

**Kennesaw State University  
Department of History and Philosophy  
Summer Hill Oral History Project**

**Interview with:** Susie Wheeler  
**Interviewed by:** Melissa Massey  
**Location:** Wheeler Residence  
**Date:** June 10, 2003  
**Transcribed by:** Diana Godwin

**THE FOLLOWING ORAL HISTORY HAS NOT BEEN EDITED AND MAY CONTAIN MIS-SPELLINGS OR OTHER ERRORS DUE TO LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH PARTICULAR PLACES OR PEOPLE. USERS ARE ADVISED TO LISTEN TO THE ORAL HISTORY RECORDINGS IF A NAME IS IN QUESTION.**

(Tape 1, Side A.)

M.M: Today is June 10 around two o'clock in the afternoon; this is Melissa Massey interviewing Dr. Susie Wheeler at her home for the Summer Hill documentation project. Can you state your name for me?

S.W: My name is Susie Williams Wheeler.

M.M: And when and where were you born?

S.W: I was born in the area that's now called Pine Grove area that's where I was born, and then we moved from there when I was less than a year old to the Casteville community.

M.M: Okay, did you have any siblings?

S.W: Yes, I had an older sister, Sarah, an older brother, Thomas, and then an adopted brother, Benny, that's my family.

M.M: Who else did your household consist of, who else did your household consist of besides your siblings, who else lived in the house?

S.W: Oh, my mother Cora Canty, and my, at first it was my real father, and he passed away when I was eight years old, and then my mother married five years later, and I had a stepfather who was Oscar Canty.

M.M: Did anyone else live in the house with you?

S.W: No.

M.M: Okay. What did your family do for a living?

S.W: My family farmed number one, and then after farming my mother worked at a laundry at Atco and for a while until that laundry closed I believe, and then she would do family work at homes, well I don't think more than one home that she worked in, and she used to do laundry for people, and the final thing that she did before her death was that she worked at a motel to help to take care of the motel clean it up and do that sort of thing.

M.M: Which motel was it do you remember?

S.W: I'm not sure...

M.M: That's okay.

S.W: ...right now, it's no longer in operation, but it was in the Casteville community right off of highway forty-one.

M.M: Okay.

S.W: And it was well known, I just can't think of the name.

M.M: Okay, what do you think of when you think of Summer Hill, what's the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the name Summer Hill?

S.W: I was a little (unintelligible) student that had come to a school where most of the students were in the city area, Cartersville area, so I felt that I was a little stranger, even though there was some others with me, I think most of us felt that way.

M.M: Now when and how did you come to actually live near the Summer Hill community?

S.W: To live in this...

M.M: To live here, uh huh.

S.W: Well I got married when I came here to live, before then I had lived out at Casteville.

M.M: Right, what was your husband's name?

S.W: Dan, his name was, we called him Dan, he was Daniel W. Wheeler, Sr.

M.M: And when were you married, when were you married?

S.W: 1941, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941.

M.M: Okay, now is this the home that you lived in when you moved to Summer Hill?

S.W: This is the home that we built after we stayed with my husband's sister and her husband from June to January is when this was completed.

M.M: Can you describe this house to me, can you describe the rooms, and the way that you built it?

S.W: When I moved in the front, it was four rooms, front porch and a back porch, that was the way it remained, it's just like it was these first four rooms are just like they were when we first moved here.

M.M: Okay, what was the yard like outside when you moved here?

S.W: The yard was pretty much like it is now, just a yard that had to be mowed, kept up like the young man's doing out there now. It was more back yard than there was, than there is now, because we added these other rooms to the house and that took up part of that back that was once the yards.

M.M: Okay, now what was your relationship like with your neighbors?

S.W: We were always friendly. I knew one across the street had been my teacher, and she was also not only my teacher, but she was under my supervision too after I went into supervision, but not when I first moved here that wasn't the case, and my next door neighbors here, they sold us this property so they felt a kind of closeness to us that they had sold this property to us.

M.M: What were their names?

S.W: Names?

M.M: Uh huh.

S.W: John and Annie Mae Anderson.

M.M: Okay.

S.W: Were the names of the owners of the property.

M.M: Did they visit regularly or did other neighbors visit regularly here or...?

S.W: During those early years we didn't have that much visitation as, well I guess it's kind of like it is now, we still don't have all that much.

M.M: Right, now when you were a child what was your role in the household growing up?

S.W: That's a good question because that's been a long time ago, I guess the only thing that I can remember is my role in the household was helping to wash the dishes

and to keep my self dressed and clean, and I guess that's the roles that I played, now the real role that I can remember so well is the one that I played with my brother, because my brother was older than me, and my sister was five years older than I was, and my brother was about three years older, so he didn't have a playmate, and I was the only other one in the house to be the playmate. My sister assumed the role when my mother was away as a mother, and so that's why we would play the role we did.

M.M: Oh okay, now did you share dinner or supper with your family every night?

S.W: Did I eat...

M.M: Did you all sit down together to eat dinner?

S.W: Yes, yes we did.

M.M: Did you have any special foods?

S.W: And special foods?

M.M: Yes that you remember.

S.W: Not off hand I remember the food, the only thing I, the food that I remember was what we would always have for breakfast on Sunday mornings, and also what we would have for dinner on Sunday morning, and I also remember the schedules we followed for all the meals. All of us ate breakfast together, we ate lunch if we had lunch if we were home, lunch together, and we ate dinner together, so that was what we did with this. Now my remembrance of some things that we had for breakfast on Sunday morning, we always had fish on Sunday mornings, and for Sunday dinners that I can remember slightly I think we would have chicken. It

would be either baked chicken, or it would be fried chicken, but I think mostly we had baked chicken.

M.M: Now what about holidays, what holidays were celebrated at home?

S.W: Did we celebrate?

M.M: Yes, which ones did you celebrate?

S.W: Well I think we gave attention to almost all holidays that were known during those years, like we just had Mother's Day so we would have Mother's Day there, of course we'd have Easter, and we'd certainly have Christmas, and Fourth of July holiday, it seems like there's another one.

M.M: When you moved here did they do anything special on holidays at all in the community?

S.W: Well I think they celebrated those holidays that I talked about, and the only thing that I can remember is that Fourth of July celebration that they always had in which they included members of the community in the parade that they would have, that's what I remember most.

M.M: Where was the parade held?

S.W: What?

M.M: Where was the parade?

S.W: The parade always started over at, well the years that I can remember it started over at what's now the high school, whites, what it was then the white high school you know when you had a white one and a black one at that time, but that's where it would always start, and it would travel around town.

M.M: Okay, now what was your first job?

S.W: My first job as an adult?

M.M: As an adult and a child.

S.W: And what?

M.M: And a child.

S.W: As a child, the childhood job that I can remember we picked cotton, but the job outside of that was that I did take care of some child, some white family's child during the time I was away from school during the summer, that's about the first job that I can remember that I had as a child.

M.M: Okay, what about as an adult?

S.W: As an adult, the first job that I had was as a teacher, but at that time if you didn't have a degree you passed the Bartow County Teacher's Examination and got a certificate if you passed it, and that's what I did. I passed it and got a certificate, and I taught.

M.M: Where did you teach?

S.W: My first teaching was in Calhoun, Georgia at Stephen's high school which was called Stephen's high school then, but I taught a sixth grade elementary class, and I took this job as a result of a teacher who had become disabled and could not keep her class anymore and that's how I taught the first I think it's about five or six months at my first job.

M.M: After you took the Bartow Certification for teachers, did they require you to go back and get a degree within a certain amount of time?

S.W: No.

M.M: No, okay.

S.W: There was no requirement.

M.M: No requirement.

S.W: Did it on our own.

M.M: Okay, now where did you work during the years that you lived in Summer Hill?

S.W: When I lived?

M.M: Uh huh, once you moved here.

S.W: You call this Summer Hill, of course we don't call this Summer Hill.

M.M: Can you tell me the boundaries of Summer Hill?

S.W: Yes, we try to tell you in this book.

M.M: Right.

S.W: Of the boundaries, and right now we think of the boundaries as being Casteville Road as being part of it then we, Casteville Road goes on around into down town.

M.M: Right.

S.W: And then the other street is Erwin, e r w i n Street, and it follows, that street goes all the way back around to highway forty-one.

M.M: So basically it's the map that's in there?

S.W: Yes.

M.M: Okay.

S.W: Basically it's in that map.

M.M: Okay, now when you moved here into this house after you got married, what did you do?

S.W: I still taught.

M.M: You still taught, did you still teach in Calhoun?

S.W: No, my first teaching in Bartow County was at Adairsville primary school, elementary school it was called, but I taught the primary grades.

M.M: Now where did most people work that lived in the Summer Hill community?

S.W: They worked in areas like when there were laundry's they did that, they worked also in businesses where they were employed (unintelligible), and some companies they had businesses here, large companies I think they worked in those.

M.M: Do you remember any of the company names?

S.W: No.

M.M: Okay, now when you were growing up were you known by any nicknames?

S.W: Sue, yes.

M.M: Okay, and as a child where did you play?

S.W: Well we played in our yard, back yard more than we did our front yard, and we had hills in the Casteville area from our house, and I can always remember that my brother and I went up the hill one day playing, we were just playing up and down the hill, and we took a ride down the hill, and we I'm not sure what we were riding on, anyway we ran into something and made some damage, it didn't hurt us, but that's the kind of play that we would do and at home, and then sometimes we'd go down to my grandparents' house that lived not too far away, and we would just do yard play.

M.M: Now where did they live?

S.W: They lived about a fourth of a mile from our house.

M.M: Okay.

S.W: In the Casteville area.

M.M: Now when you moved to Summer Hill, the community of Summer Hill what did you do as fun as adults?

S.W: When I did what?

M.M: As an adult when you moved here what did you do for fun in the community?

S.W: For fun?

M.M: Uh huh.

S.W: Well as I can remember any plays (unintelligible) and that type that they'd have we'd go over there for fun, we would attend the movies that we would start attending before we got married. We would go to games like ball games and things of that type, and one of the things that I did was to play card games, and our card games were what we called (unintelligible), and I can't think of the other one now, memory gets away.

M.M: That's fine you are doing great.

S.W: Yeah.

M.M: Where would you play these card games?

S.W: Usually in homes when we had, it was a group of us who played around so they may have come to my house sometimes. We would go to other houses of the people that played for the most part.

M.M: Did you play once a week or twice a week, or was it just whenever?

S.W: I think it was just like you probably played twice a month.

M.M: Oh okay.

S.W: Twice a month like that.

M.M: Okay, now where were the plays and the movies held?

S.W: The plays were usually held at the school, the movies were in the theatre down town.

M.M: Okay the Legion?

S.W: The Legion.

M.M: Okay, the children of this community, where did they hang out?

S.W: The hangouts during those early years were usually in the yards of families with large yards. They would always go into the Summer Hill area and play on the play ground that was there. They sometimes played around where the churches might have had play areas, they would play there, it was more or less that was the way it was done during those early years.

M.M: Okay, now how has the area changed over the years?

S.W: Oh it's completely changed, because when we first moved in this area, this was the area that you only had black homes, and of course since then we've gotten, we've had every kind that you want to talk about you know, my neighbors on each side are white, my neighbors over here are black, then some of the ones that used to live over at that first house they have passed away, and the house after the last one passed away, this house was bought I think by a white neighbor around the corner, but then for some reason he has never rented it anymore because of the fact I think it needed a lot of renovation, and he hadn't rented it anymore, but basically that's how we were.

M.M: Okay, now what is your fondest memory of living here?

S.W: I guess my fondest memory is that this was a little house that was belonged to us, to my husband and me, and my fondest memories existed between the times that we moved here, and the time that he had to go on to service, and that was strong. We moved here in January, and by the end of August I believe it was, he had to go into the service, so we hadn't had too much time to live here together.

M.M: Which part of the service was he in?

S.W: He was, what are some of the services?

M.M: Army, Navy, Air Force...

S.W: Air Force.

M.M: Air Force, okay. Now did you ever go anywhere else besides in Cartersville for fun outside Cartersville?

S.W: Yes.

M.M: Where did you go?

S.W: Back during those years we would go to Rome as being the nearest shopping area that we had.

M.M: Did you go down to Broad Street and shop those shops?

S.W: Yes.

M.M: Now was there anywhere in Cartersville that you felt you couldn't go?

S.W: There were plenty places earlier for example, you could go in the building I think of the drug stores, you could go in the building, but you couldn't sit at the counter, and the other buildings that we that was just restaurants that we didn't bother by trying to go to, if you did you went in the back.

M.M: Do you remember the names of some of those?

S.W: There's one that still exist down hill on the corner, and I can't think of the name right off.

M.M: Is it Fourway?

S.W: Fourway.

M.M: Is that the one?

S.W: Fourway still exists yeah, you live here?

M.M: No, no, no I'm from Atlanta.

S.W: You sound like you do.

M.M: No, (laughing). Where do people engage as a community in Summer Hill, is it the churches that they engage as a community at?

S.W: Yes.

M.M: Which churches in particular?

S.W: Well the two churches that's always existed here that I remember one is Mt. Zion Baptist Church; the other one is St. Luke AME Church. Those were the main churches that existed during those years.

M.M: Now are there any lodges?

S.W: Yes there were plenty of lodges at that time?

M.M: Do you remember any...

S.W: Burial Lodge was one, the Masons another one, the... I think we mentioned another one in this book, I'm not sure.

M.M: Brotherhood?

S.W: Brotherhood, that's it.

M.M: Now where was Burial Hall located?

S.W: Burial, b u r i a l, Hall was located on a street near Railroad Street.

M.M: Okay.

S.W: I don't think it was on Railroad, but it was near that street.

M.M: Were there any local restaurants that were very popular to the community of Summer Hill?

S.W: Yes there were some local ones. The one that was run by Thompkins, no not Thompkins, I tell you I can't remember these things, we show our churches in here.

M.M: Right, I love the pictures.

S.W: Let's see if I can find the name of several that I ought to remember when he was in the business. He not only worked in the business, but he had play ground area, he had a play ground area that where he sponsored ball games and things of that kind. You see everything but what you are looking for. His last name was Thomas.

M.M: Thomas, okay.

S.W: Let's see, Paul Thomas.

M.M: Paul Thomas.

S.W: Paul, p a u l, Thomas, and it said here that he had a grocery store, a laundry, a drug store, and a cafe.

M.M: And you also said he had a play area?

S.W: Yes play area.

M.M: Now who were some of the prominent or recognized members of the Summer Hill community?

S.W: Who what?

M.M: Who are they, are the prominent or recognized members of the community?

S.W: Living or...

M.M: Both.

S.W: Both, living and not living, well naturally in the education community it was the principal and his wife, Principal Morgan, J.S. Morgan, and his wife. Some other prominent people would be Anderson, John and Annie Mae Anderson, both of them taught, and he was also a carpenter...

M.M: Oh, I didn't know that.

S.W: As well in his off time he did that. I remember a lot of the teachers, who were prominent and who had been in the community for a long time like Bessie Shell and Pearly Lay, who would teach us many years, and they were called prominent people. There were those naturally in your religion that we would call prominent, the ministers and I don't really remember who those ministers were so much, you know that stood out as people that we could depend on and follow, but then there was one person, Sidney, his last name was Sidney, and he was a black, he worked on shoes in the shoe refinery, and he stood out, and there were also those people who stood out in the community that were blacksmiths, he wasn't one, but he worked in that general area, and those are the names of the people that I can think of you know that stood out during that time.

M.M: Now after you moved here, do you remember any areas that were whites only, blacks only, and were there any signs that specifically said, whites only, blacks only?

S.W: I don't remember too many black/white signs, but I do know there were areas where blacks didn't go.

M.M: What areas was that?

S.W: Well they did not go very much to the areas around the white churches they didn't go there. They did not go at early times they could not go to the public library that was another place they could not go...

END TAPE 1 SIDE A

BEGIN TAPE 1 SIDE B

M.M: ...role of the church in the community?

S.W: Now or then?

M.M: Both.

S.W: The church had always taken a leadership role in the community. They were the ones who lead directions in moving into change. Courage, developing courage, and home ownership.

M.M: Did they take any political stances at any time?

S.W: Yes, they did in later years when it came to the point of need for changes we saw it. The black community saw it, the churches would take leadership in many cases they done that.

M.M: Now what church did you attend?

S.W: I attended the church that I still attend out in the Casteville area, it was known as New Hope Baptist, it is known as New Hope Baptist Church.

M.M: Okay.

S.W: I'm still there.

M.M: Can you describe the church for me, can you describe your church for me?

S.W: Yes, my church has undergone some changes from the time I knew it to. The first church that I belong to in New Hope was a wooden church, and then we went from there to build a brick church, and this brick church was much larger than the wooden one, and naturally it carried, it had areas like the kitchen to serve the food, and the dining area, and you know it also had a basement area as well. It could seat five or six hundred people, and it was very beautiful.

M.M: What type of music was played and is played in church?

S.W: The piano.

M.M: The piano.

S.W: Yeah, of course we have drums too that play along with the music, with the piano now we didn't have too much of that earlier, I think we did a lot with the harmonica and the guitar back in those days, early days you know when we didn't have all this.

M.M: Now you said it could seat five hundred, six hundred people are there that many people in attendance every week, every Sunday.

S.W: No, and I maybe stretching it a little to say five hundred, may have been closer to three hundred.

M.M: That's still a lot.

S.W: Yes, I was just thinking I guess (unintelligible), but no we don't have that much attendance.

M.M: Just on Easter and Christmas.

S.W: You had more back then when you were walking and riding wagons, and buggies to church.

M.M: Now who were the Lay leaders, did you have any Lay leaders? Who were the leaders of the church?

S.W: Leaders in our church?

M.M: Uh huh.

S.W: Well we always said the deacon board is supposed to be the leadership group along with the pastor, and of course we have the mother's board, we have other boards like ushers, the usher board, we also have the choir and it's group (unintelligible), and we have the person who's in charge of the children as well, development of children activities.

M.M: Okay, now what types of things were preached about in the church?

S.W: What kind of things?

M.M: What kind of things did the preacher preach about?

S.W: Well he tried to stay with the Bible.

M.M: So it was Bible based?

S.W: Bible based.

M.M: Did your church go through any changes as far as attendance over the years?

S.W: Yes, I think when it became a new church a lot of other people came in, and then our church has a bus transit service, and it picks up people who have no way of getting there, but would like to be a member of that church. In the community they spread out widely in the community to pick up anybody who would like to go.

M.M: That's nice. Now can you describe the Summer Hill School for me?

S.W: In terms of...

M.M: In terms of the building itself, what grade levels...?

S.W: Well the building itself has changed just like other buildings in the community you know, it extended, and it became, it was wooden at first, but they added part of it became brick, and the grade levels at that time when I was there was one through nine, one through nine, and it ended at that time, and we had a lot of activities that went on like not only outside, but inside you know the regular weekly group that was all brought together in the building you know in the auditoriums at that time, and usually they were spoken to and given guidance and directions and that sort of thing, and that was once a week activity that they had, devotional program I think it was called.

M.M: Devotional program, now did you ever teach at Summer Hill?

S.W: Yes I did.

M.M: You did, what grade?

S.W: I taught there one year, sixth grade.

M.M: Sixth grade, what subject?

S.W: Well I taught all the subjects in the sixth grade at that time.

M.M: Okay, okay, now did any of your children attend there?

S.W: My children?

M.M: Uh huh.

S.W: I only had one son, and he did attend, yes he did attend Summer Hill School until integration came. He was the one who integrated Cartersville High School. He

was the only one, he was not supposed to be the only one going at that time, but the others changed their mind, and he went on.

M.M: What type of experience did he have?

S.W: Well he says it was just a good experience you know, and he was treated well.

There was one teacher there that sort of took him under his wings, and he saw to it that everything moved along.

M.M: Do you remember the teacher's name?

S.W: I should.

M.M: (laughing.) That's okay.

S.W: All of a sudden these names get a little...

M.M: That's all right, now how did most children get to Summer Hill School?

S.W: How did they?

M.M: Uh huh.

S.W: Walked.

M.M: They walked.

S.W: For the most part.

M.M: For the most part, and as a child what were your favorite subjects?

S.W: I guess my favorite subject was reading. All I can remember, you know I liked that very well the reading class.

M.M: Do you remember any of your favorite teachers?

S.W: Yes, I remember my first teacher was my favorite teacher, and she was a Williams, and her and her husband taught at this little school, it was Noble Hill School, and they taught there, and she was the one who inspired me to become a

teacher, because she was such a kind and loving and helpful person, you know aside from my mother, she was the closest person I was to.

M.M: Now where did you teach after you taught at Summer Hill?

S.W: I went into, I didn't, I went into (unintelligible) supervision, after I left Summer Hill. I was only at Summer Hill one year, and then I went into, by this time I had gone to Fort Valley State and completed my degree work for a bachelor's degree. I had also been encouraged to take this course for (unintelligible) supervision at Atlanta University and to go into supervision, that was a year before I taught at Summer Hill, and I always remember how at Summer Hill at the end of the year, at the end of the year we would always have an opportunity to be reelected you know or elected again, but that year another thing that we did at Summer Hill at that time, the teachers sponsored the game (unintelligible) after that your games, and you could sponsor them three teachers I think at a time, and I remember so well that we would just sponsor the game from Marietta, and I think it was a (unintelligible) or something, because what we would do, we would sell the refreshments at the game and then that became money for our club groups or whatever we had.

M.M: Was this a football game, or basketball game?

S.W: These were indoor games most of the time.

M.M: Indoor games, okay.

S.W: Basketball was usually the case in that case, and that game was always a big sell out and then it rained us out and the next game coming up we thought we should have it those teachers who lost that game, that we would be next in order, instead

of that the other teachers who was to have this game, the next game would still have that game, and we didn't like that, and we voted to see if would they keep the game or would the group that lost the game because of the rain keep the game for selling, and they voted a tie and then our principal broke that tie in favor of those other people, and that's when I made up my mind that I was going into (unintelligible) supervision.

M.M: (laughing.) That's awful that he did that, now what kind of clubs and organizations were at Summer Hill when you were there?

S.W: What kind of what?

M.M: Clubs and organizations.

S.W: Clubs...you know I don't remember too many clubs we had during those years.

M.M: What about sports?

S.W: Sports clubs...

M.M: Football, basketball, what other sports?

S.W: We had all of that, and I guess they were clubs, but because I didn't participate I don't even remember too much about them.

M.M: Okay, what did most children do after school?

S.W: Well the older children usually had tasks to do, some work to do. The younger children just played I think that's all, involved in games, of course there were those, athletes who practiced that went to practice and that sort of thing.

M.M: Now did you give a lot of homework?

S.W: Not a whole lot, but I did have some homework.

M.M: Just enough, tell me about your college experience, you went to Fort Valley...

S.W: I went to Fort Valley State, and after finishing there I was asked, I was asked about going into (unintelligible) supervision, and what I had to do, to do there was to prepare for it, and that was to go to Atlanta University where there was a workshop on (unintelligible) supervision, and I went to that workshop and then I had to do two workshops. The second one was coming up the next year, and that's when I decided not to go back to Summer Hill I just decided to go and take that course, and of course I always remember this that we had to ask the superintendent about this, we were not supposed to do it, our principal was supposed to do this for us, but instead of that he told me if we wanted to get out earlier to go take this class from the teacher follow up at the end of the year workshops that we usually would have that I would have to go and ask the superintendent. Our superintendent was the kind you didn't think you could go to and ask, but I went and ask him, and he told me yes, he would want me to go on, and I told him that I was going to come back and work in Bartow County, because Bartow County had come up with a plan that if they would employ someone from the system who had been apart of the system as (unintelligible) supervisor, and it would be their (unintelligible) choosing someone, so when I went to him, and he said yes, go ahead, and I came back the principal was so surprised. He was surprised that I was granted that choice.

M.M: Now how would you say education affected your life?

S.W: Changed me completely. New directions, new appointments, new knowledge of course, new understandings of what the country was like in education more or less the state. It changed my life completely.

M.M: Now as a child, do you feel that you received an equal education to the white students?

S.W: Do I feel I did?

M.M: Uh huh.

S.W: Yes I do, I feel that the education that I got during those, those years were just as great as anybody else's.

M.M: Do you remember any difference that you were aware of at all?

S.W: Well now I remember the difference in the resources that we were given books, the used books and that kind of thing you know that's basically what I remember.

M.M: How were you affected by segregation in Cartersville and Bartow County?

S.W: How were we?

M.M: Uh huh, as a family and what was your family's reaction to it?

S.W: Well now of course segregation was kind of across the board with these you know, and I don't know that I could feel anything, I'm just glad that I had an opportunity to be taught by the teachers I was taught by and to participate in the activities that were available at that time. I think all of that helped me to grow and survive, and to improve and there were some things that the black teachers could teach to the black students that white teachers couldn't teach really to the black students. Now they could teach those things to their children the white children, but this was one thing that we missed when we got into integration. We had teachers, black and white, who didn't understand some of the students they were working with.

M.M: Now what was your relationship with white families before desegregation?

S.W: Well, my relationships was limited you know, I didn't come in touch with them at many times during those days.

M.M: Okay, now how did you feel when they destroyed Summer Hill School, how did you feel when they destroyed the Summer Hill School?

S.W: Well I was for integration...

M.M: Right.

S.W: ...I had come to the point that I felt that we needed it that's why I let my son go too, but at that time I had, had an opportunity to work with white groups and to be where opportunities had been very different for me. I can always remember how I began to change from a feeling of, the feeling of desegregation and integration was a result of a person in the post office that came in there trying to get something done, I don't remember exactly what it was, but this white fellow and in the post office at that time there were, I was probably the only black person who was in there waiting to get my mail done or whatever I was doing, and he came to me and ask me to do whatever that was he needed to get done, and I looked at that man and went on and did what he asked me to, but then I wondered why in the world did he come to me. He had all these other folks in here, why didn't he go to them, and then I began to say to me now look you are reacting to integration really of any activity, and you need to get some place where you can work with others and not feel that you are being (unintelligible) on by those people and that was my beginning. What came up was an opportunity to go into some of the northern states for a conference that we were having and that was why I went. I wanted to get to the point that I could work with blacks and whites

and not feel that I was less than somebody and that helped me so much you know to go and do that and to be able to begin to see myself as a person, and my privileges should be my privilege regardless of who I was you know.

M.M: Now do you think that there's a place for an all black school in today's society?

S.W: Well I would think it could be, but I'd prefer that it wouldn't be. I think it's better that we work together as we're now doing. You know I did my dissertation on integration, and I was pleased, I worked to help it to come to pass, and I think it has made real contributions too. Now every once in a while somebody may want to pull out and just have a school that teaches just this group or the other group, and we have that going on I think with the private schools.

M.M: Right.

S.W: We have that going on now so I don't guess it would be too bad if they wanted to do, because I think they would have experienced, had other kinds of experiences anyway.

M.M: Now when did your family get it's first television, first car, first telephone?

S.W: Well I can't tell you when, but I know that I must have been twelve years old when we got our first radio, not television, radio, and I always remember one thing that happened that my sister would say, hush, hush when you're talking, they don't want to hear you, or we don't want to disturb them that sort of thing you know, but I'm not so sure of the year, but it was back in those years.

M.M: What about your first car?

S.W: My first car. The first car that was mine was after I married, and my husband purchased a car for us, for me to drive to and from school, and he had a truck so that's the way we handled that, that was my first car.

M.M: What about your first telephone, telephone?

S.W: Telephone, I can't remember, but certainly it was when telephones became popular and available to everybody.

M.M: Now how did racism affect your life?

S.W: How did I do what?

M.M: How did racism affect your life and your family's life?

S.W: Well as I think about it now, racism certainly helped me to grow stronger, is really what I said, because I became determined, determined to do what I wanted to do, where I wanted to do it, and it gave me an opportunity to push in that direction you know, and that to make sure that I didn't let racism keep me out of important places and important opportunities.

M.M: Now tell me about the years of the Civil Rights Movement, were you ever actively involved?

S.W: Quietly.

M.M: Quietly?

S.W: Yes, but I was involved in every chance I got too, but did it quietly.

M.M: What types of activities did you participate in?

S.W: Making information available for groups and for my family.

M.M: Was this pamphlets or...

- S.W: Whatever I had, or if it was something I had heard from some other source I would pass that on.
- M.M: Now how did you feel about the Civil Rights Movement when you first heard what was going on, what were your first reactions?
- S.W: My first reaction was yes I think this is going to be good, something good to happen. I didn't like the fact that it caused so much of a distance between the two groups, and the fights that went on against one another, but other than that I still thought it was something that needed to happen.
- M.M: Were there any big events that occurred here in Cartersville during those years, any protests or sit-ins or...?
- S.W: Well I remember some parades that went on, and the one that I really remember was when they were integrating the schools you know, and some people were losing their jobs or they were being transferred, and I remember the parades that went on, and that was a resistance of that kind of activity.
- M.M: Now how did global events like the Great Depression, World War II, Civil Rights, Vietnam, sub-urbanization affect your life and the community of Summer Hill?
- S.W: Well just like I said, I think all the things that went on at that time gave me, gave strength to me to move in the directions that I thought I needed to go to improve myself or to do what was necessary to help my relatives and my community to become more active and more less resistant, but active in things that made a difference.
- M.M: Did you see any changes with WWII or Vietnam in the community at all?
- S.W: I don't particularly remember.

M.M: Okay, all right. Who was the person that most positively influenced your life?

S.W: To me?

M.M: Uh huh, who were your heroes?

S.W: (unintelligible) my heroes. Well during integration or what?

M.M: Throughout your lifetime.

S.W: Throughout my lifetime.

M.M: Uh huh.

S.W: Well I always think about the role of Martin Luther King. I think he was a big change agent for many of us, you know, and of course I told you about the teachers who influenced my life. Then we had a leader for negro education it was called at that time in the state, Robert L. Cussins, and I think he was a great influence for me. He also was a person who worked closely with the (unintelligible) supervisors as well, so he was a big influence for me.

M.M: And he was the leader of, what was he the leader of again?

S.W: He was in charge, he was in charge of negro education as far as the state department was concerned, state department of education was concerned. He also worked with the southern education foundation and that was a group that impressed me much in what we could do and should do.

M.M: Okay, now the church, let's go back to the churches, you said the two that were the most prominent in the Summer Hill community were Mt. Zion and St. Luke's now what about the tabernacle church, people have mentioned that church?

S.W: Well now Tabernacle at that time was not opened to us.

M.M: Oh okay, I didn't know that.

S.W: It was a separate, that was all white the Tabernacle was, but you know in later years there were members who went there. One of the fellows who lived around the corner here from me worked there as, at first I think he started there as a janitor, and he was accepted and his funeral was held there as well.

END TAPE 1 SIDE B

BEGIN TAPE 2 SIDE A

M.M: Now were there any other churches around Cartersville that were popular around the community of Summer Hill? Were there store front churches, or...?

S.W: What?

M.M: Store front churches, were there any of those?

S.W: No I don't remember the names that's it.

M.M: Okay alright. Now what about the Brotherhood Lodge?

S.W: Well now let's go back to the Presbyterians.

M.M: Okay.

S.W: That church was always a kind of leadership church when it came to integration (unintelligible).

M.M: Okay, what about the Brotherhood Lodge, what can you tell me about it?

S.W: I didn't know too much about the Brotherhood Lodge I just knew they existed, and I would hear what they were doing, but other than that I didn't know much about it.

M.M: What can you tell me about Slab stadium?

S.W: Slab?

M.M: Stadium.

S.W: Slab stadium was the one that was put up by Paul Thomas.

M.M: Oh okay.

S.W: He was the one who had sort of like an auditorium for people to do the things they wanted to have the activities they wanted, it was called Slab stadium.

M.M: Now where was the dump located?

S.W: The dump was located down right off the play ground of Summer Hill, the play ground that's there now it was down on that back side.

M.M: Okay, kind of where the tennis courts are?

S.W: Yes.

M.M: Okay, what about the cafe and the della contessa and all the shops?

S.W: Delicacy?

M.M: Uh huh.

S.W: The Delicacy was a part of my husband's business.

M.M: What can you tell me, tell me about your husband's business.

S.W: My husband's business, first business was a barber shop and beauty shop, and when the beauty shop closed that's when the delicacy shop was opened. And delicacy shop was a service center for food and delicacies.

M.M: And that was located...

S.W: On Jones Street.

M.M: On Jones Street, okay. Now what can you tell me about the old public housing and the new public housing?

S.W: Old public housing?

M.M: Uh huh.

S.W: I never did hear too much about the old public housing.

M.M: Okay, what about the new public housing?

S.W: Yes that's when several things on Summer Hill had to be closed because that's why my husband moved his business was that housing authority began to build houses in areas that had not been housed before, and several homes had to be sold or something happened to them so that the housing authority could build their houses on the areas that they had.

M.M: Do you feel that there was any animosity towards the housing authority?

S.W: Might have been by some people yes, but most of us felt that it was a movement that should happen.

M.M: Okay.

S.W: But I'm sure that the people who had to lose their homes and places, now my husband didn't feel this way.

M.M: Okay, now what about just any old buildings in the neighborhood, can you think of any other significant places that are really important?

S.W: They've all been changed as I can remember.

M.M: Okay.

S.W: Even though I can think of where people lived, but that's about all.

M.M: Okay, now are you aware of any place where drinking was known to take place?

S.W: Drinking?

M.M: Drinking, uh huh.

S.W: Well now Paul Thomas' area those things he had, drinking took place in those.

M.M: Okay, and that was at Slab stadium?

S.W: Yes.

M.M: Okay, what about the name Summer Hill?

S.W: What about it?

M.M: Uh huh, can you tell me...

S.W: Some where on the hill.

M.M: Some where on the hill.

S.W: We talk about that in this book you know they said some where on the hill, that somebody was asking about a job or about a person that they wanted to find to do the work.

M.M: So that's how you've been told Summer Hill?

S.W: Yeah, some where on the hill.

M.M: Well that is it.

(End of Interview.)