

Narrator: Virginia Jones

Interviewer: Excellence Perry & Hanna Wondmagegn

Interview Date: October 15, 2018

Location: Ms. Virginia's home, right off of Church St.

Length: 01:21:07 hours

Comments: Only text in quotation marks is verbatim; all other text is paraphrased, including the interviewer's questions.

0:0:37 Talks about growing up in Chapel Hill her entire life. Details her childhood and the important parts of her family. 10th of 10 children.

0:1:20 Describes her experience at the all black elementary Northside school. Goes into the explanation of the desegregation of schools as well.

0:3:36 Talks about desegregating the schools within the 1960's, and her experience attending Gabby Phillips Middle School.

0:4:23 Explains life within the desegregated Chapel Hill High School. She details the subjects that she enjoyed learning about in school and the opportunities she had there.

0:5:18: Details her arrival to NCCU, as she followed in her sister's footsteps to the college. She majored in Spanish and took many languages. She eventually graduated and was accepted into UNC's Spanish master's program, in which she was the only African American admitted.

0:7:00 Left UNC due to racial inequalities, and decided to return to NCCU and she eventually received her master's in Library Sciences.

She continued to work in the libraries here for over 40 years, and retired in 2016.

0:10:00 Returned to talking about life on Gomanes Ave. in Chapel Hill and the mischievous actions she committed as a child with her friends. Ms. Virginia also began talking about the subtle racism of Chapel Hill growing up, and the gentrification and rising taxes of current day.

0:14:00 Discussion of lack of student respect for traditional Northside residents, as well as the other members of the community that move into Northside without any prior knowledge of those who live there. In addition, she touched on the importance of her legacy and her property as well.

0:16:45 Began to discuss her relationships with her siblings growing up, and where they are currently. Began detailing the lives of civil rights leaders in Chapel Hill, and how she came to own and reside in the properties she lives in today.

0:20:45 Explains that Chapel Hill is incredibly expensive and that it is hard to maintain a lifestyle here. With the gentrification, Ms. Virginia delves into how the culture and community of Northside has changed as a result.

0:26:53 Ms. Virginia shifts to talk about the elements that have kept her tethered here to Northside, and why she still chooses to fight gentrification and remain within the two properties that she owns. It's because she loves where she lives, and because her family worked here and she wants to keep what they have and make sure their hard work was not in vain. She also delved into the history of her dog and why she likes pets and animals.

0:33:20 Talks about her best friends growing up in Northside. Hair wash day on Saturday, story about her hair escapades with her friends growing

up. Once again touches on the antics of her childhood. Ms. Virginia explains her religious background, and details her involvement within her childhood church.

0:36:30 Contrasts her time growing up with Northside with the troubling times of the present, and how life was “easier” back then. Felt more free during her childhood and her non-adult years. She explains that “change is change,” so she wants to make lemonade and “keep on rollin””

0:38:20 Expresses her frustration and annoyance with the investor notices and the for sale offers for her family as well as her phones. Ms. Virginia is adamant in protecting her properties from others, and insists on honoring her family by protecting the house they grew and thrived within.

0:41:40 Ms. Virginia begins talking about how she became a caretaker for her Aunt 3 or 4 days a week, in coordination with her sisters. Talks about the stresses of being a caretaker, and how she pushed through taking care of her mother, husband, and her aunt before they all passed. She called herself the “caretaker” of the family.

0:44:55 Ms. Virginia explains how she became in possession of the secondary house we interviewed her within. In addition, she talked about the emotional reaction and influence her Aunt had on her before she passed, and she came into possession of the house after her death at the age of 91. She explains how the house is an extension of her Aunt and that she doesn't need to replace a thing.

0:48:00 She starts telling stories about her Aunt and her feistiness during the time in which she was alive, but how her mother was quieter by contrast. She then explained the relationship she had with each of them before they passed. Delved into family reunions, and other members of her family and their relationships.

0:52:00 Explains what it was like raising her children within this more modern area that is devoid of the extreme racism Ms. Virginia experienced. She explained that she was a strict parent towards them, and she taught them that racism is not completely gone. She then went on to explain her children, grandchildren and their individual qualities.

1:03:00 Ms. Virginia began talking about her husband. They met at a ball game, and that was their first date! They got married in 1979, when she was 27. He eventually got sick and passed away. Her husband actually had a motorcycle! She explains that after his death she mellowed out.

1:06:04: She explains the difference in being a mother and a wife, and being a caretaker.

1:10:01 She recounts going fishing with her dad for the first time.

1:13:10 Ms. Virginia goes into times in which she felt segregation and discrimination clearly within Chapel Hill. She did not participate in the marches herself, but she could “see it, feel it,” when African Americans were not allowed to be in the store. She also begins talking about the difference in school quality and opportunity within Chapel Hill.

1:16:47 Ms. Virginia explains that her faith allowed her hold on and stay strong throughout the process of her Mom, husband, as well as her Aunt. She has been a member of first Baptist her entire life.

1:21:07 End of Interview.