

Interviewee: Elizabeth Lanneau Cox
Place of interview: Mrs. Cox's home
Date of interview: December 27, 2018
Interviewer & Videographer: Katherine Pemberton, Historic Charleston Foundation
Also present: Shea Risakis
Transcriber: Home Row, Inc. [f/k/a Paul Garton, Inc.]
Length of interview: 1:06:30

BEGIN RECORDING

Katherine Pemberton: We're here in Edisto, in Bailey's Island, with Elizabeth Knight Cox, and I'm Katherine Pemberton, along with Shea Risakis, doing the interview. It's December 27th, 2018, and Miss Elizabeth, can you say and spell your name?

Elizabeth Cox: It's Elizabeth Lanneau Cox, and it's E-L-I-Z-A-B-E-T-H L-A-N-N-E-A-U C-O-X.

KP: And I know it's rude to ask a lady when she was born, but can you tell us the date and the year that you were born, and where you were born?

EC: I was born on June the 22nd, 1943, at Roper Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina.

KP: Excellent. So, tell me a little bit about your family, your mom and dad and grandparents, and where you grew up.

EC: Well, I grew up in Summerville, South Carolina. I was born in Charleston, but at that time, it was pretty ordinary to be born in Charleston and live in Summerville. So, say, two weeks in the hospital, and then I went back to Summerville. And my mother was Cressy Steele Lanneau, and my daddy was John Granger Lanneau, and both of them were born and raised in Summerville.

KP: Any brothers or sisters?

EC: I have one brother, Granger Lanneau, and he was born in 1937.

KP: So, with a name like Lanneau, your family was probably French Huguenots?

EC: Yes, they were. They left France in the early 1600s, and went to Nova Scotia because of religious rules that they had. We had no choice. If you weren't Catholic, you were beheaded. So, they left and went to Nova Scotia.

KP: And how did they get to Charleston?

EC: They stayed in Nova Scotia, just basically ordinary people and farmers and all, as far as I know. But it was three Lanneau brothers that came over from France. And so, in 1755, the English thought that the French and the Indians were going to get together and try to overthrow the English, so they burned all the farms and the homes, they separated the families, they put

them on these boats that were sort of the same condition as slaves came over on. They were overcrowded and the conditions were not healthy. And so we made the trip to Charleston, South Carolina, and they let us off at Sullivan's Island, which they had to be quarantined for six weeks because of the filthy conditions on the ships. But the only survivors were Lanneau boys - the parents died - and they were put up for auction for anybody that could take care of them because they were basically like 9 and 11. And so it was coincidental that Henry Laurens, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, he bought the two boys, and he was going to train them to become tanners. But he took them to his plantation and fell in love with them, so it wasn't long before they were made houseboys. And the affection for the boys grew, and he wanted to adopt them, but the boys didn't want to give up their last name, which at that time was very important to them. And originally the name was spelled capital L-A, capital N-O-U-E, with apostrophe E. But over time it changed to being spelled L-A-N-N-E-A-U. And so Henry Laurens, he educated these two boys in the best universities up north, and they became statesmen and were very good citizens. And so it just came on down the line 'til it got to us.

KP: Well, I know there was a Lanneau Art Store on King Street. Did you have any recollections of it, or -

EC: No, that was before my time. But that was W.S. Lanneau, which was William Stanton Lanneau. And before that, there was a Lanneau Toy Store, and that was way before my time. That was my great-grandfather, and I heard about it from my grandparents. But I never, I never saw it, but I heard stories, and it's sort of been passed down, the love of toys through the family.

KP: Well, I know that's something you have.

EC: Yeah, I love toys. My daddy loved toys, my grandfather did. And so, it's just one of those things.

KP: When did your - did your father grow up in Summerville as well?

EC: My dad did. He was born in 1909, and he was born at home.

KP: Where was he born? What house?

EC: He was born at the house on Cedar Street, which is now the Victorian house. And that house was given to my grandmother as a wedding present in 1902. She was an only child, and her parents lived right next door, which is now a little shopping strip, but the house was moved from that corner to over across the street from the old high school in Summerville, and it's next to the framing shop, and Hampton Street goes right beside it. It's on the corner of Hampton and Main Street.

KP: And so, where did you grow up? What house did you grow up in?

EC: I grew up on Hampton. 305 Hampton, and it was an old house which, I've always lived in old houses. And my mother said as a child, when she walked to school to the old grammar school

on Laurel Street, that she ran by that house, because it was very scary. It was dilapidated, but it was renovated later on.

KP: Did your parents do that?

EC: No. My parents didn't do it all. It was done way before that. But my father bought it from Mrs. Bunch. I don't know her first name, but she had a little grocery store on Carolina, on the corner of Carolina and Sumter.

KP: I was going to ask you where, in the days before all these big supermarkets, where did y'all go to get groceries?

EC: We had corner grocery stores. There was Mrs. Bunch, and then it was another grocery store on the corner of Hampton and Main Street, and then it was the big grocery store called The Teapot, which was on the corner of Richardson and Main Street, and you could pick up the telephone and call your order in, and the delivery boy would bring it.

KP: That's great.

EC: So, I really didn't know that a chicken didn't come in a package already wrapped up. I mean, you just, as a child, the groceries would come, and that's how it was. And most individual things were wrapped in brown paper tied with a cord. It just - I mean, if you bought grits or if you bought bacon or if you bought chicken or anything like that, if it wasn't in a can, it was wrapped up in brown paper. And if you wanted a carton of Cokes, they had little wooden Coke cartons with the handles that six Cokes would fit in. So, that's how you got your Cokes.

KP: Put your bottles back in there when you were done, and they'd pick them up?

EC: That's right.

KP: Bring you a new set?

EC: And we also had the milkman that would deliver milk every day.

KP: How about cheese and stuff like that too, or just milk?

EC: No, the milkman just brought milk and cream, as far as I remember. But we would get cheese from The Teapot. When I went to - I might be jumping the gun. I'll just wait for that.

KP: No, go ahead.

EC: Well, Mama died, got sick when I was very young, and she lived on Cedar Street in the Victorian house, as I said. And it was a little grocery store across from her. It was Mr. Strobel's.

KP: Is that where the Y, the YMCA -

EC: The Y has that now. And Mr. Strobel had this giant round piece of cheese, and he would cut your piece off, whatever you want. And if it got mold on it, he would just slice the mold off, and you would eat the cheese. And he had baloney, and he had mackerel, the smelly fish. And he had crackers in little individual tin containers, Nabisco - National Biscuit Company. They had their own little containers, and you could buy individual things in those containers.

KP: So, the stores were kind of - were they kind of in neighborhoods, too?

EC: Yes.

KP: It wasn't all just like a business district -

EC: No, it was not. Downtown did not have so-called stores like Piggly Wiggly or Bi-Lo Low, or Publix, or something like that. They didn't have a Piggly Wiggly until it was in the late '40s. My brother, when was like 15, he went to work at the Piggly Wiggly, which was on the square in downtown Summerville.

KP: Now where was that - was it on the Guerin side, or -

EC: Yeah. It was Guerin's was on the corner, and then it was Mr. Dunning's big house, which Mr. Dunning was part of Guerin's. He was a pharmacist. It was a big, big house that the steps came right down to the sidewalk, and then it was the Piggly Wiggly.

Shea Risakis: And that's where the Piggly Wiggly was, is where the Liberty Five and Dime was?

EC: Um-hmm. The Liberty Five and Dime, and then it was Franklin's at one time.

KP: And then Saul Alexander at the end?

EC: Yeah - Saul Alexander was the end, and Barshay's was there as long as I could remember. And Barshay's was a really - it was a little bit bigger than Saul Alexander, but basically had clothing and shoes, and they sold Buster Brown shoes for little kids, I remember that. And it was Sammy Barshay and Aaron Barshay. They were brothers, and they had it.

KP: Is that - how do you spell that?

EC: B-A-R-S-H-A-Y, Barshay.

KP: So, was the square like it is now? Was it like a park, or just an open area?

EC: Yeah, was like a park when I was growing up. Now before that, they used to have it fenced in, because the animals would just roam sometimes.

KP: Oh, great.

EC: And it could be a cow, a pig in there or something. So, they had it fenced off.

KP: But you would just kind of - people used it just like as a park?

EC: Yeah, when I was growing up, that I remember, like in the late '40s and '50s, it was a park. Not nearly as nice as it is now, but -

KP: Do you remember where the train station used to be?

EC: Um-hmm.

KP: Or do you remember it?

EC: I do.

KP: How about when it came down?

EC: I think it came down in the '60s, as far as I can remember. But that was the second train station. The first one was very Victorian looking, with gingerbread trim and everything. And the one that I remember was not as fancy. And then they had the depot where they brought in the packages and the heavy stuff, and that's over next to Doty Field now. They moved it over there.

KP: Okay. So, if you were going to go to Charleston as a child, would you take the train, or would you drive?

EC: No, as a child, my granddaddy - oh, I have to back up a minute. When Mama died, Mama was really sick, I told you. Well, she died when I was 10, so I went to live with my grandmother and my granddaddy in the Victorian house, which it wasn't called that at that time, but that's where it was, what it's called now. And he had a 1941 Chevrolet that you could see your face in, because he polished it before he put it in the garage, and when he brought it out, he polished it again. And we called it the covered wagon, because everybody looked at us. So, we'd get in the covered wagon early that morning, and granddaddy did all his banking in Charleston, and he had a brother that lived there, and so my Uncle Charlie and Aunt Frieda, we would always go visit them, and they were the ones - my Uncle Charlie worked at Siegling's Music House, which is the oldest music house in America, and my Aunt Frieda worked there too. But when they got married, my Aunt Frieda couldn't work there any longer. But it was a very, very neat store, and I'll tell you about that later. But when we went to Charleston, Grandma would go to Penney's and Kerrison's, and Granddaddy would go do his banking, and we would get lunch. And sometimes we ate at, I went to - oh gosh - at the S&S Cafeteria when it opened, but a lot of times, we'd eat at the dime store, which I can't think of the name of it -

KP: Woolworth's?

EC: Woolworth's, and it had a counter. And it had very good food. We'd eat there sometimes. And also, it was time that when Mama - before Mama died, that Daddy would take her to the Medical University to have treatment for her cancer, and he would leave my brother and me,

which my brother was six years older - he'd leave us in Woolworth's just to look around while she was - I mean, nobody would bother us.

KP: Right - yeah, it was really different place.

EC: It was very different.

KP: So, would you ever kind of leave the store? Would you walk around?

EC: No, we wouldn't leave the store. We'd stay in there and look for three or four hours, however long it took, you know. And nobody ever wondered what we were doing in there, or ask us what we were up to.

KP: Right. Well, talk a little bit about Siegling's, because I don't think I ever had anybody describe that.

EC: Siegling's Music House was on King Street, and it was old. I mean, it never modernized. And so it had these booths that you could go in and put the earphones on and you could play these big 78 [rpm] records. And it had - it sold all kinds of musical instruments.

KP: Did they sell pianos too?

EC: I don't remember them selling pianos. I'm sure they probably did, but that was something I did not - it wasn't of my interest. But they sold the little flutes that the children could buy, and they sold a little - I can't remember what - they were little metal things that you worked with your finger, and it made - it was like you would hit the side of a glass, and it would make high tones. We could go in there and just entertain ourselves, and nobody ever bothered with us. I mean, they didn't say anything to children if they went in and listened to music.

KP: And you could be on your own, pretty much, all day long. I think it's really changed a lot. What about getting around in Summerville? Did you and your brother ride bikes, or just walk everywhere?

EC: We rode bikes, and from where we lived on Hampton Street, to go downtown to the theater, we would go through Pike Hole. And of course now, you can't go through there. That'd be so dangerous.

KP: Where is that?

EC: It comes out - it starts right there on the street where the Cuthbert Community Center is and Sumter Street, and it goes by Dr. Lewis' old dentist's office through there, and comes out right by the Timrod Library, and then the Bethany Church would be on the right. But it was really dark and dreary, and you'd see people walking through there like - some people that you maybe didn't want to associate with. But we would just take off and go down there, and nobody said anything. And nobody ever hurt us. And we'd go downtown, and we'd go to Guerin's drugstore and have a Coke, a hot dog, ice cream. The hot dogs were like a nickel, and the Cokes

were a nickel, and ice cream was a nickel. I always got ice cream from my aunt and uncle's ice cream shop, which was across on Main Street where the theater was. It was called the Double Dip.

KP: Kind of near where Eva's is?

EC: It's down from Eva's a little bit, but very close.

KP: Was that a movie theater at the time? The James Dean Theater?

EC: It was a movie theater, and it had good movies. And we'd go every Saturday. It was always a cowboy, and it was on both sides of the theater inside was nothing but wild animals that they got from Africa. They went safari hunting, whoever owned it, and it was these scary lions and zebras and -

KP: It was Gertrude Legendre who restored the Medway Plantation who had shot all those things -

EC: She did.

KP: - and gave them to the theater. That's great.

EC: Yeah, we were always glad when the lights would go off, because they were scary. And sometimes we'd be watching the movie, and it'd go [makes fluttering noise], and the film would come off of the reel. So, everything would shut down, and they maybe had to put it back on. But it was so much fun. You'd go watch Doris Day and all the movie stars, and you'd go home skipping and singing like you were Doris Day.

KP: Some of that - because even when I moved to Summerville, 19, 20 years ago, there were a couple of sand streets. And people would tell me that there used to be so many more. Were there a lot of unpaved streets?

EC: Um-hmm. My daddy was born in 1909, and when he was in high school, he worked in the summertime helping them pave the streets in town, like Cedar Street and Richardson and all that. And I know Hampton Street, where I grew up, it was paved in the early '50s. It was a dirt street, and I was so excited because I was going to be able to skate. Well, they put this asphalt down with these big rocks, so you couldn't skate. But we skated around the Baptist church. It had sidewalks, and we would skate around the Baptist church. Then at one time Linwood was blocked off where the children could skate.

KP: That's pretty nice. So, tell me about where you went to school, when you went to elementary school, and then on up.

EC: Okay. I started off with the old elementary school on Laurel Street in 1949.

KP: Is that where the playground is?

EC: Um-hmm. Saul Alexander donated a lot of money to the town, and that was one of the things that they used. And I'm sure his money is still being used for different things. But I went to school there for five years. And then they built the new elementary school on Main Street, so we were the first class to go into that.

KP: Is that where Rollings sits there, or is that where Summerville Elementary -

EC: It's where Summerville Elementary. I think it's called, it was called Esther DuBose. It was dedicated to her, but they go by the name of Summerville Elementary. And Miss Muckenfuss, Frances Muckenfuss was the first principal, and she came over from the old school on Laurel Street. We couldn't put anything up on the walls. We couldn't do anything. We had to have it just perfect, and it was - we had to have respect for our new school. And it was wonderful. It was beautiful. And the old school on Laurel Street was starting to fall down, and you could hear bricks falling every now and then, you know, and it was the third story that we would sneak up into, and there was a real skeleton up there. And we could see it. It was hanging, just like a real skeleton, and I can remember it just like it was yesterday. And so both schools were very nice, but we were glad to get into a new school.

KP: Well, at that time I'm sure schools were still segregated. Do you know where Black students went?

EC: They went to Austin, which was on Cedar Street. It was kind of where Parks Funeral Home is now. It was across on the other side of the street. Not beside it, but down just a little ways. And I lived on Hampton Street with Black families. We played together, we got along fine. Mama and all of the ladies. Actually, the Black ladies were so good to her when she was sick. And everybody got along fine. I mean, just fine, and we didn't really have a problem with integration. They're some of my good friends right now. If I see them, we hug each other and dance around, you know, like we hadn't seen each other in ages.

KP: Right - that's neat. Well, so Summerville Elementary was there, and then you went - what grades was that?

EC: It went from the first to the seventh. And then, the eighth grade, you went to high school, which was right beside it.

KP: And so where, up until recently, it's been Rollings Middle School.

EC: Yes.

KP: And that was the high school?

EC: That was the old high school.

KP: And that's why the kind of stadium - I was so confused when I moved to Summerville. Why is the stadium there?

EC: Yeah, I'm trying to think. Let's see - what year it became Rollings. Nicole was my daughter. She went to Rollings. It was the School of the Arts. And she went there, I think she was the second group to go in. She was born in '87, so she went there in the fourth grade, and I don't think it starts that early anymore.

KP: No, I think it starts with sixth, sixth through eighth, yeah.

EC: Yeah, and her core was classical ballet. And Robert Ivy, one of the good ballet, ballerina, or I don't know what you call a man in ballet - he was a big influence. And of all the people that tried out for the ballet class - Nicole was a gymnast, so she knew how to sit, and she sat with her legs under her, with her hair pulled straight back in a bun, and sat there like this [demonstrates] and the rest of them were sitting like this [demonstrates]. And he called her out by attention. He said, "there's one young lady in here that knows how a ballerina sits." And she was so happy. She was really sitting like a gymnast, but to him -

KP: It was just straight - sitting straight.

EC: And that was the best school. It was like going to the best private school, and not having to pay for it. It was absolutely wonderful.

KP: Well, tell me about when it was Summerville High School first.

EC: Okay. When it was Summerville High School, I think in 1924 is what the date is up on the top - my dad was the first class to graduate.

KP: Oh, really?

EC: Uh-huh. I don't know if he was the first one to graduate all the way through. I'll have to figure it out how it was, but he always said he was the first one. And it basically stayed the same until Rollings took over, and then they closed some of the windows. But when I was going there, they had an old coal furnace, and we kept our long coats on that came below our knees, and we wore wool sweaters, and it was cold. And we had very good teachers. We had some of the old teachers that taught my dad and mom. They were still there when I went through, like Mr. Rollings, the school was named after. He was my history teacher, and Mr. Fuell, he was the chemistry teacher, and he was also head of the school buses, which I was best friends with the principal's daughter, and the school bus system had all boy drivers. The students used to drive the buses, and so Frankie and I decided that we wanted to drive a bus, so we had a little head start. We sweet-talked her daddy into letting us try to get our license, and he said, "if you can pass the test, I'll let you girls try." But he said "that's an awful big thing for you girls to drive." So, we had Mr. - oh gosh, forgot his name - the highway patrolman. Anyway, I'll think of it. We had him to teach the class, the course, and by the end of the course, Frankie and I were driving the school bus with his patrolman hat on. We had it made - I mean -

KP: That's great.

EC: We wrapped around our little finger. And so, we passed, and both us got permanent routes.

KP: That's great.

EC: And so I drove a school bus for two years.

KP: How cool is that?

EC: And Frankie did too.

KP: Did you get paid?

EC: Yeah. We got paid \$35 every 20 days.

KP: Wow.

EC: That was big money.

KP: Yeah.

EC: And I also taught baton, and I got a dollar an hour, and we had 50 students. So, I was rich. I bought my own clothes.

KP: Now tell us a little bit about being a drum majorette.

EC: Well, I wanted to be a drum majorette from the time I could remember. And so I learned to twirl a baton with a broom. The patrolman's name was Welch. I hate to go back, he was the highway patrolman that gave us our bus driver license. Okay, back to the baton. Well, so, when Mama would get sick, I would have to go stay with my aunts in another city, so I got my first baton from my cousin, and it was a real big, thick baton. And now they're so thin and everything. Well, I got that, and really learned to twirl better. And so I would - then I knew that if I wanted to be a drum majorette or a majorette, I'd have to play an instrument. So, I went to Mr. DiPauli, which was our band director, and he put me on a clarinet. So, I wasn't ever very good, but he liked me because he was Italian, and I had jet black hair, and he would sort of - not anything bad, but he would sort of wink at me every now and then, and I would smile and he would call me down after the song was over and say that I was grinning. But I never told on him for winking at me. But anyway, it was customary to pick a drum majorette that was a senior. But I got it when I was in the 10th grade, so I did pretty good.

KP: You held it for three years.

EC: Yeah, and so I basically led the band, but when it came time for the majorettes to do their routines, I was the one that made the routines up for them, and so I would twirl with them. But how I learned to twirl and get the routines was I'd watch the football games on TV, because the

old college teams would have the majorettes that would twirl, and they wouldn't break in for commercials or anything. So, I really enjoyed it. It was a lot of fun.

KP: Were TVs kind of commonplace when you were in high school?

EC: No. We would go downtown to Singletary's. It was where, it was across the street from the post office, and - I'm trying to think what's there now, It's a train shop there now, but it was -

KP: Oh, it's sort of antiques, it's sort of a -

EC: Yeah, it was sort of a big building, The lawyer's office was there. Anyway, they'd have TVs playing in the window, and you could go park in front of the TV and you could see the picture, but you couldn't hear what was going on. So, that was in like 1951, 1952, but when Mama got really sick and Daddy knew that she wasn't going to be there much longer, he bought us a TV in 1952. And it had leather sides, and it was about this big [gestures], and it was a GE.

KP: It was like a big piece of furniture, right? It was pretty big, right?

EC: Yeah. Well, you could get them like that, but Daddy spent so much money trying to keep up with Mama's medical bills that we only got the small one that sat on the table.

KP: Right, with those rabbit ears.

EC: Yeah, rabbit ears. And if you wanted color TV, you could buy a piece of cellophane that had blue, red and orange on it, and you stuck it to the screen. And TVs weren't the thing then. They didn't - we had no TVs, we had no air conditioning, we had -

KP: So, you mentioned the post office. The post office was right around the corner from your-

EC: Grandmother.

KP: - your grandmother's. And that became the Public Works.

EC: Commission of Public Works, where you paid your water bill.

KP: And then, so that was where the post office was, and then Town Hall - in your recollection, was it always where it is now, or was it - because there was that little Town Hall building that I guess -

SR: The Carolina?

EC: No, that was way before I was - actually, Summerville used to be in that area, and then when the train came through in 1830, the town moved closer to the railroad.

KP: I gotcha. So, that's why the old Town Hall is really on Carolina because that was kind of the hub right there, with the old Town Hall and St. George, or -

EC: St. Paul's -

KP: St. Paul's Episcopal right there.

EC: And the Presbyterian church, and all of that - yeah.

KP: Where did y'all go to church?

EC: Presbyterian. We were - well, when our families came over, we were French Huguenots, but then somehow we got to be Presbyterians, I don't know why. I mean, some of my cousins have joined the French Huguenot Society and all that, but I never did. But anyway, we've always been Presbyterian, and my Mama was Presbyterian, and my Dad, so -

KP: Do you remember any particular houses in Summerville that strike your memory as interesting houses, or interesting families that lived in the homes?

EC: Well, the house on the corner of Hickory and Richardson, I remember that house. That was a leb - L-E-B-B - I can't exactly, I'm tongue-tied right now.

KP: Labborman, or Lebberman?

EC: I think it was Lieber House. Grandmama used to talk about that one, And Grandmama was - my first husband, he said Grandmama must have been a nosy little girl because she would always say, when we were looking for houses in the late '60s, "you don't want to buy that house," or "you don't like that house because they didn't build it out of good lumber, they didn't let it cure long enough." So, she said - and then it was a house on Sumter, I think it was Cat Peterman, I think it's where the Pratts live now. She said that was a really good house, and also, those houses on Sumter, the back of the houses faced Sumter. There used to be a street behind the houses, and so if you ever go look at those houses, the back of the house is actually the front. And you can see that the porches are a lot bigger and fancier. And so - and then, of course Grandmama's house. I've always loved that one. And the old Steele house, which is Rutherford, and as you come off of Main Street and go straight in at the red light, you'll run right into it. It was pink. Is it still pink?

KP: Maybe. The one that you would run right into it?

SR: It's where George McDaniel -

EC: Yeah, McDaniel's and -

SR: I don't know if he still lives there, but he did.

EC: Yeah, but -

KP: So, Steele, was that your mom's family?

EC: That was my mom's family, and they lived there. My Granddaddy Steele died in '38, and they sold it. I think they sold it for like \$3,000, which Mama wanted to buy it, but Daddy said all the relatives would come and visit. Typical man.

KP: So, talk a little bit about - you got married to Edmund Knight?

EC: Yeah.

KP: What year?

EC: We got married in '62.

KP: And then you went looking for houses in Summerville?

EC: We were the first house in Quail Harbor, off of Bacon's Bridge Road. And Everett Knight was starting - it's on Harter Drive. He was starting that subdivision, and so actually, our house was the first house -

KP: Which one? Was it right near Bacon's Bridge, or -

EC: No, it's -

KP: It's further back?

EC: Let me see where I can tell you where it is. Well, Salisbury Acres is right across the street, and it's still called Harter Drive. And that was Mrs. Harter, H-A-R-T-E-R, that was her property, and Everett bought it from her. It was probably about a quarter of a mile down going toward Bacon's Bridge from - there was a grocery store, Swett's Grocery Store. Mae Swett and her husband had a grocery store, so it's probably about five or six blocks down from that, and it goes off - if you're going towards Bacon's Ridge, it'll go off to the left. And our house was the first house that actually faced Harter. The first house, as you turn, faces Bacon's Bridge Road. It's an old brick house, and so - and we lived there for six years, and of course I found this house that nobody had lived in, at 620 Richardson. And it was basically in good shape but you couldn't see the house from the road because it was grown out with bushes and everything, and the Cooks hadn't lived there in 32 years. Because of health reasons, they had to move to Isle of Palms. And so - of course, I loved the house -

KP: Did your grandmother know that house?

EC: Oh yeah - she said it was built out of good stuff. And when she was a little girl, it was just enough room between that house and the house across the street for one carriage to go between. If you met another carriage, you had to pull over. And Daisy Dole - and it was called the Richardson house, and he was the mayor of Summerville at one time. I can't remember his first name. And then Daisy Dole was his daughter, and she inherited the house, and then after that it just kind of went on. But it's all heart pine. It was solid. The roof was good. The Cooks

what they did is, they kept the roof good, and they kept it painted. But as far as electricity and the plumbing, all that was gone.

KP: You were telling me, it was a very Victorian house, and you kept a lot of the lighting and-

EC: Well, it was none of the - the only light fixture that was there, I put it inside of the fireplace to keep it safe, and then a brick fell through the fireplace and broke it. But I had all the ceiling lighting and all was either originally candle fixtures or else kerosene that you pull down. And then when we had Christmas parties, the whole house would be lit in either kerosene or candles, and we just had lamps when we wanted real electricity. And I liked to fix it as close to how it was when it was built.

KP: You had a lot of Victorian furniture?

EC: Yeah, I love Victorian furniture. And of course, the boys had a tough time, because they put Farrah Fawcett up, then they'd go to school and they'd come home and Farrah Fawcett had gone. She would disappear. You know, with the swoopy hair. And they really couldn't have their room like they wanted. In their room was an old coal stove - was iron. And then they had the two school desks that you put one school desk in front of the other, like the old timey ones that the seats would flip up, and then they had the old high poster beds. And so they didn't get - I would bribe them. When Edmund got old enough to have his own bed, I wanted to buy him a canopy bed from Ethan Allen, Ethan Allen workshop downtown. So, I made a promise with him. I would let him miss school every year at the beginning of duck season if he would sleep in the canopy bed. So, his friends had a good time picking at him because he slept in a canopy bed with a top with the string top.

KP: But he got to go duck hunting.

EC: He got to go duck hunting. And so - anyway, they loved it. Of course, as soon as they moved out, they got waterbeds.

KP: You had two boys.

EC: Two boys.

KP: And then later -

EC: And they were born in '63 and '66, and then in '87, we decided we wanted another boy because the house was really quiet when they were off at school. And we had a little girl. And it wasn't quiet anymore. So, - and they said, "what are we going to do with a girl"? And so, I mean, she took them for a ride, she really did.

KP: That's a big age gap.

EC: It's 20 and 24 years difference in their ages.

KP: That's great. So, that house on Richardson, was it near Oak Street where the Coxes lived?

EC: We were, as you come down Carolina, we were on the corner on the right side. It's Carolina and Richardson meeting. We were on the right-hand corner, and if you turn left and go one block on the corner of Oak Street and Richardson, is where the Coxes lived. So, it was just one corner, and then the next.

KP: Okay.

EC: And remember Shea and Arden and Dan? Sometimes we'd meet at the playground and play, and they went to school together and church together, and the Coxes were very special. And Lena was one of the sweetest mothers and wives that I'd ever seen. And when Joe found out I was pregnant at 43, I remember one day he came - I was in the yard, and he came down the driveway. I'd say he had 12 carnations, pink. He said he had 12 camellias that were pink. So, we don't know what he had. That was really sweet, and then Floyd Putney next door, he came over and brought Edmund a bottle of liquor, and I didn't think that was too sweet. And then we had pictures with Arden and Joe holding Nicole. Yeah, isn't it sweet? I don't know where you were that day, Shea.

SR: I was in college then so I was probably off at school.

KP: That's funny. It's funny how things turn out.

EC: Yeah, and just a good neighborhood. We had the Dions that were on the corner on the other side, and the Putneys were next-door neighbors, and they're just really nice families.

SR: Do you remember your grandmother ever saying anything about Mr. Prettyman or the Prettyman house or anything? We don't have a whole lot of information about that.

KP: Where the Coxes lived on -

EC: Yeah, the Coxes lived in the old Cannon Prettyman house. And my grandmother, she - as one of the houses, she said that that was one of the very best houses, because he had a lumber mill, and it was, I think, Grandmama said it was built in the early '20s. Now, this is her memory. I don't know if that's exactly right. But - and they had camellias. Oh my God. Gorgeous gardens with camellias. And she thought of Cannon Prettyman.

KP: Did he ever marry, or was he just on his own?

EC: Yeah, he did - didn't he?

SR: He had two wives. I know that the second wife, the first wife was very sick, and the second wife was the nurse of the first wife. So, when the first wife died, he married the nurse. But we did find some things like some receipts for expensive clothing purchases in New York City during the midst of the Great Depression. But we found the old nurse's uniform, the all

white with the little hat and everything, and we found an old evening gown in the house. And of course, all of the camellia ribbons for those -

KP: Had a lot of camellia records.

SR: Yeah. The flower competitions that he entered, and things that he judged nationally.

KP: Right. That's so interesting.

EC: But he was a brilliant man.

KP: He was into everything, I think.

SR: Dog breeding -

KP: Breeding dogs, and growing camellias, and running a sawmill, and all sorts of things.

EC: And Virginia, his sister, had a house - if you go from our house back around Carolina on the sharp curve, she lived there. I don't remember the name of that street, but it's where Georgia McCaulis lives now. But that house has always been kept up, and very, very pretty house. But is that gown you found, that black gown that your mom had her portrait, is that the same one that was in the Prettyman house?

SR: Yep. I tried to sneak it out of the house one time. After I was running, I was going to take it to my house, and I got caught.

EC: Do you have it now?

SR: I don't think that I have it. I think Dad has it with the -

EC: But it's still - you still have it in y'all's possession?

SR: Yes. Intact packed and protected and -

EC: It's a beautiful dress, and Lena looked elegant in it. It's really pretty.

KP: It's in good shape now, for as old as it is.

EC: And also, I'm going to tell you this one thing. The Gadsden property, where Thomas and Susan Dion live now, it's across Carolina from where, our house on Richardson. That was the old Gadsden house, and my grandmama remembers, they sold camellias too. And my grandmama remembers going there in a horse and carriage with her mom and dad were going to visit to buy some plants. And she sat on the porch with old Mr. Gadsden, the grandfather that fought in the War Between the States, and she remembers him telling her stories about the war.

KP: Oh wow.

EC: And so - and also, when Mr. Gadsden, not the grandfather, but when Mr. Gadsden got really sick - let me see if I'm getting this mixed up - no, that's not the right - well, Mrs. Gadsden lived in the house when we moved there in 1969-70. But she inherited that house from Mr. White, so it must've changed hands somewhere in there. And she was his nurse, similar to the -

KP: Right, to the Prettyman -

EC: - Prettymans, yeah. She was his - and she also inherited all that land that goes down in Gadsden Estates and all.

KP: That's so interesting. Well, one of the things I was going to ask you, and I forgot - so we're switching gears completely, but we had talked a little this summer about camp meetings.

EC: Yeah.

KP: And I think there's kind of been a lot of interest in those. Which camp meeting did your family go to?

EC: Well actually, it's when my Dad remarried, he married Julia Felder from Bowman, South Carolina. And they were the ones that had the tent. It's a wooden structure but they called a tent, and it's very primitive, and they sleep on platforms upstairs with straw in it. And if you have to go to the bathroom, you go to an outer house behind it. And they had the cooks that come and cook for the whole week, and they eat the best foods, this wonderful food. And they have - above the table where they eat, they have a sheet stretched, or a couple of sheets, bedsheets, where the straw won't fall through on your food. And then the weird thing about it is that the promenade - there's a tabernacle in the middle.

KP: Like a church -

EC: Church.

KP: - sanctuary

EC: It's open. It just has a seat, has a roof, but it's open. So, you walk around the big circle. I think Indian Field has a 100 tents.

KP: And it's all in a circle.

EC: It's all in a circle. And, of course, us being from Summerville didn't know a thing about that. You know, who in the world that, when you were 14 years old, wanted to be pushed out for a bunch of boys to eye you, to see if somebody would ask you to promenade. So, when we were made to go to the camp meeting, we would go around a little ways and then sneak to the back, and we'd talk with the cooks, and it wouldn't be long before they figure that we weren't walking around the circle, and somebody would come and grab us and push us back out there. But they had wonderful sermons. They had different ministers that'd come, and they'd stay for one week. It takes in the first Sunday of October, no matter how that falls. It takes that in.

KP: And it's still going!

EC: Um-hmm. And when I was a teenager in the '50s and '60s, it was 100 years old over then. It's old. It's two of them - there's Cypress, and there's Indian Field. Indian Field was near St. George, and Cypress is near Ridgeville.

KP: Right. And there's another - there's a couple of African American ones, too, and I can't remember the names of those.

EC: Yeah.

KP: It's really interesting. I just found out about those, and I don't know very much about them. Well, is there anything else that I should ask you about that we haven't talked about?

EC: Well, the old - it's a really large house on Main Street, right before you get to the old high school. It's owned by the Reformed Episcopal Church now.

KP: Right. Is that a house?

EC: That was built as a single house for a mother and her son.

KP: Wow.

EC: The second story has a ballroom. I mean, just like the Charleston houses. It had modern bathrooms with tile and showers and all. And when my grandmother was a little girl, she would walk to school. She went to school at Hattie Crackenbush's private school. And I can prove that because I have her little books that she had. And Hattie Crackenbush had written in this beautiful script, you know. It's right close to Rollings, and the school owns it now. But it's a long house.

KP: But it's little in the front.

EC: Narrow - narrow. That was Hattie Crackenbush's private school.

KP: Gotcha. I think it's now Dorchester County Office for Gifted and Talented or something like that. That's great.

EC: Yeah. And coincidentally, my Aunt Madeline, which was one of my mama's sisters, lived there when I was growing up. So, I was familiar - it's a strange house - it just goes straight back.

KP: But that big giant one that turned into the Theological Center, wasn't that Porter Gaud?

SR: Pinewood.

EC: Pinewood, yeah - Pinewood. It was Pinewood.

KP: Right - when it started.

EC: That Miss Allen, Steve Allen's wife Henrietta, right? And the house next door was Mrs. Muckenfuss' house, which Henrietta was a Muckenfuss before she married Steve Allen. So, that was used as part of the school for the boarding students, I heard.

SR: Well, when we were at Pinewood, what they called Reading Research, that's where the Reading Research classes were, and that was basically kids that had things like dyslexia.

KP: Gotcha.

SR: But I remember when we went to school at Pinewood, several of the rooms, the classrooms, had fireplaces in them, and we would have to go out and get firewood -

KP: To have a fire.

SR: - during class time. We'd have to go send somebody out to bring in firewood to put in the fireplace.

KP: Because it would get kind of chilly.

SR: And there was a downstairs classroom that had some sort of very fancy wallpaper, that the wallpaper in that room, they always told us was the same wallpaper as in the Governor's Mansion in Columbia.

EC: Oh. That was Mrs. Muckenfuss' house?

SR: No, at Pinewood.

EC: Well, the big house.

SR: The big one, yeah.

EC: Okay.

KP: I always think about that house especially, because it's right near where Rollings is now. But also, during the Azalea Festival, it gets a lot of stuff - people park there. The Azalea Festival with the Y, does that go back very far? Did someone else have a festival like that?

EC: I don't remember what year the festival started, but - they say back in the early '40s, they used to have parades and have different functions. And a lot of it would be in the old Mrs. Gadsden's house back where - off of Parson? That house -

SR: The Woodlands?

EC: The Woodlands, yes. I said Gadsden estate a little while ago, I meant the Woodlands. Yeah, they would entertain the soldiers that were in town during World War II and Korean War and all that. And there's several pictures in these books like that. But they say they did celebrate it back in the '40s, and then it sort of died down, and then the Y brought it back.

SR: There was an Azalea Festival in downtown Charleston in the old days, but it was mainly on The Battery. It is kind of funny, because it hopped around, that the same name got used.

EC: We would always go to Charleston. The band was invited to go to Charleston to march, and I can remember the theme being azaleas.

SR: They had to stop calling it the Azalea Festival because that's what Pickens does. In the upstate. They, I guess, had dibs on the name Azalea Festival, so that's why it got changed to the Flower Town Festival.

KP: Oh, right - right right.

EC: Well, when I was growing up Azalea Park was beautiful.

KP: I was going to ask you about Azalea Park. Is it pretty much the same?

EC: Well, they've gotten it back to where it's really pretty, but then it went down to nothing when it was all grown up, and vines were all in the azaleas and everything.

KP: And that canal always sort of like that?

EC: I don't remember the canal, whether it was there or not. But I remember traffic was so bad during the azalea season, that we had so many tourists -

KP: Just coming through to look at the azaleas?

EC: Yes, and - like the Squirrel Inn and Carolina Inn, which is on Sumter, they were packed. And they had artists on the corner drawing pictures and painting, paintings and all, and it was just - the town was just packed. And I can remember as a little girl, I ran home and got the Sunday newspaper which my daddy had not read, and gave it to one of the tourists because it had all these pretty pictures of the azaleas in it. And she was an artist. And I said, "oh, did you see today's paper"? And she said, "no honey, I haven't." And I said, "well, I'll run home and get it for you." It wasn't too good of an idea. But Summerville, it went through a lull in the '60s, and maybe the late '50s. I think they did a lot more in the '40s and all.

KP: Definitely with a lot of the hotels - we talked a little bit about the Pine Forest Inn. Do you remember that building? Was it taken out before your time, or -

EC: It got torn down in the very early '50s. Because I remember Mama, she was still living, and she went there. They had an auction, and she got several pieces of furniture and different

things, pieces that had Pine Forest Inn marked on it. And so it had to have been in the very early '50s, or maybe it could've been in the late '40s.

KP: They left the gates.

EC: They left the archway gates. But it was way beyond its time. I mean, they had, the heat that other places didn't have, and Theodore Roosevelt came to visit and, I mean, it was really nice.

KP: Really fancy, for sure.

EC: And then it was torn down. I don't remember it being dilapidated. I just remember it being a big wooden building. And Mr. Salisbury owned it at that time.

KP: Oh, right - well, that's Salisbury Street right there.

EC: That was Lila Henley's father. He owned Salisbury Acres. He bought that, Salisbury Acres they say, for just like 25, 50 cents an acre back then. And Pine Forest Inn had, I think it had two golf courses.

KP: Yeah, it was pretty elaborate.

EC: And they had their own laundry, big steam laundry. They had the Olympic-sized indoor swimming pool. I mean, it was really the place. And Summerville at that time was voted one of the best of two places in the world to come for health reasons, and that's when people were dying from tuberculosis, and it was because of the pine trees.

KP: The air was supposed to be so much healthier.

EC: Um-hmm. It was on a high sand ridge. Somehow it got to be the low country after that. But Summerville basically is probably higher than a lot of places between here and Charleston. But it was fun growing up in Summerville. Everybody was friendly, everybody knew everybody, and it was just a nice place.

KP: Small town, right?

EC: Small town.

KP: Well, thank you so much. I know this isn't something you do every day, so I thank you.

EC: And take into consideration that this is hearsay that I heard from my grandmother, and you know - but she was pretty sharp. And Daddy and all - and I was very fortunate to have been able to have grown up with my grandmother. A lot times people say, oh, you poor thing. You lost your mother when you were so young. But I just think it was a wonderful thing that I got to know my mother, my grandmother and my stepmother. I had three mammas instead of one, and it was very good. I wouldn't change anything.

KP: Well, thank you. All right, well, I'm going to sign off -

END OF RECORDING