



HISTORIC CHARLESTON FOUNDATION

Interviewee: Jane deButts

Place of Interview: The George Sommers House (43 East Bay Street)

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Interviewer: Anne Blessing (subject's daughter and HCF trustee), with some questions from Katherine Pemberton (HCF)

Videographer: Katherine Pemberton (HCF)

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BEGIN INTERVIEW

Anne Blessing: This is Anne Blessing on January 22 [2019]. I'm interviewing Jane deButts at 43 East Bay Street. Can you say and spell your full name.

Jane deButts: My name is Jane Pinckney Hanahan deButts.

AB: When and where were you born?

JD: I was born in Richmond, Virginia, on December 8, 1935.

AB: And your parents' names and your siblings.

JD: My father was Thomas Pinckney, direct descendant of the general. My mother was Charlotte Miller Kent Pinckney. I have a brother, Charles Coteworth Pinckney who's four years younger than I am, and a sister, Anne Pinckney Gaye, who lives in Lexington, Kentucky.

AB: Can you tell how you came to Charleston and what your connections to Charleston are?

JD: I married Billy Hanahan in 1960 in Richmond and he had a good job in Richmond and I knew we'd live there for a while and I knew we'd always come to Charleston. And when he turned forty he decided it was time to come to Charleston. And I think part of that was that he was able to get this house which was his mother's house and it was available. He always said that there was more land to hunt and that he could give his children a better life in Charleston. So we moved to Charleston. We lived on the Isle of Palms. We had had a house on the Isle of Palms since 1964. And that probably was the greatest constant with my children. I had two children at that point. And we lived on the beach and we did work on the house here. We came down when school ended in 1971 thinking the house would be ready, we thought the house would be ready by the time school started in the fall. And we thought the house would be ready by Christmas

time. And then I went to the hospital to have a baby in January and I put my foot down and said "I'm not going back to the beach in January with the new baby." So my mother-in-law and the contractor unpacked us and moved everything into the house. So I lived in this house, 43 East Bay, longer than I've lived anywhere in my life, for 35 years.

AB: Can you talk about your husband and his Charleston connections?

JD: His grandfather, James Ross Hanahan, was quite an important person. He was an entrepreneur. He had small things, apparently sold railroad ties. He took them from one place to another and sold them. That was his beginning but he started-- Well the first thing he started that was important was a cement business which was headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, and then he started the fertilizer business which was called Planters Fertilizer, and they bought Millbrook on the Ashley because there was phosphate rock there. And Mr. James Ross Hanahan was a City Councilman. And I've always been told that he worked for the Water Works as a young man and laid out the pumping station. The pumping station was named for him. That was Hanahan. The town developed around the pumping station. But there was something in the paper the other day, and I don't know if it's correct or not, that said that he had persuaded the city to buy the water company. But anyway, there was always a close connection with that. He was involved in lots of different things in the city. He was involved very strongly in Grace Church. And then he had two sons and a daughter. Ross Hanahan lived in Knoxville and ran the cement company. And then his younger son, who was my father-in-law, Billy Hanahan, often called W-O, ran the fertilizing business. And Grace, the daughter, married Billy Carter and they lived at Millbrook, their own part of Millbrook. Billy Hanahan was sent to Clemson, I think, to learn to run the fertilizer business but he graduated chemical engineer and at that time Clemson was all military. He was a company commander. He had a great time there. And then he served in the Air Force and when the time came to come back home, he really didn't want to work for his father. So he was in the second class at what became the Darden School of the University of Virginia. He went to business school then and came to Richmond to work.

And my family I guess were direct descendants of General Thomas Pinckney. My closest connection in Charleston was Josephine Pinckney who is my great-half-aunt. My grandfather was the son by his [unintelligible]-- Captain Thomas Pinckney had a son who was my grandfather, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, and then his wife died and he remarried and he had a daughter who was Josephine Pinckney, so that was my connection. And then the other close kin who was here when I came was Sally Pinckney Burton who was married to Milby Burton [Director of The Charleston Museum]. So we were close to Milby. I guess that's all I can tell about the family that I know of.

AB: How about the memories of your father coming to Charleston?

JD: Oh, Daddy used to come to Charleston. Josephine Pinckney was about ten years older than he was and he was very close to her and he would come to visit and he would bring his friends to visit. And the Pinckneys also owned a plantation on the Santee, on the south Santee, Fairfield, where my first cousin Tommy Pinckney owns now. And Daddy would come and bring his friends to visit. And the Pinckneys also owned a plantation on the Santee, on the south Santee, Fairfield, where my first cousin Tommy Pinckney owns now. And Daddy would come and bring

his friends-- George Gibson used to say that the police weren't allowed to come below Broad Street, and Daddy just adored it. He'd said to my children that he'd come to visit his grandparents and now he was coming to visit his grandchildren. And they were thrilled when I married Billy Hanahan and all the Charleston connections. Interestingly, my father had had a date with Betty Hanahan that [unintelligible] at one point, arranged by Josephine Pinckney [laughs].

AB: Can you tell us about Betty Hanahan and the house?

JD: Betty Hanahan used to say she was the second woman realtor in South Carolina and I think she was very successful because she loved people and she loved the houses. And I think Miss Legge bought a house on Rainbow Row and that sort of prompted her to want to buy this house. And she bought it I think about the same time I was born. And Albert Simons was the architect and they did an amazing job on the house when you think it was the 1930s, it was the most, I think-- They said they put five bathrooms in the house at that point. When we bought the house, we really did buy it from her for a good price, but we bought it, she insisted that we used the same architectural firm so that we didn't change much architecturally. Main thing we did was the heat. We put air conditioning, which was wonderful.

I worked for her for one year which was very interesting. She was easier to work for than I would've thought. But she knew everybody and she knew everything that was going on in Charleston. She had two people she talked to every day, Irene Simons and Martha Rivers, and they would tell her something in the morning and I think she'd [unintelligible] the same thing back at night [laughs]. Miss Betty. And she would call up and say "I've got a piece of cake for you. Come by" [laughs]. She was always giving you things. She was successful in real estate because she followed through with the people she sold houses to and she introduced them around and did things for them [unintelligible]. And then if she sold a big important house and it had good furniture, she would find a home for it with her friends. I actually think the chair Katherine [Pemberton] is sitting on is one that she insisted we buy.

AB: Can you tell a little bit about her background?

JD: She was a Lucas. Her father was a harbor pilot. Yes, I think he was a harbor pilot. His name was Buist Lucas. And he drowned. The story was that he had the money to pay the workers in his pocket and he drowned. And she was raised by her mother and her aunt who was also-- Frances Simons was raised with her. She was raised without any money. She worked on the America Street playground and that's one reason she knew everybody.

AB: Can you talk about what it was like for her to raise children in this house then for you to raise children and then to see your grandchildren?

JD: Gosh, well, she had a white housekeeper when I came along. I think she always had a lot of help. She had wonderful food. I don't think she ever really learned how to cook but she told people how to cook [laughs]. And it was two o'clock dinner. She lived in this house-- I guess she was living in this house when we were married in 1960. She and my father in law would split and get back together and split and get back together and split and get back together. And he ended up living at Millbrook. I think as long as his parents were alive he'd have dinner with them every day. When we came to Charleston, people were really having two o'clock dinner. Ashley

Hall let the students out to come home for dinner. And one of the decisions that Billy and I had to make was whether we were going to have middle-of-the-day dinner and we decided that wouldn't work. But her ambition was to have five little children in this house, which she did, and she had nurses and all of that. I had Renasta[?] who came five days a week until we found that Mondays were impossible so she came four days a week. And I didn't have to as much nursing but I had help and I had a cleaning man here. He'd come once a week and do the yard and the cleaning. I don't know how else to tell you it was different for me. When I came, very often the nurses still took the children to the park regularly. I would rather nurse than clean so I didn't have the nurse do as-- have that done as much. And Anne has made the house more livable for this day and time and I don't think she has somebody that comes in and cleans. I don't know how else it's different.

AB: Can you talk about how you defined the neighborhood when you moved here as opposed to how we might define it now?

JD: Well you knew everybody. There weren't a lot of young children who lived on East Bay. Mariah walked to Anson School and I guess Bill walked to the Anson School and there was one young man who would walk with them. But we had the East Bay playground across the street and that has been a factor always. It was with my mother in law and it was with us. When Anne was born, Bill brought all his friends from the playground in to see the baby. So that was-- Well, it was quieter. It was far quieter here. You could walk and ride your bicycle and-- I don't know how the neighborhood has changed.

AB: When would you leave and go above Broad Street or above Calhoun Street?

JD: Well, I always went to the big Pig [Piggly Wiggly] to do my grocery shopping so I would go once or twice a week up there.

AB: Where was that?

JD: The Piggly Wiggly was at Meeting and Spring Street. And I took a long time getting used to going to the new Harris Teeter when that came. I always went up there for the grocery shopping. I guess we had Schwettman's on Broad Street [106 Broad] which was the pharmacy. I rode my bicycle-- I remember riding my bicycle to the bank and the dog, we had a pointer, who would follow us, and I would leave the pointer on the front step and I'd slip out the back and the dog would still be there in the front [laughs] and I'd get called from the day school that my dog was there and I'd have to come get him. One time, somebody up near Calhoun Street called and said the dog was there. I wouldn't say that there was a great line, demarcation. I guess Calhoun was more of a line than Broad Street.

AB: What about other types of shopping?

JD: Well, we went to Richmond [laughs]. I told somebody the other day how ironic it was that I used to go to Richmond to shop and now I come to Charleston to shop. There was Condon's and Kerrison's were two so-called department stores and there was Sears. There really wasn't much shopping. I mean I can remember trying to find a big mixing bowl. I couldn't find a decent

mixing bowl. And my mother in law Betty Hanahan always said that she tried to get the Miller & Rhodes people-- Ed Hyde to bring the Miller & Rhoads to Charleston but he never did. And the Hydies had Charleston. There's so many families back and forth between Richmond and Charleston. Lots of ties.

AB: And what were the weekend activities?

JD: It's very interesting. One of the things I remember vividly was Jacqueline Connor[?] who was a good friend. Her husband was Anne's godfather. And she called and wanted us to something on Wednesday night and I said-- At this point we were living on the beach. And I said "We don't go out during the week." And she said "Jane, in Charleston if you don't go out during the week you won't go out because the men are always hunting on the weekend" [laughs]. Which is pretty much true. And Billy Hanahan traveled. He traveled for business and he traveled for hunting, so he was gone a lot during the weekend. But there was a lot of outdoors. We'd go to Millbrook fairly often.

AB: And what did you do there?

JD: I just sat [laughs]. The children-- What did the children do? They shot skeet I guess. Shot at tin cans. And Mr. Hanahan, who I called Mr. Hanahan always, lived on a bend on the Ashley River and it was a really pretty spot and you'd look out on the water, so it was a pretty place to be.

AB: What are the hunting details?

JD: Well, there was duck and deer although I don't think my immediate family was very interested in the deer. And Billy Hanahan hunted anything that flew. He loved the dove hunting and the quail hunting, although there wasn't much quail hunting around Charleston. He had a friend who had a place called Quackenbush, Henry Face, and it's near Manning, it's actually at Davis Station, and we would go for a weekend every winter. Pretty old-fashioned quail hunting. There were a lot of outings in the boat. We were outdoors a lot. But I'd say, entertainment was mostly having people to dinner. And some of Billy's friends had big sailboats and you'd get a phone call, an invitation to come and you'd come to the marina about 5:30 and you'd have a drink and then you'd all sail out to into the harbor and drive back and have supper and then come back and that was a nice way to end the day. And I think the Rockville Regatta was going on. We went once or twice but it wasn't such a big deal then. And I think Huger Sinkler had a big yacht. I remember going there.

When we were married and lived in Richmond, we came to Charleston fairly regularly so I got used to Charleston. It was easy enough to move in. I did think when I moved to Charleston in 1971 I'd see the same ten couples the rest of my life and that was a surprise. For one thing, everybody I'd ever known or anybody who'd ever known me became a dear friend and people came to visit and it was wonderful to have this house because you had room to put people up. And it was fun.

AB: What about life on the Isle of Palms?

JD: Well, we would move to the Isle of Palms early June and be over there, depending on what was going on, until school started. And a lot of our friends did the same thing. Most of our friends, our close friends, went to Sullivan's, and Billy, being a little bit different I guess, bought a house on the Isle of Palms, which we still have. Unfortunately, there's been a huge house built next door to it which I think almost destroys the-- It's too close. But it's been a real constant in our life. And life is much simpler at the beach. A lot of our friends did all the entertaining at the beach because they thought it worked better. When we did this house, one of the things I did, I put the stove right next to the dining room. Miss Hanahan had had a pantry and we didn't have anybody to put in a pantry, so we moved our kitchen into what had been the pantry, which was actually the hyphen between the kitchen and the dining room.

AB: What about when you were driving to and from places like Richmond? How would you go? What were the routes?

JD: I feel like we built I-95 because we would go along the parts that were built-- When we were first married and before we were first married we'd come down for the weekend, but we went through Raleigh sometimes. We always went up Route 41 to Lumberton and Billy had back roads through the cotton fields where you got on what became I-95, but we went circuitous routes in order to get here. But that depended on how much of the interstate had been built.

AB: How about church? Can you tell us about church?

JD: When we moved to Charleston the idea was-- Church had always been very important to me and I think it was important to Billy. We would shop[?] churches. And then when we had looked around the deal was that everybody had the number of votes that they had years and of course I think Mariah and Bill wanted to go to St. Michael's because they had friends there, and I may have thought I liked St. Phillip's. But Billy had grown up in Grace Church and so he had the most votes, so we went to Grace Church. And Mr. Meadowcroft, who was the long-time rector who actually had been called by Mr. J. Ross Hanahan, was the minister, and when Anne was baptized and Mr. Meadowcroft walked up the aisle, he said "this is Anne Pinckney Hanahan," that was sort of my introduction to Grace Church. But it's a very important part of my life. I was married the second time there and I'm still a member.

AB: And how has that church changed?

JD: We were looking at the church and trying to decide where to go and my friend Barbara Baker said "Oh don't you all go to Grace Church. It's dying on its feet." And it was. It's a good sized church. It holds 260 people I think. And there would be a congregation of maybe 50 or 60 but it certainly has come back. It's packed now. We Uber to church now because the parking is so impossible. It's now a cathedral. This doesn't need to get into the division within this church but we have a wonderful rector at Grace Church and it's always had good music and-- I remember being in the church the Sunday after [Hurricane] Hugo and there were about 25 of us and they talked about the "committee of 25." But it's grown. Some of those people are still there.

AB: Can you talk about the hurricanes and your experience?

JD: Billy Hanahan died in April of 1989. What year was that?

AB: 1989.

JD: Of course I know that. And then Hurricane Hugo came in September. We were going to stay here. Anne and I were living at 43. Bill was married. Mariah was in California. And we planned to stay here and then Bill's father in law, who's retired Air Force colonel, ordered his daughters out of Charleston and Bill hadn't been married very long and I said "if Devon goes you have to go and if you go, I go." So we evacuated to Summerville, which was a silly thing to do but Anne and I-- Anne has a set of, I guess it's still downstairs, a set of Audubons that was the 1972 reprint that are I think fairly valuable. Anne and I carried them upstairs to be out of the water. And we went to Summerville, which was to friends of Devon's, my daughter in law's, parents, and when we got there, we were surrounded by pine trees. We were in a split level house. I said "Lord if I die, I deserve to. This was dumb to leave 43." And they had plenty to drink. Anne and I were put in the lowest level place. I think it was a garage or something. But the next morning there were pine tree limbs through every house except the one we were in and we spent that next day picking up limbs.

And then Bill of course headed right back to Charleston. He sat on the porch for three or four days because he was afraid of looters. But we were very fortunate. The Missroon House actually and the Yacht Club [both across the street] protected us. Interestingly, this house is built on Lot Number 1 of the Grand Modell and it's high ground. There was some sort of paper on the furnaces under this house and there was - I don't know what kind of paper it was - but there was a roll of something on one of the ducts and it didn't get wet. So there wasn't any water in the basement of this house, which is just amazing. But we came back and we camped out here for a little bit and then some friends insisted that we come to between Walterboro and Jacksboro. We stayed there for a while. But when we were here, the Shriners were in the Missroon House and they, of course, lost everything in their freezer and the shared. We got some really good things. And Beau had a camp stove so it was wonderful comradery after Hugo. Everybody had parties really and took care of each other. We didn't have any electricity for a long time. I think the telephones came back pretty quickly, and there weren't any cell phones. So we were extremely lucky. Bill closed all the shutters. The national television had a picture of Bill closing them. And of course everybody we knew called us to see about it. But it was something. I was the brand new president of Water Stratford and I went up maybe a month later and you could just see the power trucks coming down the road to help repair things. It was quite something to go through.

AB: Do you remember any other storms?

JD: You know, the storm I think that is the big snow that came when Anne was a baby and we made the children leave their sleds in Virginia because there wouldn't be snow. And Frances Hanahan was here and she couldn't get back to New York for a week. And that sort of thing repeated itself last winter when we had the snow. And of course the thing is that Charleston doesn't have any snow removal stuff so-- That's it.

AB: How about fires? Do you remember any fires?

JD: We came home one time. Billy and I had been on a trip. And Anne was standing on the front porch [laughs]-- The fire engine was here I guess and Anne was standing on the front porch and we went in and the chimney had caught fire in the back, in the den. But then there was a fire down at Caroline's house two doors down. The painters, I think-- There was a big fire, I think it as a drug store where South Carolina National Bank was, where Wachovia [now Wells Fargo] is now and the building burned. But I mean we just went and watched.

AB: What about doctors and dentists when you first came?

JD: I don't have much memory of dentists but doctors-- I had a wonderful pediatrician in Richmond and I asked him for a recommendation and he said "I'll get in touch with my friend Jack Paul." It turned out that Jack Paul lived in the house next door. Jack Paul was not a practicing-- I think he was a teaching pediatrician. But he sent us to pediatricians. And of course Anne was a new baby and we had a bad experience with the first pediatrician. That year that we moved into the house I was in a new place, I had a new baby, there was an awful lot to learn, and I did not take things very seriously. I mean I couldn't trust my judgment because I thought maybe it was 'cause the new place but anyway, the pediatrician was way too rough so we had to get a new one. We found a wonderful Jack Rhodes[?]. Billy had a cousin, Frank Middleton, who was an internist and I told him that I was going to wait for him to come and I did. And of course I went to Tommy Rivers because I'd known him. I'd known Tommy Rivers at Episcopal High School. And that was sort of my introduction to Charleston. Buist Rivers introduced me to Billy Hanahan. Buist was Tommy's older brother.

AB: Can you tell a little more about that?

JD: Buist had a girlfriend at St. Catherine's and he would come to visit. He was at Davidson and he'd come to see Rose Montgomery at St. Catherine's. And we became close friends and Buist married one of my Sweet Briar classmates so they were the couple we really saw the most of. But Buist got me two blind dates with Billy Hanahan. He didn't remember the first one. Once when I was at Sweet Briar and then again after I was graduated a year or two later. And Billy came to Richmond to work, he told him to call me up, and he did. And we did everything together. Buist and Carol built a house at High Hampton and we were very much in on making the plans and all of that. And the children grew up together. What else should I say about--

AB: What about your engagement? Did they have a party for you on Orange Street?

JD: No, that was later. We came to the Bachelor's Ball. When was that? That was before we were married. My sister Anne was invited to Frenchie Hewitt's debutante party. Frenchie Hewitt was at St. Catherine's with Anne. And I think mother and daddy decided it was time to come look the Hanahans over. So we came to Charleston and the Rivers had a party for four, which they did in those days before the Bachelor's Ball. And Buist lined us all up, his parents and my parents, Billy, and told the story about Billy having had a date, the first date, and not remembering it [laughs]. Billy was going through the floor--

AB: Can you talk about Historic Charleston Foundation?

JD: What can I say about Historic Charleston Foundation. It's been my whole life! I think I first was on the board in 1978 and I think that Meeder[?] [unintelligible] was a good friend. When I started coming to Charleston, so many of Billy's friends were married to people I'd known at Sweet Briar and Meeder I think is the person who involved me and I really, I think they put me on the board-- I think that was my first involvement. And I think that's because I was put on the Stratford board. When I moved to Charleston, Nella Barkley called me and said Miss Manigault wanted to talk to me about Stratford. Well I had a new house, a new baby, a new town, and I said "I can't be on the Stratford board," and I came home and told Billy and he said "You're crazy. Go back and tell them you can." So I went on that board and our first meeting-- I think I was elected when Anne was nine months old. But I think the people at Historic Charleston thought if I was on the Stratford board I must know something [laughs]. The thing I remember first was being on the Russell House Committee and Miss Legge and Miss Staats and Miss Frost were on that committee. I remember walking through the Russell House with them and I learned so much, absorbed so much there.

Frances Edmunds of course was the director and Frances was [pauses] moody maybe is the thing you'd say. Sometimes everything was wonderful and other times she was very dictatorial, but it was her baby and she sort of told you what to do. She tried getting me to go do some documentation in Ansonborough and I just couldn't do that. She ruled the roost. But it was much more volunteer-oriented than it is now. I think as time has gone on it's become more staff-oriented. It's become a bigger, bigger thing. One of the things I remember which I think is so funny is-- I had a hard time putting a house on tour because I had young children and all, and one time the house was on tour and Anne was probably four or five and Frances Edmunds came and Anne was hanging on the back door [laughs]. It's sort of ironic that she's now the Chairman of the Tours Committee.

I think I served on almost every committee. One of the interesting ones was being on the search committee for a successor to Frances Edmunds. We interviewed amazing people and I think that-- I can't remember the name of the man but I think we made the wrong choice, Angus Murdoch. He didn't last very long. But Lawrence Walker was fun. Lawrence was-- I guess he was the chairman of the board when Angus Murdoch departed and he stepped in and ran things. And he was so hands-on. His office was in the back of the Russell House at that point and during that time we bought Mulberry and Lawrence would have a picnic at Mulberry. Then when we were involved with McLeod, Lawrence would take us over there. I think maybe he was the director a little too long but he was a very personable[?] person. The best thing he did was he brought us Betty Guerard [HCF's long-time Executive Assistant]. I don't know how the foundation gets on without Betty. She was wonderful! What else about Historic Charleston? I was on the 50th anniversary committee meeting.

Katherine Pemberton: You were president then.

JD: Was I president then? That was fun. That's the first time I remember Margot Rose. She was on that committee. One of the things I remember-- We had a big dinner at Drayton Hall and had a terrible time finding somebody who would cater it, that would work. And we were looking for a speaker. Now what's his name? Peter McGee was dying to get--

KP: Was it Paul Rosen?

JD: No. The man has now moved to Charleston in the winter time. He's on the library board. The great writer.

AB: David McCullough?

JD: Yes! Peter wanted to get David McCullough and we couldn't afford Mr. McCullough. So I think it's ironic that now he's here, and I can't even remember who the speaker was that we had. And the other big thing that we did for the 50th anniversary was we had a history of the foundation written [Preservation for a Living City by Robert Weyeneth]. And we had various small events. We had a big party at the Yacht Club with fireworks and that sort of thing. That was a big celebration. Gosh, there's so many things-- I had some notes. Oh, what I think-- The important things that we did was we saved I think before Mulberry we did the 64 South Battery [William Gibbes House] we saved. And then of course later on we got McLeod. I had something to do with that with Jonathan [Poston] and getting Mr. Willie [McLeod] to leave it. I always thought that, and I think maybe Mr. Willie did, that we would put covenants on it and get a private owner and I never was very happy about their wanting to make a museum of it. But we certainly learned a lot. We did a lot of homework. And I just made so many connections with it. Being president was fun-- One of your questions was about my being the--

KP: How did you feel about-- Was it a big deal to be the first woman president?

JD: Not to me it wasn't. It wasn't at all. To me I thought it was kind of ironic because I'm not a feminist by any stretch of the imagination. My daughter Mariah was very much a feminist, and I thought it was ironic that here I who was the least feminist around should be the first woman president. To me it was sort of natural for me to be the president because I knew the foundation so well. I served on every committee and I had a lot of administrative experience. I think that I had done Stratford before I did Historic Charleston.

KP: Were you president when the foundation purchased the Aiken-Rhett House as well?

JD: You know we had so many-- What I'm saying about the Aiken-Rhett House is that it went by stages. We had so many different things. I don't know what the final thing was. I remember going to lots of things at the Aiken House trying to decide what we were going to do but we really wanted the museum [Charleston Museum owned it at the time] to take care of it. I don't remember that being a big deal.

KP: You had to work really closely with Carter Hudgins.

JD: I worked very closely with Carter Hudgins. And that was interesting because Carter Hudgins really didn't like reporting to a woman. I found very little of that sort of thing-- Once before I became president I did something that some of the senior officers didn't like and they sort of said "you step down or you won't be the president." Male chauvinism which I did find a little bit but very little. But Carter would come over every Friday and we'd have a cup of coffee and we'd talk about what was going on. With men, the director would go to the office but-- I realize in

retrospect that Carter was an academic and he wasn't really used to working with a board. He was used to being himself and we've been great friends since-- And we didn't really have like this but never wanted me to see the books. He said I could come over there and look but he was very close with his finances [unintelligible] want me to do.

KP: We had a big financial shift purchasing the Missroon House.

JD: The Missroon House was a big deal. We'd looked at other places. One of the places that-- The foundation had offices for a long time on Fulton Street, I don't know how long-- I guess it's when they were on Fulton Street-- I guess they moved out of the Russell House. Frances Edmunds' office was glorious. It was on the third floor over where the library-- The oval office. Yes, it really was an oval office. It's glorious. And then Lawrence's was stuffed way back and then I guess we went to Fulton Street. I guess that's when we really outgrew the Russell House. But we looked at lots of other things and that was-- I hadn't said but I should say that my real training for doing all this was the Junior League and the Junior League of Richmond. And we looked at so many different buildings for offices then that it was sort of like deja vu looking at places in Charleston. And of course I think it was a wonderful, wonderful deal that they got the Missroon House and living across the street, I watched all the reconstruction. I can remember going over to the offices of the law firm just across the bridge to look at the partitions there to see what we were going to use here and I remember sampling seats and doing all sorts of things about this. And I still see the architects [E.E. Fava Architects and Dufford & Young Architects]. They go to Grace Church now. I see them. And the people from NBM the contractors were really nice and I think they did a good job. And I think it has worked very well. But when I was president it was very convenient to have it-- Before I was president I guess I was secretary and at that time checks over a certain amount had two signatures and it was very convenient for them. Jackie Lareau used to bring checks by for me to sign. And then I think about-- When we had the easements at the end of the year there was always a flurry of easements and Jonathan would bring them to me to sign. The foundation's been my life!

AB: What were the hardest issues that you had to deal with as president or on the board?

JD: I think maybe McLeod has been the hardest. I just don't think it's museum quality although I will say-- Hunter and I went over last year I guess to see-- I think the County has done a really good job. It's an interesting place. And we tried so many things. The Agriculture Society tried planting sweetgrass. There's just been a lot-- I think the best thing about it probably is having the slave quarters there. I think they tried so hard to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear [laughs]. I think we're "over-museumed." And of course, we interviewed various people from various things and I see that there are too many museums in the country. So I don't think we need any more.

AB: Did you work with Kitty Robinson?

JD: Not very much, really. I can't remember when Kitty came in but--

KP: 2000.

JD: Well then I guess I would've because I left here in 2008. So I did some but I guess I was not so terribly active. And Kitty's style is very different. I felt it was so wonderful when you talk about the director, the first director being a woman. I thought it was so logical for Kitty to be and I think she did wonderful things. I think her focus changed. I think that she emphasized money-raising an awful lot more and I'm not sure why we have to have quite so much money [laughs]. She brought in a lot of new people. Lawrence was very interested in some of the new people. Of course when Lawrence was bringing in new people, there weren't as many new people. Now there's so many people that are new. And I go to these functions, it'll be like after the annual meeting, and I don't know any of them. It's changed very much the tenor of things. I'd be interested to see how things have come with Winslow [Hastie]. And I think the staff increased with Kitty, too. I think that maybe that's where the money's gone. They've got so much more staff. And I would like to see the foundation go-- It was founded to protect the city by zoning and that sort of thing and I feel like we've had less emphasis on that and more emphasis on some other things. I'd like to see--

KP: I was going to ask you, because you said we might have too many historic museums now, what do you see the role of historic preservation focused on? The policies or projects, like livability or--

JD: I like to see it preserving these houses that are in Charleston and the livability. The livability is one that I think is very important. I don't know anything about you-- I read about the NOMA[?] or whatever the garden and all of that and I haven't seen it. Maybe Anne will take me up there one day and show me what's there. But I've always said we don't have to go everywhere. We need to limit our area and focus on downtown really. I mean I know that's hard. And through Historic Charleston of course, I got involved with Drayton Hall and then I got involved in the National Trust. And then I was involved with Middleton so I've been involved with all of these. But I don't think the Foundation has to do all of that. But I do think that the zoning is important. I'll probably get a ticket over here because I haven't gotten my new sticker [laughs].

AB: Can you talk about some of the other people you worked with at Historic Charleston, either other board members or staff?

JD: Well of course I worked closely with Tom Savage and I went on wonderful trips that Tom Savage had. And that was friend-building as well as raising money. He did incredible trips. I was very close with Jonathan [Poston] and I talked to Jonathan recently. I used to see a lot of Jonathan. He's got so much ability. And I think now he's doing what he really loves. But I'm not aware that the foundation is monitoring the boards the way they used to. I spent an awful lot of time in these--

Oh, that reminds me, one of the most important things that happened [when I was on the board] was keeping the [County] Courthouse downtown. And we haven't talked about that even. With Carter we went to many, many, many, many meetings to keep the courthouse. That was really a close, close call that they didn't move the courts to North Charleston, and that would've made a huge difference on Broad Street, so that was an important thing. I just think advocacy--

And one of the things that was good for a long time, Kitty and Cindy Jenkins [former Preservation Society director] were very close and worked very closely together and I don't know how that's doing now. It looks like they're working closely together. It looks like Kristopher King is doing a very good job and I hope he and Winslow are working together. And you know, in a way, the Preservation Society was more doing advocacy but Historic Charleston was lending their ear too. When I would go to those meetings, both groups would speak up [unintelligible] and many, many hours at the B.A.R. [Board of Architectural Review] and the other boards.

What else did I do with Historic Charleston that I didn't tell you? [Looks through her notes.]

AB: The Revolving Fund?

JD: I didn't [unintelligible]. I think the Revolving Fund is won[derful]. Oh, when I was first on the board, the foundation had several properties that had been given to them by the Woodwards [Charles and Betty] and there was lots of discussion about what to do with them. Ultimately, they sold them and used the money to buy other things. I think the Revolving Fund's wonderful but I didn't work very closely with it.

You talked about how Charleston has changed and Spoleto has made a huge difference. And Hugo. Those were the things that brought the new people in. And the other thing is that after Hugo, people put watering systems in and that enabled us to have year-found gardens and that's made the houses more important.

KP: Do you think Charleston has become too well-known--

JD: Mm hmm [laughs].

KP: --from a tourism standpoint?

JD: I think it's too bad. And another thing, when I first came to Charleston-- Patti Whitelaw, we didn't have curators. Patti Whitelaw took care of the Russell House, and she was perfectly lovely to me because Aunt Josephine [Pinckney] had been very nice to her when-- But she really did, she took me under her wing.

KP: Do you remember much about the-- I think one of the things when I started was when in 1996 you were either president or became president shortly thereafter, the Russell House had changed so much through the Getty grant.

JD: During the what?

KP: That Getty grant, with all that work. Do you remember any of that?

JD: [Laughs] I remember the colors, when they put the yellow and-- And people had fits with that.

KP: And the white ironwork.

JD: That caused a lot of furor. And that was Tom's doing, I think.

KP: It was. And paint research.

JD: The paint research has fascinated me and I love that Susan Buck is still doing paint research.

KP: I remember the ironwork and people would say "It's going to look like a trailer park with the white ironwork." Like the Russell House could ever look like a trailer park.

JD: It's still white, isn't it?

KP: Yes.

JD: And we just accept it. But I remember the things that seems to me that made the biggest fuss was when the walls were that sort of yellowy orange and I [unintelligible] that to Robert Leath but I guess that was--

KP: They've just done the bedroom and a sort of orange with dark blue borders.

JD: I'll have to go upstairs when I go. I love the Russell House and I've always-- I felt closer to it than the Aiken-Rhett. And I really wanted to go to the party at the Aiken-Rhett and then the weather was so horrible. I would have had trouble getting into the Aiken-Rhett I think.

AB: What about just tourism in general, how it's changed?

JD: When I first came here you would stop a tourist and speak to him and be a hostess and all that, and that's totally changed because there's so many and they're not the same kind of people. Hunter sits on our porch. For the record, we rent at One East Battery so we have a porch that overlooks White Point Gardens, so every tourist that comes to town comes to that point to look at Fort Sumter. And Hunter has a great comment on the way people look [laughs]. Everybody thinks they have to come to Charleston and there's nothing these tours-- [interrupted by next question]

KP: Was it Tommy Thornhill who wanted a dress code?

JD: Uh huh [laughs].

KP: Like Bermuda.

JD: If only. Hunter says people in Charleston dress so badly. I said that's not the people you're seeing. That's the American people that are dressed--

AB: Was there a season? Times when there were--

JD: Yes, there was a season. The end of February was when people started coming to Charleston. The streets were really[?] bare, I mean when we had the "hurrication" - what was that called, was that Florence? - and it was lovely in Charleston. And I can't imagine that it's really any pleasure to come when there's such mobs of people. That makes me sad. The other thing that I'm noticing - I noticed this morning - is there's so much work going on! Of course, they're doing the Five East Battery, which we absolutely adore watching Moby [Marks] and Glenn [Keyes] and all the people over there yesterday when we were looking. And we love that. They're doing the house at Two South Battery. I don't know what they're doing it because they've been working on it forever and they must be doing one step at a time. And then they're doing work on the Battery wall, which is fascinating to watch and this. There's too much money I'm afraid. And then Anne's got it next door [41 East Battery]. I don't know.

AB: What are the other changes that you think have happened while you've been in Charleston?

JD: It's easy to shop. And the restaurants. And that's bringing people Charleston. I think that we've got lots of good restaurants. When I first came to Charleston there were two restaurants. There was Henry's and there was Perdida's. That was it! Although there was a restaurant on the Crosstown, which wasn't the Crosstown any more where they had good she-crab soup. It was in a motel that Sally Burton might-- But people didn't go out to eat, mainly because there weren't any restaurants. And an interesting thing was that growing up in Virginia, you couldn't buy a drink out as you may know. You come to Charleston and you could get a drink!

KP: Any time.

JD: Well, usually you could. But then a new governor would come, a new Baptist governor, and they'd crack down and you couldn't get a drink [laughs] so soon it would come back. I think having liquor by the drink has made the restaurants more successful.

KP: They had those mini bottles for a while.

JD: Oh yeah, I forgot that. And that made it more expensive, so--

AB: How were the food and drink different than what you had in Richmond?

JD: Seafood. That's what I miss most now.

AB: Were the street vendors still here when you came?

JD: A few. And oh, and Miss Hanahan would take me to The Market and everybody had their own vendors and they'd come out to your car and bring things to you and you would buy what you wanted.

AB: This is at the City Market?

JD: At the City Market.

KP: Food stuff.

JD: Food stuff, uh huh. Vegetables I think mostly. And she had an old lady on the Isle of Palms who made pies, Maddie I think. She would've go get her pies.

AB: And she cleaned ducks.

JD: She had wonderful food.

AB: What about drink? Were the drinking customs different?

JD: I don't think so [laughs] but you have to realize that I did have that Charleston tradition and we always ate a lot of rice. I don't know what else.

AB: What about cooking here?

JD: One of your questions was about how living in an old house was. I have so much space here and it was so wonderful, and I had done the kitchen to my way of cooking so cooking was easier. And I said my friends liked to entertain on the beach 'cause I think their kitchens were better. But I think my kitchen here was better than my kitchen on the beach. So cooking was easy. We had supper in the dining room every night with the children. I don't think we had cooked breakfast when Anne came along. I did with the older children.

KP: One thing that I always like to ask people - I didn't put it on the list - was tell us a short little bit about each of your children, and I know you've got one here [laughs], and your grandchildren.

JD: I told Barbara Smith the other day "I still don't understand Mariah" [laughs]. Mariah was so smart and so pretty. And she did everything just right. She was eleven when Anne was born and she really took care of Anne. Ashley Hall, as I said earlier, let out at 2:00 and then they had activities in the afternoon and Mariah usually wouldn't go back. She stayed here with Anne. She did a lot of needlepoint. She sewed. She rode with the hunt early on. She graduated first in her class from Ashley Hall. We sent her to Charleston Day School because we couldn't get her into Ashley Hall, Ashley Hall being more like St. Catherine's where she'd been. Before we even came they told us about Betsy Kirkland. And they said Betsy Kirkland-- People who knew from all around said Mariah and Betsy Kirkland are going to be friends. Well, they were friends but they were competitive students.

AB: Betsy Cahill.

JD: So it's really runny how Betsy has been a constant in our life. Mariah didn't spend much time at the playground I don't think and I don't think Mariah was an athlete.

AB: What about her class at Charleston Day? The size and everything about the school and the teachers?

JD: [Unintelligible] five students. It was interesting that when she went to Charleston Day School the ladies had just retired, the two ladies who founded Charleston Day School. And so they had-- Wallace Frampton was the head and he really didn't know how to be the head and the board didn't know how to be a board, so it was sort of interesting. But there were about five people in her class. And as they got into the-- At that point, Porter-Gaud - the only place for the boys to go was Porter-Gaud - they weren't taking them so any time there would be a space, the people would take the boys out of Charleston Day School and send them to Porter-Gaud, which meant there wasn't much stimulation for Mariah so eventually we sent her to Ashley Hall. I think she had a good run at Ashley Hall. She was very active in the church. She wanted to be an Episcopal priest, and she loved [unintelligible] St. Christopher. But then she decided she wanted to go to Princeton and that was because of Margaret Moore. She was determined she was going to Princeton. And her father didn't want her to go north at all. But he said the only place north she could go was Princeton. And once she went to Princeton, she was a whole different world. She didn't have much use for us [laughs]. Everything we'd done was wrong. And she met Van, who she ultimately married, but she lived with him for a long time. She went to work-- When she graduated from Princeton, she came home and took the mattresses off the beds and put them on the floor. That was one of her ways. She was constantly protesting or really trying me but Fitz Allison was the bishop and he arranged for her to-- She worked at St. Phillips and she worked for Renny Scott and she kept saying "something funny about him, there's something funny about him," and eventually it turned out he was, he was really weird. He was bewitched [laughs]. He got up in the pulpit and [unintelligible] and he left the church. Then she went to work in a volunteer service community in Washington and that was interesting. It was a house that belonged to the cathedral and then they did volunteer work. And she worked in the Settlement House in Washington with Hispanics and Blacks.

And then she left that house and moved in with Van who was-- He had a writing thing. He's always been a good writer. Then she came back and she and Van came and lived at Folly Beach. That was the early days of people rooming, I mean living together. That was really, really hard to take. And they lived at Folly Beach for a while and then she got into pottery and then they went to California. She was still looking at going to seminary and she was looking at seminaries in California. So they went to San Francisco for a while. No, they got married. They got married just before Bill and Devon did, which was just before her father died. She went to California and she did pottery for a while, didn't go to seminary. Then she decided she decided to be a massage therapist and she did that and I think she was very successful and I think massage therapy was really good with her. And they took off [unintelligible] the spiritual [unintelligible] like Mother Theresa. And they didn't have children. Then they finally had a little boy. Then she died in 2012. She had a lung [long?] cancer-- Not a lung [long?] cancer. And Van, who we had thought was not wonderful, turned out to be fabulous. He's Greek, second generation Greek. His father was born in Greece and his mother was second generation Greek. And he is a psychotherapist who works with families and children. And he's been absolutely wonderful. Sachi[?] is sixteen and Sachi's adorable. Sachi looks like Bill and Will. It's very much Greek, swarthy complexion. He loves to come-- He's come several summers and stayed with Anne and sailed with Walter Blessing.

Then I have Bill. Bill went to Episcopal High School, went to Porter-Gaud and then went to Episcopal High School. Was miserable at Episcopal High School, wanted to come home. He

didn't. He finished there. Then he came home and he worked in advertising and he worked in the bank and then he went to law school at South Carolina and he clerked for Judge Rawl and he's worked in several different law firms. He worked for Dana Sinkler for a while. He loved Dana Sinkler. He worked for Bobby Hood. Then he decided he wasn't supposed to be a lawyer. He's had an online business that has not been very successful so now he's looking for something else. He has a job interview tomorrow. But he has a-- Will, my oldest grandson, just graduated from the College of Charleston. Will and Thomas, their two sons, went to Charleston Day School and Bishop Englund. And Will graduated from the College of Charleston in business and he's just started a job in Charlotte. Will is very outgoing, never met a stranger, and he's just-- And he adores Anne's children; he's babysat a lot. Thomas the second son is more like his mother. The best thing Bill ever did was to marry Devon Gray and Devon is an amazing person, a very pretty girl. She is a very successful teacher at College of Charleston [corrected by AB]. She's into administration. She's the marshal of the faculty and she does a lot in her department. She travels and does work for some of the textbook companies telling them how to use-- I guess it's selling the textbooks but she's telling me how she uses it. But Thomas is at the Naval Academy and he is like her family I think. He's got the engineering ability. He's a "firsty[?]" and I think it's next week he'll find out what his assignment is. He wants to be on a surface ship. That's good. And then there's Anne [interviewer].

KP: You have to say nice things about her 'cause she's right here.

JD: Anne is wonderful and she-- What did she do? She went to Charleston Day School. Then she was the Jefferson Scholar at the University of Virginia, which is a great honor. Every time she gets something wonderful that she could do it at the University, I said "Anne, it's because of the Jefferson scholarship." Anne says "oh no, it's because I'm a friend" [laughs] of Mr. Gillum. But Anne met wonderful friends at Virginia and she traveled-- Were you out of college when you went to Italy or was that one summer?

AB: It was during--

JD: She went to something called HARI, Humanism in the Arts in Renaissance Italy, and was in Florence for what 6 weeks, a month?

AB: Two months.

KP: And I know she's a Ph.D.

AB: Yes.

JD: Now she's a Ph.D. It took her awhile to get that. She worked very hard on that. She graduated from Virginia and came home and I don't know what she did--

AB: I worked for Wyricks.

JD: That's right. She edited. She's a wonderful proofreader, which a lot of people need. Then she taught at-- When Dottie Rhett was getting ready to retire at Charleston Day School - and she was

sort of the first of her generation to retire - she put her hand on Anne and said "We want you to come teach" and Dottie sort of trained her to do it. So it's interesting for Anne to teach where she had been to school. How long did you teach?

AB: Three years.

JD: At that point, she was looking for going to New York. At some point she wanted to write. And then Beau Blessing came back into her life [laugh] and Beau had been in her life always. I tell people that Beau would come to every party Anne had and he'd bring a different girl every time and he'd always make a point of introducing her to us. So Beau has been around and I don't know how all of a sudden Beau was there. So she married Beau and they lived on Smith Street for a year and then he had to go to do his internship. He graduated from the Medical University. And they went to New Orleans and had a glorious life in New Orleans. They were there five years over a period of six years. They took a year off and went to New Zealand which was glorious. And he was a register, which meant he substituted for people, and they traveled all over. I went out and spent about six weeks with them. I met them in Sydney and we ate our way through Sydney. I went to the Great Barrier Reef and came back. Interestingly, we were in New Zealand on new year's and the first time I remember people texting, they were texting their friends as to where they were going to meet them on new year's day.

AB: That was 2002.

JD: New Year's Eve. And everybody was barefoot and that's the way people did in Auckland, in the viaduct area. They lived in an apartment that was glass and steel. It was so different from everything they've ever known.

AB: Our friends were the Pinckneys. There were Pinckneys in New Zealand.

JD: [Laughs] My Washington Pinckneys had found them.

AB: One thing we didn't cover is all the parties at this house and in Charleston.

JD: Oh this house. You know I lived in this house by myself for almost by myself for nineteen years. After Anne went to college I was here and I felt a little guilty about being in this house by myself, so whenever any group wanted to use it, I would do it and we had lots-- The house loves parties. My mother in law would have parties here. When William Scarborough got married we had the wedding reception here. One of Devon's Flood[?] friends had the wedding here. It just works for parties and it seems to love it so we do. Actually, Hunter and I had a party last year to celebrate ten years, only we didn't call it that. We called it Mardi Gras. But we had it here because our friends can't make it up to the apartment. And when we got married, we moved the furniture out and we had fifty-six people seated for dinner here on both floors. You know when I moved to Charleston I realized houses own you. And at first I resented it but now I think it's wonderful that houses own you. My house in Virginia doesn't own me.

KP: What do you mean by that?

JD: You have to spend all your money on it. It takes all your money. It also takes your spirit I think. I mean it in a good way. It identifies you and I think that's been very hard for Bill because I think one or the other of them had to take the house and Anne was the one who could afford it. Bill couldn't and yet he sees it has his identify and that's hard. Maybe I shouldn't say that but it's true.

KP: I like the thought of a house owning you.

AB: I very much understand what she's saying.

KP: I think we probably have to leave it there because we're a little over--

JD: I know I talked too long.

KP: Oh now. It was great.

AB: That's exactly what Miss Em [Emily Whaley Whipple] said [previously interviewed at 43 East Battery].

JD: What?

JD: I talked too much.

KP: It's fine.

JD: It's the things you care about as I said, this really did prompt my thinking, your sending me something beforehand.

END OF INTERVIEW