: And Kate?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, Kate was in there, yes. She was probably older than Jen. Maybe it was--

Isabelle Chewning: So they weren't that far apart in age then.

Mary Lipscomb: No. Mary, Margaret, Kate and Jen probably. No they weren't. But they weren't as old as the Pattersons, and the Buchanans, and then Mother and Daddy. But I guess Bill was not a young soldier, really young soldier when he came to school with special services at W&L (Washington and Lee College] because he'd been married, and had a child. That child was living with his parents in Texas, I guess. I always get mixed up.

Isabelle Chewning: And that was Steve?

Mary Lipscomb: That was Steve, yeah, uh-huh. And his mother had died, I think. I'm not sure whether -- I know the mother died, but I don't know whether it was before they were divorced, or whether they were ever divorced, or what. I don't know much about her. But they were always -- these people were Mother's very best friends, the Wade ladies. Saw her through the years that Daddy was away I'm sure. They supported her a great deal through all of that. Just being good friends. Oh you asked -- All of this was evolved from that question you asked me about the special people and I remember. And those were -- I sang in the choir at New Providence when I was in high school. And I guess this was when Daddy was away. Mother would drive me down to the Wades, or maybe Jen came for me sometimes because she picked up a Snider. What was her name? Stella Snider, I believe her name was who lived -- Is that house still there? I don't.. you know the house where Boyd and Louise [Stuart] built, is there a house between that and the black people?

Isabelle Chewning: I think it must be gone. That's where Miss Bessie and Mr.--

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yeah. Buford Swisher.

Isabelle Chewning: Yes.

Mary Lipscomb: Is that house gone?

Isabelle Chewning: I think it's gone.

Mary Lipscomb: Anyway, that's where these Sniders lived and we would take her to -- Jen would take us both to choir practice at New Providence.

Isabelle Chewning: Was she the choir director?

Mary Lipscomb: Uh-huh.

Isabelle Chewning: So she was choir director up through when I was in high school.

Mary Lipscomb: Is that right?

Isabelle Chewning: Uh-huh.

Mary Lipscomb: Mollie Sue [Whipple] played the organ, I guess, most of the years. Elsie Wade played the organ when I first -- This was Frances and Winston's oldest sister. And then Elsie got married and moved away and Mollie Sue came about that time.

Isabelle Chewning: Do you remember when the organ was a pump organ?

Mary Lipscomb: I vaguely remember. I guess there wasn't electricity in the church maybe. When I was a very small child, there was a black man named John Franklin who pumped the organ. It had- as you look at the organ, to the left, just as you come in the door from the other building, there was a piece of wood. Does it still stick out there?

Isabelle Chewning: I know I've seen it. I don't know if it's there now or if I remember it.

Mary Lipscomb: Uh-huh. And John used to pump that organ. He'd sit back there in that chair and pump the organ. [Laugh] But I must have been five years old or something like that when that happened, because I imagine New Providence got electricity pretty soon.

Isabelle Chewning: Did you start to say something about Mary Monroe Penick?

Mary Lipscomb: Maybe I thought about it, maybe I did. We had a period when she came out there and directed the choir. Maybe a year, I don't know. She came every Wednesday night or whenever we practiced. That was very thrilling. She was never there on Sunday, but she would do the choir rehearsal with us, and did all kinds of things. We had a lot of people in that choir always.

Isabelle Chewning: When did Daddy [Mc Sterrett] start singing in it?

Mary Lipscomb: I don't remember. Probably when I was in college. I just don't remember at all.

Isabelle Chewning: But you had a lot of men too? Did you have some?

Mary Lipscomb: We had Mr. Gene Buchanan and Mr. Bud McCutchen were the bass. The room that's now the Historical Room was the choir room. And we'd all get back in there and get dressed, put on our robes. Some of the Wades, I guess. Hamilton, yeah. This was one of -- Winston's older brother. Those people were always musical. And oh, I don't know who else. Mr. Austin Lucas from down at Newport, and I don't know, some other men. I think there was a McCray from the Newport area and on and on. I remember the men more than I do the women, but I can't remember those women.

Isabelle Chewning: Mary Monroe Penick came out. I wonder why?

Mary Lipscomb: They asked her, paid her something I suppose, and she just came. I don't know. I remember she was there in the wintertime, but I can't remember if she came all summer. I remember she -- you know the Elmer Huffmans owned the filling station [2712 Brownsburg Turnpike] at one point and they lived in Lexington. They were backdoor neighbors to Aunt Alice and Uncle John [Davidson]. I don't think they ever lived in Brownsburg. They may have lived in that house attached to the filling station once. I think she went -- maybe they all went to the Lexington Presbyterian Church. I guess they did. And she [Mary Monroe Penick] knew them, and I remember she'd come out there. She was the law unto herself, and she'd eat raw oysters in Mr. Huffman's store for supper or something like that. She'd come in early and have oysters in a tin can in the back of the store or something like that and then come on out there. [Laugh] But she'd drive out down there and drive back, I guess, after choir practice.

Isabelle Chewning: You all must have been a pretty big time choir if you had her coming out.

Mary Lipscomb: I think she liked Jen. She knew Jen and liked her; everybody liked Jen. Jen had such a pretty voice, and she always had her do the solo things and stuff like that. I wish I could remember who the other women were but I just don't. There were a whole bunch of us young people like.. I can't remember if any of the other Buchanan girls sang in the choir. They must have. There was one named Elizabeth who was just a little bit older than Anne; one named Eugenia. And I don't know whether they sang in the choir or not, but their dad did. And Anne and I did, and by the time they got in there, there was Jimmy Wade and George Slusser, and I don't know who else. I remember one time we sang a quartet, Anne [Buchanan] and Jimmy [Wade] and George [Slusser] and I. And what in the world was it… oh it was something awful! [Laugh] What is that thing about

"your sin is whiter than snow"? [Laugh] But we weren't bad. The music was pretty bad, I think. But New Providence had these fantastic Christmas programs, and fantastic weddings. For weddings, the young people -- Miss Carrie Lucas and Elsie Wade were the advisors for the young people for years and years and years. Miss Carrie lived in Newport. And for weddings, they would cut cedar trees and bank that church with cedar trees. Big, beautiful cedar trees all around. And then you've have this beautiful garden for a wedding! I remember one of the Locke White's sons, I guess, was married there when the Whites were the pastor. And they couldn't get over how everybody fell in and really decorated the church. It may have been at Christmas time or something, it seems to me. The first wedding I ever went to was -- there was a pastor before Dr. McLaughlin named Wilson, and what was his first name? Dr. Wilson. Anyway, he had a whole bunch of children, and there was one named Ellen who was -- all these pastors' families were always really close friends of the Wade girls because they lived next door. All the McLaughlins were great friends of the Wade girls, and then all the Wilsons had been too. And this one named Ellen must have been about Margaret's age. And she was married. I remember Dr. Wilson had left there but she – we were even up to Mr. Hanna by then I suppose. Dr. McLaughlin had gone, but she must have been very young when the Wilsons left New Providence. But I knew her really well because she would come back. She met a man named Chambliss and lived in Southside, Virginia. He was the school superintendent in one of those counties in Southside. Anyway, we sat in the balcony, and I couldn't have been more than five years old or six years old. As you look at the front of the church it was on the left balcony. We were way up right at the corner. We looked right straight down on the bride and groom and all that stuff and it was so exciting. I've forgotten what the church looked like, but I remember Ellen had an older brother named Goodrich Wilson who was also in the wedding, and he was a minister. And Dr. Wilson was quite aged by this time and he forgot the ceremony during the ceremony. And Goodrich stepped in, and I remember this dear old man going around and sitting on the steps to the pulpit. It seemed so sad to me, but everything just went right straight on, because they sort of had expected this. They were quite prepared for it. Anyway, this was the first wedding I ever remember at New Providence. But I don't think -- I must have been a part some time of this decorating. I'm sure I was, of this decorating churches for weddings. But I don't remember. Also, it was equally, almost an equal ceremony, these Christmas programs that we had. And they would be fantastic things. Of course we now call them bathrobe nightmares! [Laugh] Nobody has these kinds of things anymore.

Isabelle Chewning: You talked about having to hold your arms up for hours and hours.

Mary Lipscomb: As an angel, holding my arms up for ages. We also at New Providence had very often, we had a wonderful junior choir. There were whole gobs of us my age, and we would fill up the corner, the amen corner in little white robes and you all had a junior choir when you were that age.

Isabelle Chewning: We did, but I don't think it was that big. Who directed yours?

Mary Lipscomb: We would have -- I don't remember who was the regular director. I don't even know who played the piano for us. But we had -- I guess they were interns. They came from the School of Christian Education, these women who would come in the summertime as interns, I suppose. And they would be – we had one named Crane one time. And then one named French, or something like that. Two or three of these women who came in the summertime and they would direct this junior choir and we had quite a good one. I remember we did that "Joy, Joy, Joy" thing and three or four of us sang from the balcony, did the echo from the balcony. It was really pretty.

Isabelle Chewning: Oh my goodness.

Mary Lipscomb: But that was with one of those fulltime summer people. And I suppose she directed the Bible School too, you know? I'm sure that was part of her job.

Isabelle Chewning: How about the Chrysanthemum Shows? Were you involved in that?

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, yes, yes. But mostly as a teenager. You know the school closed on that day.

Isabelle Chewning: It did?

Mary Lipscomb: It did. We didn't have school at Brownsburg and everybody worked at the Chrysanthemum Show. We served meals from maybe eleven o'clock in the morning until two o'clock in the afternoon or something like that, and then there was a skip, and then there was the dinner hour. And finally I got old enough to help, and I helped in the – you went upstairs to what is now the Session Room where they served dessert. They didn't serve dessert downstairs. You could have cake and ice cream and various things, and I worked there. I must have been in high school. I think the Chrysanthemum Show was not in existence when I was in college. It must have ended with the war maybe, you know, somewhere along in there.

Isabelle Chewning: Did you grow chrysanthemums?.

Mary Lipscomb: No, we didn't.

Isabelle Chewning: Who showed chrysanthemums? Was it a judged show?

Mary Lipscomb: No.

Isabelle Chewning: Oh, it was just sort of an exhibit?

Mary Lipscomb: No, it wasn't a judged show like we know flower shows today. But they would have those on the third floor, what do you use those two large rooms for, have they been divided?

Isabelle Chewning: They're Sunday School rooms.

Mary Lipscomb: They are still Sunday School rooms?

Isabelle Chewning: They're still big Sunday School rooms with little rooms off of them.

Mary Lipscomb: Well sometimes they would do like a Japanese garden or something. I remember a little bridge over water or something once.

Isabelle Chewning: Who would do that?

Mary Lipscomb: I don't know who would do that. I know some of the people who grew chrysanthemums were -- There was a family named Zimmerman and I don't know whether they came to our church. I never remember them in our church, but they were in the Newport are between Newport and Middlebrook or somewhere like that. And it seems to me they were some of the exhibitors. I grew some chrysanthemums one year because I remembered learning all about disbudding, and I had a big bucket with manure water in it and I watered them. I don't remember exhibiting them, but they were wonderful. I learned a lot about chrysanthemums. It was fun! But there were people in Pisgah, it seems to me and all the growers, it seems to me to be sort of in the Pisgah-Newport area but I'm not sure about that. I don't know whether Mrs. Whipple did it, or Miss Faye [Thompson]. I would have thought some of those great gardeners would have. But I don't really remember. And they sold them I think, you know, they sold these plants at the show. But the room would be all banked with these beautiful, beautiful chrysanthemums. And they were all the big football kind. We didn't seem to grow the daisy type much, and the hardy kinds of chrysanthemums in those days. These were all potted things.

Isabelle Chewning: Oh my goodness, I didn't realize that.

Mary Lipscomb: That's why all this disbudding all the time, you know, one or two big blossoms. I wish I could think of who the other growers were. But it was a great occasion, and I guess it was just one day. I can't remember if it was two. But I remember they always closed the school. And then some people would be -- I remember people would gather bittersweet, and be outside like where we

used to drive up to the front and park all the time. And on that fence outside toward the cemetery there would be people selling various things. And people came from Staunton. That's a good location because it draws from both Lexington and Stanton and a lot of people in between. And it was always a great event. They would make the ice cream – there's a room under the choir. They had big freezers in there.

[Tape stops momentarily after a knock on the door]

Isabelle Chewning: You were going to talk about when you moved back to Brownsburg.

Mary Lipscomb: Oh, that's right. In 1983, we began to realize that we were sort of taking up the main house of the farm [3808 North Lee Highway at Timber Ridge Dairy]. And so one time I asked Mc if they really did want the house [Mulberry Grove], if he would be willing for me to have the house. And he and Anna talked about it, and they said that yes, we could do that. I really wanted the house, and I was scared he was going to -- He had said "We'll put some older couple in the house sometime." I didn't know what might happen. And I didn't know whether he ever really understood the importance of that house in the area, and that made me fearful. But we sort of really needed to get away from the farm at Timber Ridge and I really did want the house. And they agreed. When Mother and Daddy died, he got the farm and I got some money. And so I had some money to work on the house to put into the house, too. We moved over there -- Well, we began the work on it in December of 1983, and we had Mr. [Henry] Ravenhorst come, and look at the structure. Mr. Ravenhorst's greatest forte was he was a really good engineer. He was a local architect in Lexington. And he looked over the house and around it and all sorts of things and decided you know, what needed to be done structurally and what could be done without things falling to pieces or tearing up anything. And we all agreed that one of the major things that needed to be done was insulation, because Mc had said in the last years that Mother had lived there, he said to me one day, "Please come and get Mother because the heating is about to break us up and we're heating the out of doors." So we knew that lots of insulation needed to be done, and I knew that the wiring was 1939 age. We knew that needed to be done. We hired Clinton Irvine who came out there and looked at the house. The house was not in bad structural condition at all. It just needed a lot of refurbishing. And Clinton realized that this was -- I remember he was coming down the steps from upstairs and looking at that woodwork. It's the floor of the stairs landing, that interesting woodwork as you come down the steps, and he said, "This is so important. You've got a treasure here," and things of this sort. He was so interested and then his main carpenter, a man named -- I can't think of it all of a sudden. I'll think of it in a minute. Jim… something. He lived out near House Mountain. And he was, I'll call him a real woodsman and he knew wood, and they took all the plastering off the living room and what was Mother and Daddy's bedroom and insulated it. I looked at a lot of people's houses in the Brownsburg area, and other areas to see how they had insulated. And some people had not taken the woodwork off and had sort of set the insulation and the new wall out on the woodwork, and I knew I did not want that. So they took off all the woodwork, the mantel and all the woodwork in both those rooms. And they never broke a piece of it. They put it all back. You know,

they numbered it all and put it all back like it was, and got those rooms insulated. And of course, what happened is now you can see it in the window sills that everything is an inch and a half smaller in the room I suppose because they added a little bit around the windows. But all the woodwork sits like it should, and none of the wall comes out on the woodwork. And that's what I was so particular about because I think the woodwork in that house is interesting and an important part of the house. We always figured that our great-great-grandfather, Samuel Willson, had some money in the 1830s, in that period when he built the two big rooms when he added the brick addition. And he was watching people build their Georgian houses with big columns and things of that sort outside, and what he had was a little primitive house, and he did the important things inside. The mantels particularly. The mantel in the living room, the mantel in what is now the dining room, and maybe -- we always thought that the mantel that's in the library had been at one time in what is now the dining room. And then he changed them around because what is now the library was the back of the house, and he moved that mantel to a lesser room. And made his 1830's mantle in the dining room. But that may or may not be true. But that's a supposition because the mantel in what is now in your library looks older than the mantel in the dining room. But they worked in some of the coldest weather we'd ever had, I think, from that Christmas on until the next summer. And we moved there in the summer of '84. And we'd redone the floors. Maryanne Foster helped me with a good deal of it and then I used Mary Gale [McNemar] in Lexington with some of the drapes and things of that sort. The only difficulty we had that really scared us was when we redid the floors. And we came upon all this beautiful flooring in the bedroom that had been covered with black paint, and we didn't know that we had so many woods and different things. And Mr. Williams, the main carpenter, knew that some of that flooring, the main part of that flooring is chestnut and it was before chestnut was worm-eaten. It was real chestnut. And then the rest of that flooring was left over heart pine, and obviously two rooms. And we knew it had been two rooms. But when we re-plastered and redid the walls, we got rid of the division in the ceiling, but we could tell the division in the floor had indicated there were two rooms. And then I talked to Jim Alexander who remembered, and he and I put together the memory of his grandmother, Ida Willson Fultz, who had said, and had told Mother, and I remember this, that that had been two rooms, what is now the library. And the room next to the hallway had been a pantry, and the lady of the house would go across the back porch which is now the front porch, or the servants would come from the old kitchen across the back porch, and she would hand out the supplies of the day from behind the locked door into the hallway from that pantry. And the front part of that room was probably the bedroom of the lady of the house because she nearly always had a downstairs bedroom and particularly Sallie Willson after her mother and father had died. Well maybe that was her father's bedroom, and where she cared for him, Samuel Willson, her father. But we also had never seen the floors upstairs in what I used for a guestroom -- the room over the dining room. The ones in the hallway had been refinished. But we had this man named -- what was his name? To come look at the floors about how to refinish them. They'd all been sanded, and you could see their natural woods, and all the ones in the upstairs hallway are poplar, and poplar is not very pretty. Sort of has a greenish tint, it's a light wood, and I said to the man, "I would like the floors to show their distinctive wood, but to look alike." And Maryanne Foster was there with me and she said, "We've chosen a stain that we think will do that." And he would not pay any attention to us. "Oh, Mrs. Lipscomb you'll be really happy with what we do. Whatever I can do with this, I will. And I'll get it just like you want." "But this is the stain we want," we would say. And

this just went on and like water off a duck's back. He paid no attention to us at all, and all we could do was really pray that this would come out like we wanted it, and it did! Every floor showed its original look, but all the floors were sort of a light walnut color, and that's what I had wanted. I certainly didn't want them to be a light color. And the downstairs, in the hallway, Mr. Williams told us was something called black oak, and the two major rooms are- or the one major room is beautiful heart pine and the ones upstairs are heart pine in the old section. And I think that in the section that my father did over in the 30s, they probably put a new floor over top of the original floor and if anybody ever wanted to tear out those walls and dig up those two rooms, because in the closets upstairs, those rooms, there are the original floors. In the bedroom I used, you could see a lot of that original floor. And in that closet, that little linen closet in that hallway you could -- I think that's true in there too. And when they did that work, people were not sanding floors and doing all this kind of thing so they just put that new flooring over top. But we moved in in the summer, around the 4th of July of '84. And Alex was not -- his hands had gotten so bad [with arthritis] that he couldn't carry buckets for help with the calf feeding, things of that sort. But it was good that he didn't have to think about that, and it was good for him to be away from [his sons] Alec and Joe who were running the farm, and not be there all the time. But he always, all summer long he went back and he mowed Joe's grass and Alec's grass. And Alec and Mary Lynn [Lipscomb] lived in the Dutch Colonial house [3808 North Lee Highway] right after we moved. They moved from their house that they eventually sold up to the Dutch Colonial, and they lived there for maybe two years. I've forgotten how long. And Joe and Julie [Lipscomb] were living in the green house across the road [3775 North Lee Highway]. Tom Biggs came to see us, he was the pastor at New Providence, and asked us about joining the church and we decided we really did want to continue to go to Timber Ridge [Presbyterian Church]. But that made us a little strange in that community because we didn't go to church in the Brownsburg community. But the people in the community were very nice to us. And I also came with a garden club of my own, and didn't belong to the local garden club, but the people at the Green Hills [Garden Club] would ask me to judge every now and then. And I got to know the people in that group, the garden club pretty well. And the [Fred] Whipples were friends of ours from way back, and we didn't really know very many people. But the thing that we enjoyed about it, that I enjoyed about it so much, was that it kind of put you with a different group of people, to own and restore a nice older house. People wanted to come see it and people wanted to, you know, I wanted to be a part of the [Rockbridge] Historical Society. I had time in. And the APVA [Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities]. And with the help of the APVA, about five of us wrote the nominations for the houses for Virginia Landmarks and the National Register and it was listed on the Virginia Landmarks and the National Register. Aggie [Sterrett] helped me a whole lot with this because she took zillions of pictures which we had to submit for the nomination, and it was nominated for its architectural value. You can be nominated for your historical value or… there are a couple of other things on the landmarks. But this was the architecture and of course we talked about, in the landmark application we talked about what was built in the 1790s and what was built in the 1820s and '30s and how it was used. The social structure of its being used with slaves, and how that showed in the architecture of the house. That obviously there were slave quarters outside of the house for some time, and then the kitchen was outside of the house. And then later the kitchen was brought into the house, but it had no entrance into the main part of the house, and therefore all slaves or servants had to go outside to get to the main part of the house, come across porches, and

things of that sort that were interesting. And then I had to list a whole bunch of things about how I had gotten all this information and I listed people like… people who had told us things, because I had to do a bibliography. It took me a year to do all this I think, nearly. But people like Dick Anderson worked with us with the legal-ease part and we worked sort of as a group, these five people that worked with these nominations over the county. I've forgotten where the others were, but one of them was the Kastner's house [1093 Forge Road] and one of them was in Natural Bridge, and I've forgotten where the others were. But it was a help to have people to talk with as you're doing it. But it was a lot of work, and I went to the AVPA not long after that and I said you know, as much time and work I've put into this situation, I know it cost me over a thousand dollars, maybe we should talk about hiring people to do these things rather than our doing them ourselves. And somebody who knew about this said, "Well the Fraziers charge five thousand to six thousand dollars for doing it." And I said, "Oh well I don't think it cost me that much." But we changed the yard some and did some… my friend Sarah Lanford gave me four English boxwoods that she had already started. In fact we had to heel them in at Timber Ridge for one whole winter before we moved them while the building was going on and everything. And we moved them to Brownsburg, to Mulberry Grove in I guess the spring of '84. And they've done so well. I have a drawing that Art Lipscomb did for me, for Aggie and me some years ago, that shows the boxwoods being so small. Now they're so big. But the house was open in '92 for Garden Week and I worked and worked and worked really to get everything very beautiful and that day it rained five inches and people came from everywhere all day long. But I always felt like it was a grand and glorious success because there were some weed patches in the yard that I never could conquer and so people really couldn't walk around the yard too well. [Laugh] They could look out the back windows at a really pretty bed of pink tulips, and everything bloomed at the right minute. The old pears all bloomed, the old crabapple bloomed, the new crabapples bloomed, and everything -- It couldn't have been really more perfect. But right in front of the flower beds was a horrible weed and I never did really get it. And I only saw one couple walk out there and really look at the flower beds or anything. But the tulips, I really worked on having late daffodils and early tulips and they all bloomed right, and the Virginia bluebells bloomed right, and the dogwood was blooming I think even then. Maybe dogwood hadn't bloomed quite, but the forsythia was gone. But it couldn't have been better. And I was not sorry about that rain except for the poor garden club ladies. But we did have to do the upstairs hall floor over again. We had polyurethane on top of the stain and people -- I had nasty little gravel on the driveway, and it tracked into the house a good deal. And it scratched that the upstairs floor. And Mr… I think his name was Swink, who did the floors came and re-did the polyurethane. That's all we really had to have redone. But I borrowed things from Braehead people, Graham and Thelma [Stephens]. Some of the Braehead things they lent me. What were they? Fenders and things of that sort, I think, they lent me for Garden Week. Then it was opened again in 2001 for a Christmas tour, for the Brownsburg Christmas tour. That time we didn't open the upstairs, but for Garden Week the upstairs was open as well as the downstairs. But that was fun. One of my garden club ladies came and helped me decorate and she loved doing it. She made the prettiest Christmas tree with everything I owned on it and Alex not living then, but he would have died. He said "You're overdoing that Christmas tree" all the time, with the Christmas trees. But we had absolutely everything we owned on that Christmas tree. It was very pretty. And it was open for two days, all day Saturday and most of the day, half a day Sunday. And it seems to me it was pretty cold. Did you sit on the front porch?

Isabelle Chewning: It was cold.

Mary Lipscomb: It was cold. It wasn't as cold as the year before when I had been at Dick Barnes' as a hostess in Brownsburg. That was the coldest day of my life, I think. Anyway, that was a pretty day. Those were pretty days, and people came, and some of my friends from Roanoke came, and I had some sandwiches upstairs that they could eat for lunch and a few things of that sort. But I really enjoyed those years living at Mulberry Grove. Makes me cry.

[End of Tape 4, Side A]

Isabelle Chewning: You had just mentioned that doing the library was the most challenging.

Mary Lipscomb: We had an open house the first Christmas we were there. And it was a Sunday afternoon, and it was a beautiful day. And Mc had said, "I don't know whether anybody will really come or not," because they were having a Christmas program at New Providence. Well, I think all of New Providence came. And I've always wondered if they all didn't come to see what we had made into the library, because Mother never let anybody into that bedroom. I don't think anybody in the Brownsburg neighborhood had ever seen that room. But that room was the most challenging of all. We had to re-do the hearth because it had sunk and the bricks were all different. And the fireplace in general. We put dampers in both of the chimneys, both the living room and the dining room. But in order to do the -- I think we redid the hearth in the living room too -- we needed old brick. We took them off the tops of the chimneys. And I've always been so disappointed in that work. The bricklayers did not look at the depth, the size of the mortar in the chimneys. And they made the mortar thicker where they added bricks. We bought in bricks from Locker Brick Company, and it was made like old brick, it was to look like old brick, to put back on the chimneys. But it was the bricklayer's fault that they didn't, and I didn't catch this until it was done. The mortar is thicker on this new part that we added. The bricks look good. It looked pretty much like the old bricks but there's all this difference in the height of the mortar on each of the chimneys, and I was oh so upset about this, and just hoped that nobody looks at those chimneys too hard. But anyway, that room, we lived in that room. We used it for a television room and put in nice bookcases and we enjoyed that room, and it was warm. Our redoing and buying a new furnace and a few things like that. That room was always cold and Mother was trying to get warm when it was her bedroom. But part of it was the insulation and part of it was stopping up the chimneys and a few things. A whole lot of it was insulation, I'm sure. But we had no trouble heating that room. I was always scared to death it might be cold. She was always trying to heat that room. So, but lots of people came for that open house and Alexander and Robert, my grandchildren, were… how old were they? They were probably in maybe the fourth and sixth grade, or a little bit less. They went upstairs and got under the bed. I had two double beds, they were maybe three-quarter beds. Two beds in the guest room. They got under the beds and listened to what people said. [Laugh] And they--

Isabelle Chewning: They listened through the register into the dining room?

Mary Lipscomb: No, no. People came upstairs. The whole house was open.

Isabelle Chewning: Oh.

Mary Lipscomb: The people who came in the room. The people who came in the room. They were under the beds all the time. [Laugh] And all the beds had--

Isabelle Chewning: Did they report everyone's comments?

Mary Lipscomb: They talked about one couple. I won't mention that on tape. But you know, our friends came from everywhere. That was a pretty Sunday afternoon, and I think Clinton Irvine had given me, this is the contractor, some really pretty flower arrangements that were hither and yon. And I did pretty things on the mantels. And it was, you know, the house just looked lovely, and it was -- That first year we had a cedar Christmas tree because I said, you know, we're in an old Virginia house, we better do a Virginia thing. And so we had a cedar tree from the farm, from Mulberry Grove farm. And I had to make decorations. I'd never had a tree that big, and I never had another cedar tree after that because they're just too hard to deal with. But we borrowed from Mc and Anna the dolls that were Mother's and put them under the tree. Anna had had them redressed and put them under the Christmas tree. We had hostesses around and about in most of the rooms I think. But not like the garden club hostesses, but we didn't know as much about history, I guess, of the house then. We knew a lot of what we had done to it, and all those things. That was a pretty Christmas party. And I always said I think I had the best refreshments I've ever had at a party from then until now. Penelope Ferguson, and Mary Kay, what's her name… at the Rees Farm?

Isabelle Chewning: Mary Kay.

Mary Lipscomb: Mary Kay. They were doing catering at that time, and they had the best food. And it was just wonderful. They had a bean dip, it was hot, in the library. They had food in all the rooms, and food on the dining room table. They had a crab dip that was out of this world. I've forgotten what else. Oh, I'd asked them for sweet potato biscuits with ham, and they did those and they were so good. No wonder people came. But I've forgotten what kind of punch we had. We may have had… I can't remember. I don't know whether it was a Christmas type punch or Jen Heffelfinger's good punch that's in your cookbook [Historic Brownsburg Recipes]. It might have been that. But they may have done a -- I don't think it was hot, but I can't remember. I always thought that was one of the best parties we ever had. We had a lot of parties while we were there. Remember the time I made you come -- I'll feel guilty about this forever. Why were we having, was it when John and LeeAnn… no, not that party. We had a party when John [Sterrett] and LeeAnn

[Hovious] were married. But that's not the time we had cheesecake? It was some smaller get together and I made you cut the chocolate cheesecake that had the top. I was going to cut one and you were cutting the other. And the chocolate cheesecake, the chocolate was so hard it was impossible to cut, and I felt so guilty about that for ever and ever. Now I've forgotten what kind of party that was.

Isabelle Chewning: I don't…

Mary Lipscomb: Alex had cancer while we were there in the fall of '89 I guess it was. Yeah, because [Mary's grandson] Will was -- No it the was in the fall of '88, I guess, and the winter of '88 and '89, because Will was born in '89. No, that's not right. Will was born in '86. It must have just been before Elizabeth was born. Because in the summer after his cancer, we had a big lawn party, and Julie was very pregnant with somebody, and I think it must have been Elizabeth. Because Will was born just the day after Mc [Sterrett] sold his cows from the dairy farm [as part of the Federal Whole Herd Buyout Program]. Because Julie came over there, so I remember that was in '86. In the spring of '86, when is his birthday? April. Joe came to help Mc with whatever, they had to tattoo the cows, or ear tag, them or do something, and help him with the cows. And Julie went down there once I remember to watch and I think Will was born the next day after that. Will was born on a Sunday, and I think that probably was the next day. And that was in '86 and we had only been there a couple of years. He was really in the dairy business just about two years while we were there, and then he sold the cows and went out of the business. Oh, back to Alex and the cancer. So he had cancer in the winter of '88, I suppose. He took chemo and lost his hair and the doctor, local doctor Crews, his internist, said "You'll come nearer dying of pneumonia than you will this cancer. Stay at home and don't go out and shake hands with people where you'll catch a cold or something." So we pretty much did that in the winter of '88 and '89. But we had a supper group that we entertained. We had done this before we left Timber Ridge, with a family named Whipple, a man and wife, Fred and Mollie Sue, a couple named Fox, who was a local doctor in Fairfield, Trudy and Dr. [Kurt] Fox and Libby and Tate Alexander. And Alex and I were in this group. Because all the guys had February birthdays. And we rotated each year to have the birthday party. And my year came the year that Alex had cancer. And I was really glad to -- people came to see us, but they were careful not to have a cold or anything when they did come to see us. But Jane Mackey had knitted Alex this cutest little toboggan, because he had no hair. And if you walk in old houses, from one room to the other, you have a breeze. And so he wore that toboggan all winter long and we have pictures of him. Jane gave it to him about Christmas time, I think, and it had a red tassel and a green tassel and he wore it during the Christmas season. It had a white tassel also, and there are pictures of him at the dinner party. We always did an elegant dinner party; got out our best tablecloths and great-grandmother's huge napkins, and I had to iron all those things and all that stuff. One year I had leg of lamb and one year I had.. it must have been the leg of lamb year. No… one year Fred didn't come, and that was the year, he was catching a cold or something. That may have been the year, because he didn't want to give Alex something. I've forgotten. And that's the year I had leg of lamb, and it was really so good and I was so sorry because Fred raised sheep and they always.. anyway. We always had a good time and listened to Dr. Fox and his funny stories about birthing children

under water that people wanted to do or something. It was a fun time, and Alex got along fine with the chemo and we finished the chemo in March. We began it on Halloween day in Roanoke; went to Roanoke for the chemo, and finished sometime in March. They extended it a little. It was very, very hard. The first of it was very, very hard for him. It made him really sick and terrible. So they lessened the dosage and extended the time. So instead of maybe the six months or something, I think it went on eight months or so, but it was a good long while. But he never was as sick as he had been those first dosages. So after, about April or May, he was declared definitely in remission, and, you know, after five years they declared it was a cure and he lived that long, and longer. But anyway, we decided that we needed to have a party for all the people who'd been so nice to us all winter. And so in the meantime I had been to, while he was going to chemo, I went to a weight thing in Roanoke and lost a lot of weight. And so we had a coming-out party. And we had big tents in the yard, and Aggie [Sterrett] took some wonderful pictures that are just fantastic of the house and the yard, and all these sorts of things. We had lots and lots of people.

Isabelle Chewning: And a perfect day.

Mary Lipscomb: And it was a perfect day, just a beautiful day with pretty tents and friends from all over. And it was – Dr. [Hunter] McClung came out in the morning and brought roses, and I put them in the house. He called me some day after that and asked me where the roses were at. [Laugh] Did I ever tell you that? I was so horrified. But a lot of people went in the house. I think most everybody went in the house really. I said "Oh Dr. McClung, I thought they were too elegant for outdoors!" I was so horrified. The worst boo-boo! The yard was pretty and everything, so you know, we really had a good time. It always bothered me so much that at Timber Ridge, everybody came in the back door, and I was so happy to move to Brownsburg and get a front door once more.

Isabelle Chewning: I like that too.

Mary Lipscomb: I didn't have to feel like Mildred Thompson who lived at Church Hill [78 Sam Houston Way] who kept saying "We have to keep the kitchen looking like a reception room all the time because everybody comes in the back door." [Laugh] I never was a very wonderful kitchen person, so I was delighted to have a front door. And we always enjoyed that wonderful front porch. And when Alex died in '96, my friend Jeanette Mackey appeared the day he died, I suppose. He died on a Saturday night. I think it was a Sunday afternoon, the next morning. "I'm here and I'm going to do all these things," and with that, she kind of took over. And she [Jeannette] came the next day and said, "I'm going to take this food home, and this food home and do thus and so with it." I ordered some tables from the rent-all place in Lexington with cloths and chairs, too, I guess and everything to sit in the yard for lunch after the funeral. The funeral was at eleven o'clock at Timber Ridge and we came back and people had sent azaleas in pots, and she had changed the kitchen furniture all around and had everything all fixed and these beautiful tables on a pretty sunny day in the yard with the white cloths. And she had set the azaleas on, one on each of the tables. So people could eat out. But the mistake we made – but it couldn't be helped -- was it was so sunshiny in the

front yard that if you sat out there you couldn't talk to anybody, couldn't see anybody next to you because the sun was at the wrong place at the hour we had lunch. But she made an elegant lunch out of the stuff that people had brought, and it was just so nice you know, that here's this gal that can do these kinds of things, and make it look elegant and stuff. I didn't lift a finger. [Laugh] All I had to do was talk to the people. But people had brought all sorts of really lovely things. Mary Stuart Gilliam brought some wonderful little cupcakes, yellow cupcakes with caramel icing, and I took them upstairs and put them in my closet because I loved them. Sometime during the morning, Jeanette said "Where are those cupcakes?" And I said, "You can't have those cupcakes!" They were not big cupcakes, they were little cupcakes. Mary Stuart had – the day that the house was open for a garden tour, Mary Stuart had brought a huge, big, flat basket like this with food. It was the day before, when everybody was there making such a mess and fixing flowers and all that stuff for people eat -- for people for their lunch. And then Adelaide [Simpson] brought wonderful -- I had for the garden tour that day, we had food on the lower back porch. I locked the old kitchen, and we had food on the lower back porch for any of the hostesses who wanted to eat and Adelaide had brought all these wonderful chicken salad sandwiches. I don't think I did much for that. People had said "I'm going to do so-and-so, and I'm going to do so-and-so." And Mary Stuart had brought a lot of – the Blue Ridge Garden Club ladies had brought food, too, for that. And in this pouring down rain, people sitting there on the back porch, but looking at the pretty tulips and all that stuff. [Laugh] So all those interesting things went on while we were living at Brownsburg.

Isabelle Chewning: I'm going to have to rush out.

Mary Lipscomb: Yeah, it's time to go, isn't it?

Isabelle Chewning: Thank you so much!

[End of Tape 4, Side B]

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