

INTERVIEW II

DATE: April 18, 1978
INTERVIEWEE: MRS. HUGH POWELL (DORRIS POWELL)
INTERVIEWER: MICHAEL L. GILLETTE
PLACE: LBJ Library, Austin, Texas

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G: You say that a Mr. Blocker was the architect for the Brick House?

P: One of the Blocker sons. I believe it might have been Eads Blocker.

G: Did he live in Marshall?

P: No, he lived at Mimosa Hall, the Blocker plantation.

G: Had he also designed that or one of the Blockers' [homes]?

P: He had designed other southern colonial homes in the area.

G: You said that the foundation was a log foundation.

P: Huge logs, several feet in diameter. You could trace the rooms by the layout of the logs. Each wall was standing on one of those huge logs which were square and the length of the wall.

G: You indicated that a Colonel Fitzpatrick had lent his slaves to Colonel Andrews.

P: To build the Brick House. The plan was that when they had finished building Colonel Andrews' house they would go over and build one of similar style for Colonel Fitzpatrick. But the war broke out and the Fitzpatricks never got their house.

G: That brings us to Mrs. Fox, who was

P: He was Mrs. Fox's grandfather. She always resented the fact that she didn't have an ante-bellum brick house.

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G: Did she resent Mr. Taylor because he lived in the house?

P: There was some disagreement between them. I don't know whether it was from that altogether. But she was an eccentric-type person. She did not like Mr. Taylor but she did like Lady Bird. Lady Bird and I used to visit her when Lady Bird would come home from college or probably it started during high school. But on several occasions we went to visit Miss Mildred, Mrs. Fox. She liked Lady Bird and advised her to continue her studies at the University and to not marry and settle down, but to get out in the world and go. Especially she was very proud of Lady Bird when she married Lyndon and he was elected to Congress. I remember visiting her with Lady Bird when he was in Congress. She was very complimentary. We always felt that she liked us, and it was certainly a treat to visit with Mrs. Fox.

G: What else did she talk about when you visited with her, Mrs. Fox?
Did you talk about the Old South?

P: No, she did not. If she did I don't remember. Lady Bird could probably tell you more because I never went except with Lady Bird.

G: Mrs. Fox, you said, was in the DAR and was very active in that.

P: She was an officer in the national level of the DAR and had a beautiful cup and saucer under a glass dome which was presented to her at the end of her term of office. She was very proud of it.

G: Back to the Brick House. The Brick House, I understand, was built with bricks that were made on the place.

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P: By slave labor and made on the place, just back of the house. The remains of the old brick kiln were very evident. We used to play out there as children.

G: You indicated also that there was a log room. Is that where the kitchen used to be or where the kitchen is now?

P: No, I think Miss Minnie had the log room attached to the back of the house, through the back porch and into this huge log room. It was really a log cabin, I suppose, with a huge fireplace at one end of it. And that was more or less--well, we would say a game room or a family room. She had some bearskin rugs on the floor. That's where we had parties. At Christmas, the Christmas tree was in the log room. One time, at least one time, she gave a party for the help, the colored people who worked for her, and they came and brought their families and their children. Everybody danced and we watched. It was similar to the way the plantation people entertained their help at Christmas.

G: What happened to the log room?

P: It was torn away after Miss Minnie died. I don't know when or why. A modern kitchen was built in later years.

G: Was the kitchen built where the log room was?

P: Yes.

G: I see. So the log room would have been in that photograph.

P: No, this kitchen runs out this way. The log room was directly behind, out this way.

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G: I see, I see.

P: This is the kitchen and on this opposite side is a little glazed-in breakfast room. You come in from the side porch into this little glazed breakfast room, through a butler's pantry, into this kitchen across the back of the house. And that, however, is the distance. It did replace the log room, the kitchen and the breakfast room.

G: Was the log room used at all for cooking, too? Where did they cook before they built the kitchen?

P: I don't know. (Laughter) I wasn't interested in that. I just remember the huge room. Probably it came out this way. There was a kitchen. You know, at one time they might have turned the end of the dining room into a kitchen, because it was a very long dining hall. You see, all those old plantation homes had huge dining rooms because that's where they really entertained. They had their dances and balls or whatnot, celebrations. And it was necessary. Too, they had such large families. I think one time there was a sort of partition across one end of it, and it might have been used for a kitchen.

G: There was another house behind the store where Tony and Tommy were born and where the Taylors lived before they bought the Brick House.

P: That's true. That's where Miss Minnie came as a bride. It was a nice-looking house, one of the nicest-looking houses, the best-looking houses in town. It had an open hall and a long L, you know, the type [that went] this way and a long L and an L-shaped gallery or porch, and the kitchen and dining room. I think the guest room was probably across

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the hall and two other bedrooms, about three bedrooms, a dining room, and kitchen and so forth.

G: Was that house built by Mr. Taylor?

P: Yes, he built it for Miss Minnie.

G: Not the Brick House but the one behind the store.

P: The one behind the store is the one he built.

G: Now, let's talk about them. You've indicated that there was a story that he had to stop on his way to Alabama at the fork of the road and determine whether he should go get her and bring her back to Texas, because life was so different. Can you remember first of all who told you this story?

P: I don't remember very much about it. Mr. Taylor might have said that and he might not have.

G: But how does the story go now?

P: Like that--that he was undecided whether or not to bring her to this kind of life. He thought about it, thought twice whether or not it would be the thing to do, and he did go get her and bring her with him. It wasn't because he didn't love her. I think he was considering how she would adapt to this strange environment.

G: You were talking about her headaches and her health, the fact that she did suffer from these migraine headaches, or whatever they were.

P: Today, in thinking back, those who knew her at that time said that she must have had migraines. She would tie a scarf or something tight around her head. Sometimes she would have a terrible time with a headache

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for several days. I don't know. I remember combing her hair after it had been tied up for several days and it was tangled. I liked to comb her hair, brush it and comb it. She shampooed her hair. Of course, everyone did it at home in those days, where we lived. She had long, fine hair, soft, light brown hair.

G: I'm wondering if she ever lost any of her hair due to this illness or one of her illnesses?

P: No, she had pretty hair. It was soft and fine, rather thin I would say, but she had pretty hair.

G: You indicated that oftentimes when wagonloads of people would come by she would. . . .

P: Oh, some of the country folk would come to visit and they'd bring their children. She had the headaches; she wasn't well, and so she would remain in her room upstairs, and they'd say, "She can't see you today. She's sick." That seemed strange to country people because they usually went to see people when they were ill. But you can understand that the noise and so forth, how irritating it would be.

G: What did Mr. Taylor say about her--do you remember--in later years?

P: Oh, he always spoke so beautifully of her, especially to Mother. And when he married Ruth Taylor, Ruth Scoggins, his first thought when he introduced her to Mother, he said, "Mrs. Odom, doesn't she look like Minnie? She reminds me more of Minnie than any person I've ever known." That was his remark to my mother, who knew Miss Minnie so well. And Ruth was very pretty and fresh and young and typed similarly.

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G: Do you recall her activity in politics?

P: Oh, yes, Miss Minnie was very patriotic. At one time one of the local young men was running for an office. She got out and electioneered against him because she thought he was a slacker. In fact, she called him a slacker. That was a term they used for young men who didn't go into the service when they were qualified.

G: Did she ride around in a car doing this?

P: Oh, yes, she rode around in a car. She seemed to have a great deal of influence on the population, because the young man certainly didn't get the job.

G: You mentioned also that she would ride in the wagon down part way to the store.

P: No, the buggy. Mr. Taylor had a horse and buggy. When he'd leave early in the morning to go to the store, she would ride part way with him and then walk back through the dew. I remember how she looked as she came in because we were concerned that her feet were wet and her skirts were damp and bedraggled. But she usually had a bunch of wild-flowers in her hand, or something. She called Mr. Taylor "dearie." I never remember hearing her call him Tommy or T.J., or calling his name. It was "dearie" or "dearest." She addressed him in that manner.

G: Do you think she was a happy person basically?

P: I remember her as being a happy person. That would be my impression. Of course, I thought she was happy because she made me happy, and I liked her so much.

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G: You indicated that she protected the birds.

P: Yes, she protected the birds. She had a birdbath erected on the front lawn, a cement bowl on a pedestal, and you had to pour the water in it. We didn't have it hooked up to the water supply. As a matter of fact, the water supply was a well at the end of the long porch.

G: That's good to know.

How about her activities in the Red Cross? You indicated that she was in the Red Cross.

P: She worked with the Red Cross. The president of the Harrison County Red Cross, at that time, was Dr. Sargeant [?], the Episcopal rector, and he worked with [her]. Miss Minnie gave generously to the Red Cross of her time and she gave monies and encouraged others to work in the Red Cross.

G: Do you recall any of her attitudes regarding Prohibition, let's say?

P: It was never mentioned. If it was, I don't know anything about it.

G: Was she a religious person?

P: I suppose. However, I don't even know whether she went to church or whatnot. You see, there were two churches in Karnack, a Methodist church and a Baptist church. But remember, it was about four or four and a half miles the way we traveled around this winding road to Karnack. Now when we lived there before Miss Minnie came, Mother had a buggy and a buggy horse, and we would go to Karnack to church. But I don't know whether Miss Minnie ever went or not.

G: How about the Ku Klux Klan in that area? Do you have any recollections of [it]?

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P: (Laughter) We didn't have a local organization. That was much later I think, oh, many years later that the Ku Klux were organized, the Ku Klux Klan. Probably we had a Ku Klux Klan in Marshall, an organization, but I don't know anything about it.

G: I'm wondering if Mr. Taylor ever had a run-in with them.

P: If he did I didn't know anything about it. I haven't heard about it. There was a long period there, you see, after, and I wasn't very closely related. Lady Bird moved to Jefferson to go to elementary school after the school closed at the Brick House. From Jefferson she came to Marshall. Then I knew Lady Bird. I was married at the time she was going to Marshall High School. She used to bring her girlfriends home on the weekends. They'd come to my house before I'd get out of bed. I didn't have any children, and we went to the lake and had many picnics and so forth. In later years, when she was in the University, she would have a house party, and we would go to the lake. Hugh's uncle owned a lake house, and Hugh and I would chaperone the parties. He would come down at night. She brought girls and we'd have the Marshall boys down. That time Lady Bird remembers quite well the girls and so do I.

G: Do you remember her going to the Fern School, the first school?

P: They had moved the school from Dr. Baldwin's grove, that's where I attended school. There were seven of us. The school was on the hill by the cemetery, a little one-room school. They had tenant farmers living around, and one year the people moved away and Lady Bird was the sole remaining pupil in the school. So the teacher just stayed

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at the Brick House and taught her for the rest of the term, which was several months, and that was the closing of the school.

G: There was a woman named Nancy Lawrence, I understand.

P: Oh, yes, she was one of our teachers, Miss Nancy Lawrence.

G: Was she a friend of Minnie Lee Pattillo's? Do you know?

P: I don't know. That's not the one I think of. I don't know whether Miss Nancy Lawrence knew Miss Minnie or not. Some of the teachers must have known her, but actually I don't know which ones.

G: Okay. Let's see, you were in college, I guess at Marshall, when Minnie Lee died. Is that right?

P: Yes, yes. It was in 1918, I believe.

G: What do you remember about that, the circumstances?

P: I suppose we had a funeral home at that time in Marshall, we're bound to have. But the corpse was laid out at the Methodist parsonage, the First Methodist Church, and my aunt came out to the college and picked me up and we came to that. The service was in the church. But that's where I saw her, the corpse, was in the parsonage at the First Methodist Church. The family had gathered there. I did not get to go to Scottsville to the cemetery.

G: Was Mrs. Johnson there, too? I guess she was, even though she was only four or five?

P: I don't think so.

G: Oh, you don't?

P: No, I don't believe that she was there. I think--and Lady Bird has told me--that she thought that her mother was just away on a visit, and she kept thinking she would come back.

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G: So they didn't really tell her, I guess.

P: I don't believe they did.

G: What was Mr. Taylor's reaction to his wife's death? Was he pretty shaken?

P: Yes, he was saddened considerably.

G: I have the impression that perhaps it shook his religious faith a little bit when his wife died.

P: No, if it did, I think it might have drawn him even closer to the church. He was a trustee of the Karnack Methodist Church, was always in church on Sunday morning unless he was ill or something happened to prevent his coming that was out of the ordinary. I think we've covered some of this story.

G: Yes. Yes, his activity in church and your dealings with him on contributions.

P: That's when I was the secretary and treasurer and gathered these monies.

G: Now Minnie Lee had a chauffeur named Ransom Horne, is that right? Do you remember him?

P: Yes, I remember him. I think--well, I don't know what to say about Ransom Horne.

G: What was he like?

P: Well, he was a young man from the city. I don't know how he fared. I just remember his driving the automobile and there being so many complaints about the tools and certain things belonging to the car that were missing. (Laughter)

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G: Really?

P: Yes. I don't know how long he was in service there. I'm sure Tony could tell you about it because he was closely associated with him. Tommy learned to drive the automobile, and ran over a whole flock of guineas. The story was that a guinea could always get out of the way, that you could never hit one. So he saw the guineas all collected in the road, and he stepped on the gasoline pedal and went tearing into them and killed four or five guineas.

G: Did Minnie Lee usually rely on the chauffeur or did she usually drive herself?

P: Oh, when they bought the automobile they had to have someone drive it. She never drove, oh, no.

G: I see. You said that was a Hudson?

P: Hudson Super Six, with little jump seats, you know, like a funeral car, about the only ones that have it. Oh, it was long and heavy. There were only certain times of the year that you could get over the road. In the summer it would hit a sandbed and it was very difficult to get through. In the winter the rain and the mud would keep the [roads closed].

G: Now, let's see, you were going to tell me also about Goodwin Coleman, another character.

P: Oh, Good Coleman lived out at the Brick House with Mr. Taylor all those years that he was a widower, you know. He was a good friend and a fine person. He was very well educated. He could draw pictures of any animal.

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He sketched all kinds, and the children would go to him, "Oh, draw me a bear," "draw a giraffe," "an elephant," and his sketches were perfect. From memory, he drew all those things. As he drew he talked about the animal, his habits and so forth. And he was a fine. . . . He lived at the old Coleman place. There were magnolia trees, like most of the old plantation places, and he would come to visit and spend the night sometimes at our house on Saturday night, and would bring a croaker sack full of magnolias. The outer petals would have turned brown from having been bruised but you could peel them off. I liked them because they were so fragrant.

G: Had something happened to him, do you think?

P: I really don't know. But he had good education and his sister married Mr. Mike Parchman, who was one of the most prominent lawyers in our part. Then they had two daughters, Claudia and Virginia. Virginia Parchman was a classmate of mine in high school, and she married Fred Dyke. They had a daughter named Virginia who married N. L. Howard, who was related to Lady Bird.

G: Now, Mrs. Johnson had a series of nurses, I guess, when she was young. There was Alice Tittle, is that right?

P: Yes.

G: What was she like? Did you get to know her?

P: Oh, yes. Alice was a fine person. She loved Lady Bird and Miss Minnie.

G: There may be a picture of her in this.

P: Let's see, do you have a picture of Alice?

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G: No.

P: I bet you have one of Cindy. I told Lady Bird something the other day she didn't know. See the little white hat she is wearing in this picture here? My mother made that hat. And she wasn't supposed [to be wearing it]. It wasn't made for the picture. You see, the dress has lace embroidered tucks, but the little white linen hat was just a gift to Lady Bird, and she liked it so well she insisted upon wearing it. And Miss Minnie, being indulgent, said, "Miss Evelyn, we'll just let her wear it in the picture." And we thought it looked real pretty.

G: I wonder who took that picture.

P: She took her to Marshall, I presume, to the photographer, whoever was the local photographer at the time.

G: Cindy was a later nurse. Did she succeed Alice or what happened?

P: I thought Alice came first, I'm not sure.

G: Yes, and then Cindy after that. Or was there one in between?

P: I thought Cindy was the cook. Didn't Cindy live in the back yard? There was a house in the back yard the cook lived in.

G: What was Cindy's last name?

P: Gibson. Cindy Gibson.

G: What was she like?

P: Well, Cindy was big and fat and Alice was a little better educated and shall I say refined. More so than Cindy. Cindy was good and jolly and fine and filled the bill and we loved her.

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G: An interesting point. We were talking about Aunt Effie and you said that she lived on things out of a bottle.

P: She had ulcerated stomach. [It] went on for years and was better at times and worse at others. She usually, when Lady Bird was going into town, had something that she wanted her to bring to her from the drug-store. She always remembered the list and what she picked up for Aunt Effie. It came first. Because somehow, instead of Aunt Effie taking care of Lady Bird, I think more it was Lady Bird taking care of Aunt Effie.

But the little things like that, at a very early age Lady Bird accepted responsibility, and through her life at times she has always been a sort of a law unto herself. She will say, "Well, I don't want to work but I must work." When she did have fun, she said, "Oh, that's pure self-indulgence." Few of us think of it in that way. We think that is the natural thing to do, is the normal thing.

G: How were Aunt Effie and Minnie Lee different? How were they alike? You knew both of them.

P: Well, Aunt Effie wasn't as active as Miss Minnie. As I said, Miss Minnie took walks and she was very active, indulging in such things as political campaigns, the Red Cross work, and things of that nature. But Aunt Effie was more or less an invalid. She never was in a wheel chair but she didn't move about very much.

G: Even when she was younger?

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P: Well, I don't know how young she was. She was a sort of ageless person. I don't know what age she was when she came to take care of Lady Bird, came back from Alabama with Lady Bird.

G: I guess we've never seen a photograph of Minnie Lee Pattillo, is that right?

P: I haven't. If Lady Bird has one she got it probably from some of the Alabama kinfolks. I don't believe I have seen one to know that's who it was. She might have a photograph of Aunt Effie. I don't know whether she has or not.

G: Next on the list is going to the baptisms at Mount Sinai. You have some memories of that, I believe.

P: Well, I remember on several occasions after the big summer revival we went to the baptizing. Sometimes there would be as many as fifty candidates for baptism. We'd sing, and sometimes they'd be very happy when they came out of the water and they'd shout and seem happy, and other times some of them would come out sobbing. It affected them differently.

G: Did you go very often or just every once a year?

P: Well, once a year was about as often as it happened. They had the revival in the summertime, during the summer months. And that would be the only baptizing, as they called it, until the next summertime revival.

G: You also would chaperone Mrs. Johnson, I think, when she'd come home in the summer with friends from college.

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P: Yes. There was no one at the Brick House. Mr. Taylor was a widower, and when he did marry Miss Beulah, she went to the store with him. So there was very little home life.

G: So what would you do?

P: The girls would come to my house and we'd plan things to do. Usually we'd go to Caddo Lake. We had picnics and go swimming. Sometimes we'd have a bridge party, have several tables of bridge. A bridge luncheon was what we called it. We'd have the girls in and play bridge and serve lunch. I remember we had one at the Brick House. Some of the Jefferson girls are still living and the Wise sisters, there were two of them.

G: Would you ever go to the old Haggerty place, to the ruins of that?

P: No. I don't remember having gone to the Haggerty place with them. I went in later years with Miss Fannie Ratcliff of the Wren Collection [Humanities Research Center, UT Library] Library in Austin. She was, I suppose, looking up some historical evidence. You might find it, too, in the Library.

G: I'll check. Well, you'd mentioned earlier that you would tell her stories of New York and whatnot.

P: There was such a difference in our ages that fairy tales were--well, I had exhausted the supply of children's stories, Mother Goose. She was too far advanced for the things, and so you had to talk to her and improvise, make your own stories. I remember one of the stories I told her was about the city of New York, the trains that ran overhead

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and the trains that ran under the ground, and all the things that seemed so far away and distant and mythical almost. They did to me, at least, at that time and age. Later, many years later, we were walking down the streets of New York and she said, "Dorris, New York was never as fine as it was in those stories you told me about it."

I must have elaborated, drawn some fine pictures.

G: Did you spend much time with her that summer when she was redoing the Brick House?

P: Yes, I did. We went to Shreveport to talk--I think she employed the architect to do the work, Mr. Somdal. There was a good many things [to do] in that, the furnishings, when you're building or remodeling. But she wanted it to be kept strictly along the architectural lines of that period. She didn't want any additions that would detract from the original plan.

G: They did paint it then, I guess?

P: Well, it was about that time. The brick would have had to have been sanded and it would have been a major thing, major cost. And I don't know whether they could have managed it or not without electricity out there, to sand the bricks down, because they were not all of the same size. Antique bricks, homemade bricks, frequently are of various sizes. So it was painted a cream color and the lovely old pink bricks were covered.

G: Did you participate in that by. . . .

P: Just going with her. It's thirty-five miles to Shreveport, or [we'd go] to Marshall or to look at paints or whatever. I really don't know,

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but when you're in the job of having anything done, there's looking at colors and that sort of thing. It requires time and attention. The greater part of the remodeling and addition on the house was after Mr. Taylor married and long after Lady Bird had gone.

G: What was done at that point?

P: They laid hardwood floors over those beautiful old square-pegged floors. A lot was done. As you notice, the bannisters up on the upper balcony are wooden hand-turned bannisters. They were replaced with wrought iron at the bottom.

G: Oh, really. When was this done? What time period?

P: I don't know, it was after Mr. Taylor married Ruth Scoggins.

G: Initially, I guess, when Mr. Taylor bought the house, it had bigger windows, I understand.

P: It did. We used to find the windows under the house in places this wide that were for ventilation. Children playing hide-and-seek find all these goody hiding places. There was a stack of windows, those little sixteen-pane type windows, and they were, oh, very large. But they were cased in and had pulleys or rollers, window lifts, where you could raise the window and lower it. But those others, I'm sure there was no way [except] just by main force, you pushed them up and put a stick under them to hold them. Maybe there were too many of them broken out when the house was [not occupied]. I understand it must have been left vacant for a number of years. I don't know. We told stories about a ghost or two or three, some nice ghost stories.

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G: Was there one on the backstairs, do you know?

P: Oh, yes, dear. Upstairs there was a small room. Here was a lovely bedroom at the end of the balcony, very end of the house. Then you came up. There was a small room. In those days it was called a trunk room, a storage room. That's where they made the upstairs bathroom later. But Mother used it--we didn't use the upstairs bedroom. I think one or maybe two were furnished, but it was still a storage room, and that was my doll playroom. I'd stretch out my dolls and my furnishings and so forth, and I'd go up to play. And then after everything would be real quiet, I'd hear the stairs start squeaking, squeak, squeak, squeak, just like someone was walking up the steps. You'd listen and I could just imagine their getting up to the first landing and I would tear out, flying down, and they wouldn't be on the first landing. By that time I was so shaken I'd hop on the bannister and go scooting down the bannister. And the newel post had a curve like this and many times I've come scooting down and fallen off. Mother was always afraid. She said, "You're going to kill yourself bumping off the bannister railing." But it was a scary sensation. Through the years you could walk through the hall sometimes and a chair would be rocking. You'd think, well, a dog or a cat has been in the chair and has jumped out.

Oh, I don't know, there are so many funny [stories]. But there's one reason I think they promoted those ghost stories and so forth,

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was to keep the darkies from going in stealing. There was never a lock on any door; it was always open. They just didn't want to play around up there where those ghosts were playing about. Oh, there were so many stories to all that, I don't know who told them or what about. But as a little girl, there were always squeaks and sounds in old houses. It could have been a door blowing to and fro or something.

G: I have a note that one Christmas Minnie Lee gave all the boys Indian blankets.

P: Tony and Tommy had Indian blankets and probably the two Walter Taylor boys, Christmas presents. And they had a tent. I think it must have been a sort of Indian tent, more of a tepee. I don't believe it was like the modern version. I'm sure Tony could describe it to you. But one time they were spending the night in the tent in a skirt of woods near our house. Lady Bird was invited and Cindy. They asked me to go over with them because they were cooking on an open fire. We sat on the blankets and the boys cooked. They fried potatoes and fried meat. It was pretty awful but I think Lady Bird relished it. She thought it was great. We wanted to help with the cooking. Cindy, I'm sure, being a rather good cook, wanted to get up and do it for them but that was the fun of the party. They wanted to do the cooking, and did.

G: I have a note on B. B. Crimm, too.

P: Well, B. B. Crimm was an evangelist. I believe Mr. Crimm was killed in an automobile accident. There is a record of it in the files of the newspaper, Marshall News Messenger, I'm sure. He held revival meetings from time to time and went as far as Florida on some occasions.

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G: Was he popular in the area?

P: Well, he preached hellfire and damnation and I'm sure there must have been. . . . I really knew more of Mr. Crimm's two sisters-in-law and his wife than I knew of him.

G: Would Minnie Lee Pattillo, for example, go and hear him?

P: I really don't know whether Mrs. Taylor ever went or not.

G: I think the only other note that I have that we haven't covered concerns the period in which President and Mrs. Johnson were there right after his election to Congress in 1937 when he was there recuperating from that appendectomy. That would be May, 1937.

P: He was there on several occasions, and I always went out to the Brick House to visit and saw them. Mother would have them to her house for dinner. Once they were there at Christmas and Mother invited them down to her house with her family. All of us were there. He sent Mother a cookbook, Congressional Cookbook, which I have, and said, "To Mrs. Odom," so-and-so, so-and-so, "who has been so good to my little girl through all these years. Lyndon B. Johnson."

G: Do you recall that particular time when he was recovering from the appendectomy?

P: I'm confused. There were so many times. I thought that I did, because he was supposed to walk. But he always liked to walk. Even when we went to the Ranch in later years, in the evenings after dinner, he'd say, "Let's walk." He'd say, "Let's go to see Oriole," his cousin. And we'd follow him striding down to see Cousin Oriole.

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G: He did that almost every night, I guess, when he was there, see Cousin Oriole.

P: I think so. He'd get up and walk.

G: Well, is there anything else about these early years that we haven't covered that we need to talk about?

P: No. I don't think of anything presently. You've made me think of things that I had long since forgotten.

G: Well, you've certainly added to the record a great deal and I appreciate it.

P: I've talked a great deal. I don't know how much information or what it's worth.

[End of Tape 2 of 2 and Interview II]

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Dorris Powell
Donor

August 20th, 1979
Date

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