Interview with Barbara Williams Jenkins

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Transcript of an Interview about Life in the Jim Crow South
Orangeburg (S.C.)

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**Behind the Veil: Documenting African-American Life in the Jim Crow South**
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Houston: ... your birth date and your place of birth.

Jenkins: My name is Barbara Jean Williams Jenkins. My maiden name is Williams. I was born August 17th, 1934 in Union, South Carolina. My parents are Ernest Nesbit Williams and Johncie Sartor Williams. Sartor is my mother's maiden name.

Houston: And were your parents born in Union? Or is your family from Union, South Carolina?

Jenkins: My mother was born in a small town out of Union, Whitmyer. Near Whitmyer, South Carolina. She was really born in the rural area. Her parents were farmers. My father was born in Elloe re, South Carolina, which is about twenty miles from Orangeburg. And his parents were farmers, as were his grandparents.

Houston: Okay. So your parents then migrated to Union. I mean, they both moved in ...
**Jenkins:** No. My father was a county agent. He worked with the Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. And his assignment was Union County, after he finished South Carolina State. He's a graduate of South Carolina State, class of 1928. And my mother finished Claflin College, class of 1933. My father met my mother when she was in high school at Simms High School and he was working in Union as a county agent. She came on to Claflin on a scholarship and they married secretly. It was her freshman or either sophomore year. And she kept it a secret until her senior year. And, of course, during those times, you had to keep a marriage secret because of the social ... You just couldn't stay in the dormitory. So my mother stayed in the dormitory and when she announced her marriage, she was getting ready to finish. And, of course, after she completed her work at Claflin, then she went home to Union. And I was born in 1934. And my mother worked in various capacities in education. She taught in the rural schools in Union County. Then she was a Jeanes supervisor.

**Houston:** Jeanes supervisor?

**Jenkins:** A Jeanes supervisor.

**Houston:** I don’t know what that is.

**Jenkins:** In the late '20s and early '30s there was a Jeanes fund that was established, the Anna T. Jeanes Fund, J-E-A-N-E-S. And it provided for assisting black teachers in rural areas. And Jeanes work stayed in existence
until the late '40s or early '50s. I'm not too sure about the date. But a lot has been written about the Anna T. Jeanes Fund and the Jeanes supervisors.

Houston: Okay. Yeah, it's just something ... it's one of my ...

Jenkins: My father stayed in Union County until he was promoted to State Agricultural Extension Agent for Negroes. And we moved to Orangeburg, South Carolina in 1945. Mr. Harry E. Daniels was the first full time supervisor of Black County Agents, and he died suddenly of a heart attack. And that position became open and my father was selected. So that's how we moved to Orangeburg. So I have two kinds of experiences with schooling. I have the public school in Union County up until the time that we left ... grades one through six. And when we moved to Orangeburg I was in grade seven.

Houston: You went to ...

Jenkins: And I attended Felton Training School, here on the campus, for two years ... seventh and eighth grade. And then I went to the public school in Orangeburg at Wilkinson High School. And I graduated from there in 1951. And then I went on to Bennett College in Greensborough, North Carolina and received my Bachelor's Degree in 1955.

Houston: In what ... subject?

Jenkins: In English.
Houston: English Literature?

Jenkins: And I had a double minor - Library Science and French.

Houston: And your ... during this time, your parents continued to live here, in Orangeburg?

Jenkins: Here, that’s correct. We subsequently ... we owned our home in Union. My mother always remarked, after they lived several places in Union and shortly after they built the home in Union, then my father was promoted. So she had to leave her home there, come here, and rent again. And we stayed ... one, two, three ... about three places here, in Orangeburg, and in 1950 ... Christmas of ’50, we moved into our home on Magnolia Avenue. And my mother still lives there.

Houston: Those were ... the late ’40s, early ’50s, were very active times for African Americans in South Carolina. And your father, as the State Supervisor for ... Was he still the State Supervisor in ... into the 1950s, was there ...?

Jenkins: Until he retired.

Houston: Okay. Okay. I thought that was ... I thought perhaps that was a New Deal program that ...
Jenkins: No, no. No, no. Mr .... See, when the program was first introduced in the state, there were a few Blacks in Agriculture who were trained for that position, as County Agents. And the first ... and the second President of South Carolina State, Mr. ... Dr. Robert Shaw Wilkinson, acted in a temporary position until they got a ... a permanent supervisor, or State Director. And that director was Mr. Harry E. Daniels. Okay. And then when Mr. Daniels died, then my father became State Supervisor. And when he retired in ... I think it was in '65, they moved to Clemson. Integration occurred within the Extension Service, the Cooperative Extension Service, and my father retired then. But two of the staff members moved on to Clemson and stayed there for a short while, and commuted back and forth.

Houston: Okay. Yeah, I don’t ... I don’t really know about the state ... the Agricultural Extension Service. It was a service of the Department of Agriculture.

Jenkins: That’s correct.

Houston: Established to help small farmers ...

Jenkins: Right. You see, what happened ... with Blacks, and especially in the South, after the Civil War, a lot of Blacks became land owners. And then some were left just on their own. Then in the late ... I think it was the late teens or early '20s, when the Extension Service came about ... then, see, they had ... agents there for white farmers, but they didn’t have any there for Black farmers. So then, that’s how the Farm Agents ... See, the
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Farm Agents worked with the farmers and Home Demonstration Agents, the women, were trained to work with the farm women, with the wives. And then they started the 4-H Program to work with the youth.

Houston: Right, okay. It ... was it not unusual for your father, coming from a rural area, to have earned a college degree? His parents must have been land owners.

Jenkins: Well, it’s very interesting that you asked that. On the Williams side of the family, my ... my father’s paternal people ... they came from a small area down near Vance, South Carolina ... between Vance and Utahville. There were about ten or twelve of them, brothers and sisters. And my great-grandfather, Mordecai, moved to the Elloree area, and he bought a lot of land there. And that’s where he raised his family ... This is my grandfather and all of his brothers and sisters. So they were land owners for a long time. In fact, really right after the Civil War, they were land owners. My Grandfather Williams, whose name was Robert Lee Williams, went to Claflin University and he met my grandmother there. And her name was Mamie Carrion, C-A-R-I-O-N. And she came from another part of Orangeburg County, known as Cope, C-O-P-E. And the story goes that they met at the well at Claflin, and that’s where they courted every day. And my grandfather was supposed to have gone to medical school, but his father became ill, so he had to give up the idea of furthering his education. So he went back to the farm in Elloree. He and my grandmother married and they had twelve children, of which my father was one. Now, on my Grandmother Carrion’s side of the family ... two of her brothers went to Maharry, and then they went west to practice. One
went to St. Joseph, Missouri, and the other one went to St. Louis, Missouri. So, we have a set of family out in the Missouri area.

**Houston:** Yeah, I suppose you may have even had family before they went there. That may have been why they went there?

**Jenkins:** No. No one went there. See, what happened ... during that time, they were encouraging Blacks to move west. So, they were following the migration of Blacks.

**Houston:** And then your ... I guess your father came from a large family, so there would have been children to continue the farm.

**Jenkins:** Oh, yes.

**Houston:** I mean, he had ... 

**Jenkins:** Right. Now, out of my father’s ... out of my father’s family, two of the brothers, his oldest brothers, Willie Williams and Marion William, stayed there in Elloree and they farmed jointly with my grandfather. And each one of them had large families. My Uncle Willie had twelve children and my Uncle Marion had eight. One of my father’s brothers became a dentist and he practiced in Sumter, South Carolina. His name was B. T. Williams, Booker T. Williams, whom I’ll tell you something about later on, about the Civil Rights movement. Two of my father’s sisters, one’s named Ann, married Irving Boatwright from Summerton, South Carolina. And he went to Maharry, finished
dentistry, and they moved to Chicago. And he practiced dentistry there until he passed. My other aunt, my Aunt Eliza, went to Claflin... went to Allen University and Claflin, and she married George W. Howard from Georgetown, South Carolina. And she moved to Georgetown, and they had five children. My dad’s youngest brother was Sydney R. Williams. Sydney became the Executive Secretary of the Urban League. He worked in St. Louis and Cleveland, Ohio, and in Chicago, Illinois. Now, during World War II, he worked with the American Red Cross and he was very instrumental in the ... of bringing Josephine Baker back on her feet again, when she was ill, during the war. And that was made into a movie some years ago, and it was highlighted in Jet Magazine. It was on ... I think it was Starks or either Showtime, the Josephine Baker Story? And Lou Gossett played the role of my Uncle Sydney. Now, he’s passed. All of us ... all of the sisters and brothers, now, are deceased. He passed two years ago, in Chicago. And if there ever was a Civil Rights advocate, he was. Now, back to the farm in Elloree, I don’t know how many of hundreds of acres that my grandparents and my great-grandparents plus all of my grandfather’s sisters and brothers had in Elloree, but we still own quite a bit of land. Of course, with large families, all of those tracts get divided up.

**Houston:** Are there any family stories about how your great-grandparents came to ... came to acquire land? Because it was frequently difficult for Blacks to purchase land.

**Jenkins:** Well, yes, my Uncle Sydney, years and ... when he was in Cleveland, with the Urban League, interviewed my grandfather. So, we have a
fairly good history on how they purchased their land. And they did it, as a lot of people couldn’t afford to keep it. They bought, because they were prosperous farmers. They were written up several times in some... in a lot of Black magazines and books. They were big cotton farmers, sweet potatoes, corn, tobacco ... and then, of course, the truck crops.

Houston: Vegetables, you mean ...

Jenkins: Yeah.

Houston: Which you sell locally.

Jenkins: That’s correct. Now, my grandparents over in Cope, the Carrions, are ... did limited farming. They didn’t have the land ownership that the Williams had in Elloree.

Houston: How do you spell their name?

Jenkins: Carrion?

Houston: Yeah.

Jenkins: C-A-R-R-I-O-N. Now, there’s a family tale about that name. That my great-grandfather, William Carrion, was given his freedom, and he said that he was going to carry on. So, we’ve got some in our family that spell it C-A-R-R-Y-O-N, but as far as we know, most of our legal documents carry C-
A-R-R-I-O-N. In fact, we’ve had ... one of my relatives is so impressed with the story that he changed his name from Williams to Carrion. But, you know, it’s neither here nor there.

Houston: Right. It’s a nice story. But, even though they didn’t own land as extensively, they also sent your mother away for ... for an education, and ...

Jenkins: No, not my mother, now. These are still on my ... these are still on my father’s side of the family.

Houston: Oh, yes, that’s right. Carrion was your father’s ...

Jenkins: Carrion was my ... was my ... my Grandmother Mamie’s people. My father’s mother’s people.

Houston: Okay. Sorry.

Jenkins: No, my mother came from the up country. She came from up in the Piedmont, near Whitmyer.

Houston: Which is not, so much, farming country.

Jenkins: Not so much farming, but my grandfather and those had their own property and they farmed. They did enough to make a living. But after my Grandfather Sartor died, his name was John Sartor, John Arthur Sartor, my
mother’s father. And my mother’s mother’s name was Mary Sartor. And when he died, she had to move from the farm, and she moved into the town of Whitmyer. And there she made her living as a seamstress and taking in boarders.

Houston: So, this was your grandmother ...

Jenkins: Sartor.

Houston: Sartor, who ...

Jenkins: On my mother’s side of the family.

Houston: Who moved into town.

Jenkins: That’s correct.

Houston: Okay. And became a seamstress.

Jenkins: That’s correct.

Houston: Okay. And this was after her ...

Jenkins: That was after my Grandfather Sartor, Johnny Sartor, passed.

Houston: Okay. And this was into the town of Whitmyer.
Houston: So, your ...

Jenkins: So, for high school, my mother had to go to Union, South Carolina, to Sims High. And she stayed with relatives when she was there. To get an education. And then, after she finished Sims High, she went to Claflin. See, the first college for Blacks in South Carolina was Claflin. The second one was Allen University ... Benedict ... South Carolina State, as it is now, separate ... was not founded until 1896. Even though the land grant part of the college was over at Claflin since 1872.

Houston: Okay. Yeah, I knew that the two had been joined early on, and that the state, for political reasons, separated the land grant function to Claflin.

Jenkins: Correct.

Houston: And your mother, then, took a college ... I mean, she ... she went to Claflin, not to the high school, but to the college.

Jenkins: To the college. She finished high school at Sims High in Union.

Houston: Okay. And that was the normal ... normal school.

Jenkins: No, she went to the four year college.
Jenkins:

Okay. Okay.

Houston: Okay. And did your mother then ... what ... did your mother then teach afterwards?

Jenkins: She taught in Union, in the county.

Houston: Right.

Jenkins: Do you want me to go into that?

Houston: Sure. I mean ...

Jenkins: Well, growing up in Union was a different experience from growing up in Orangeburg. Union is a small town, mill town, predominantly. There are a lot of mills there.

Houston: Textile mills?

Jenkins: Textile mills.

Houston: But, Union is also very close by, isn’t it? How far is Union from here?
Jenkins: Oh, Union is up near Spartanburg.

Houston: Oh, okay.

Jenkins: It’s almost in North Carolina.

Houston: Okay, so it’s up in ...

Jenkins: It’s in the Piedmont. We call that in the Piedmont section of the state. It’s not far from Greenville, Anderson, Spartanburg, York, Chester, Lancaster.

Houston: Okay. So that must have been, indeed, very different then ... from this area.

Jenkins: Right. Now, as far as my schooling in Union -- before I was of age, I went to school with my mother when she taught out at Mount Royal School, in Union County. So I would have to go to school with her and stay all day.

Houston: At ... at a very young age.

Jenkins: At a very young age. And then in first grade I started at MacBeth Elementary School in Union. And I stayed at MacBeth until we left ... until we moved to Orangeburg.
Houston: And this was a county school in the ... in the City of Union.

Jenkins: This was not a county school; this was a city school, in Union.

Houston: Okay. Okay. And the children who attended that school would have been from the town ...

Jenkins: Would have been from the town of ... of Union.

Houston: Okay. So, I guess ...

Jenkins: Because there were schools out in the county. See, then in those days, connected with the church was a school. They had mostly what you call Rosenwall schools, and they were always located near the Black church. So, those were the type schools that were out in the county, and then you had the schools in town. So our school, the elementary school and the high school, Sims High School, were on ... was located on one end of town, and Union Elementary and Union High School, for white students, were located near the down town area. I lived, like, north ... I guess what you would call north Union. The schools for Blacks was like south Union, so we would have to walk to school ... So, going to school, we would meet the white children, and coming back. So, what happened was ... the white school would open, I think, about a half hour earlier and get out a half hour earlier. But, you see, we would still walk the sidewalks to school, and many infractions occurred on those sidewalks, as to who was going to move off the sidewalk and who was not
going to move when we encountered white children.

**Houston:** That’s probably why the times were staggered.

**Jenkins:** That’s right. So, it was always a little magnet there. Because, of course, as Blacks, we weren’t going to move off that sidewalk. And that was felt at an early age.

**Houston:** And this was ... this would have been ...

**Jenkins:** So, fights did occur.

**Houston:** Okay. Now, this would have been in the ... in the middle ’40s.

**Jenkins:** This would have been in the early ’40s.

**Houston:** Okay. Was that ... I mean ... I mean ... I know you wouldn’t know this from experience, but ... but, that seems to me to ... as though it might have been a new kind of militance on the part of Black children. I mean, in the ’40s ... having to do with ... with the changes ...

**Jenkins:** Well, you see, everything at that time was segregated. There was the movie theater where you had to go upstairs. And you had to go ... you couldn’t go in the front door, so you had to go around to the back to go sit up in the balcony. Which was always demeaning, but if you wanted to see the movie, you had to go. And there was segregated lunch counters. And, of
course, the segregated water fountains. And I remember those vividly. But, now, one thing I can say, when I was born in Union, I was not born in a white hospital. I was born in a Black hospital, a Black-owned hospital, that was established by the Black residents of Union. It was called the Union Community Hospital and there was a very dynamic Black doctor there in town, Dr. L. W. Long, L-O-N-G, who was instrumental in bringing better health care to Black citizens of Union and Union County. And every year ... he believed in continuing education for physicians and dentists, Black doctors and dentists. So, he had what was known as a Clinic. It was the ... oh, I have to remember the name of the clinic, because it was after ... he named it after one of his friends, or either professors from Maharry, because he finished Maharry. So, every year he would bring in well-known Black consultants from Maharry, or either Howard, or either Black doctors and physicians who were doing well, practicing ... had good practices and outstanding in their specialties. And he would bring them into Union and all of these gentlemen would come to Union for that clinic. Oh, that was ... that went on until he stopped practicing.

Houston: So, Union must have been a sizable Black community. It must have had ...

Jenkins: Oh, a sizable Black community ...

Houston: And prosperous ...
Jenkins: Well, for a small town, I would say, yes. There were several Black churches. You had your schools. We had a Black pharmacy, with a Black pharmacist ... and a lady pharmacist. And she just died here a couple of years ago. Her name was Lillian Sartor Bolden, B-O-L-D-E-N. And for years she ran the pharmacy. And that pharmacy was just like a meeting place for Blacks in the county on the weekends. Because when everybody would come to town, they would come to Sartor’s Pharmacy.

Houston: What did the ... I mean, Blacks didn’t work in textile mills, by and large. I mean, they were relegated to really dreadful jobs in ... marginal jobs in textile mills ... 

Jenkins: If they worked, it must have been menial work.

Houston: Okay. So, would ...

Jenkins: Certainly they didn’t work on the looms or anything like that ... no.

Houston: Okay. I’m just wondering how the town of Union could have supported a ... you know, a middle class, and particularly a ...

Jenkins: Well, what you had, you see, you must remember, you had a lot of people who were self-employed. Not only for ... you know, teaching wasn’t the only profession. We ... as I said, we had ... we had them in medicine, we had a dentist, we had the barbers, your tailors, your store owners ...
shoe shop. So, people made a living different kinds of ways.

**Houston:** And they would have served the community ...

**Jenkins:** Some of the things that we have forgotten about as a race, now.

**Houston:** Right. And in the town in the early '40s, when you were a school child, going back and forth from north to south Union, and getting into scuffles with gangs ... with groups of white students ... were there ever repercussions? I mean, were these ... I mean, were there ever repercussions to these encounters? I mean, would ... would anything ...

**Jenkins:** Not to my knowledge. Because I think, mainly, probably adults just took them as encounters with other children. Usually though, if a fight occurred, it was settled right then, and then everybody moved on. But it wasn’t anything that happened every day, now.

**Houston:** No, okay.

**Jenkins:** But, they did occur.

**Houston:** And the neighborhoods there, were segregated?

**Jenkins:** The neighborhoods were ... well, how should I say it? The neighborhoods were sort of like interspersed. You had ... where we lived, on North Pinkney Street, just before you got to our section of North Pinkney
Street, there was a row of what I called mill houses, where whites stayed. And some of those, the little girl from down on that row, would come up and play with us sometimes. I then when we got tired of playing with them, then we’d send them home.

Houston: Okay. So, it was really some segregation by street, rather than ...

Jenkins: It was segregation by street and ... I guess I really didn’t realize the housing part until I really got here, in Orangeburg. Now, we knew there was a mill town, there was a mill section in Union, but also, not far from that mill section, were Black people living. So, it wasn’t like where you have ... on the west side of town you had all whites living and on the east side of town you had all Blacks living. It was sort of like interspersed, in pockets.

Houston: More so than ... than here.

Jenkins: Right. Well, you see, you must also remember, too, that Orangeburg is lower South Carolina, so you have more pockets of Blacks down in this area than you had up in the up- ... in the Piedmont.

Houston: Okay ... a greater ... greater population.

Jenkins: A greater population of Blacks. Because of ... you had more plantations down here than you had up in the up-country.
Houston: Right. Do you ... I mean, other than the scuffles with kids, were there ... were there encounters, were there racial conflicts in ... in the area of Union, say, with the mill workers or any other whites, that you can recall?

Jenkins: I really need to kind of discuss that with my mom because, you see, I was very young then.

Houston: Sure, yeah.

Jenkins: And that I can sort of get from her.

Houston: Okay, that’s ... that’s fine.

Jenkins: But now, see, let me tell you something else. We were not far from Camp Craw in Spartanburg, and we lived not too far from the railroad track. So we got a lot of chance ... we got a chance to see a lot of the troop trains passing ... going to Camp Craw, coming from Camp Craw. And I do remember very vividly, a lot of times on those troop trains, you had whites up front and Blacks back in the back. You know, you had your Black cars. And, of course, you ... when you rode the train then, that’s the way it was.

I remember that very vividly. I remember going back and forth ... when we moved to Orangeburg and my mother’s mother was still living in Whitmyer, and we would go up to see her several times a year, and Columbia was always our stopping point. That was like halfway between Union and Orangeburg. And if
we were hungry, we would stop at a Black drugstore, called Count’s Drug
Store, on Washington Street, just to get a sandwich. And sometimes, if we
were caught uptown, shopping, there was ... I think it was Crest’s or either
Woolworth had a lunch counter. And I do remember very vividly, we were
hungry, my mom and I had been shopping, and of course, the counter was about
that long for Blacks, and the waitresses kept passing by us and kept passing
by. And I told my mom, “We are not going to eat.” And I meant that. And we
left. I remember that very distinctly. We left. Let’s see ...

Houston: Yeah, what about ... what about church in Union?

Jenkins: In the church, my mother came from an AME Zion Church, African
Methodist Episcopal Zion. My father was born into the AME church. So, she
compromised and she joined the AME church. And that was Bethel AME Church,
in Union. And that’s where I was christened and where I grew up. And I
remember very vividly the many church activities we had ... for young people.
Of course, there was always Sunday School. And there was Bible School. And
there was the Easter Egg Hunt, of which I could never find the egg.

Houston: It was always fun looking for it.

Jenkins: And I remember distinctly, in the AME Church, when the Bishop
came, that was always a big celebration. And my mother was very active in
the church, she sang on the choir. And I can’t remember now whether my
father was an officer or not. But my grandfather was very, very active in
the AME Church. Because he went to numerous general conferences.
Houston: This is your dad’s dad?

Jenkins: That’s my dad’s dad, Robert Lee Williams.

Houston: And then you moved from Union to Orangeburg, after grade six ...

Jenkins: After grade six, and at seventh grade I entered Felton Training School, here on the campus. A very different environment because it was small. And I guess if you wanted to say it was like a private school ... I think in the seventh grade we had about eight students. And in the eighth grade, about five. So, I had to make new friends ... which was not hard to do, because some of the ones that I made, we’re still friends now.

Houston: The school would have been ... I mean, that’s a very small student-teacher ratio. I assume ...

Jenkins: That’s correct. But, see, this was a training school here for ... for the education majors. So, they did their practice work at the training school, a lot of them did. And then a lot of them went, you know, into regular public schools.

Houston: Okay. This ... this would have contrasted, probably sharply, with the school ... with Sims, where the classes would have been larger and ...
Jenkins: Oh yes, definitely so. Now, I only stayed there two years, and then I moved on to Wilkinson High School ... right here, in Orangeburg. And of course, I was back into a public school environment then. And I stayed there until I finished.

Houston: Okay. I’m just curious, why you went to Felton for two years.

Jenkins: Well ...

Houston: Was Wilkinson not all ...

Jenkins: Wilkinson did not start until eighth grade.

Houston: Okay. So, you had ... this was the ...

Jenkins: So I had ... it was a transition ... so my parents selected for me to attend Felton for seventh and eighth grade.

Houston: Okay. And did you have younger brothers and sisters, or you were ... you were your parent’s first child.

Jenkins: I’m an only child.

Houston: Okay. Okay. Because you ... you were born in 1934.

Jenkins: Right.
Houston: Your parents put a lot of emphasis on ... on education, because you obviously went on and ... after ... after ... after high school, you went on to college and then a Ph.D.

Jenkins: Right.

Houston: And I guess that was a family tradition, as well, the emphasis on education.

Jenkins: That was the tradition. That was the emphasis. It was just ... I really cannot think of any of my aunts and uncles and my cousins who were not exposed to a college education. And if they did not finish, then it was something that happened to them. Because that was the ultimate in the family, was to go on and get a college education and then go on and make it in the work world. Those were just things that were expected of you. My sons didn’t finish, for whatever reason. It was not that they were not exposed. Because they were sent. Even with my uncle’s ... there’s one with twelve children and another one with eight ... every one of them were exposed to a college education, and most of them finished, and they’re doing quite well.

Houston: I mean, that’s remarkable, when you consider how big your family was.

Jenkins: Right. Well, it was ... one would help the other. That was another kind of philosophy that was ingrained into our family. That as you
got up, then .....  

[End of Tape 1, Side A]

[Begin Tape 1, Side B]

**Jenkins:** ... then one would help in trying to get a summer job. And because it was impressed upon us early that your summer job would help pay for your tuition and for your clothes. So, you just didn’t take your summer job lightly. Because even I went to work at fourteen.

**Houston:** What did you do?

**Jenkins:** What did I do? I worked at a camp and I worked in a snack bar. And then when I got old enough, and qualified, then I worked as a counselor.

**Houston:** Could you talk a little bit about the camp? I mean, it was a camp for Black kids ... a church camp?

**Jenkins:** It was a 4-H camp, and it was the second camp that was established by the Extension Personnel, the Black Agents, for 4-H youth in South Carolina. The first camp was Camp Dickson and it was in Richland County, which would have been the center of the state and been very accessible for anyone coming all over the state to ... to attend. But then World War II ... the government bought up a lot of property near Columbia and they established Fort Jackson. So, the Extension people had to give up that land. So they were left without a camp. And then after the war, then the agents again started raising money for a camp and they got ... they raised
the money and they got a few state funds and they built Camp Harry Daniels, which is about twenty-four miles from Orangeburg. It’s on the other side of Elloree, near Lake Marion. So a camp was built there in 1948 or either ’49, for 4-H youth. And it stayed in existence until integration. And then when the Extension Services merged Kempson became the owner of that property and it stayed dormant there for a while. And then when South Carolina State College received funds through the federal law to establish an 1890 Research and Extension Program, then Dr. Nance, who was president then, was able to get that camp for South Carolina State. My father was instrumental in ... in getting President Nance to get that property.

Houston: To use as _____ for ....

Jenkins: To use as ... they could use it for the 1890 Extension Program, of which they have established ... re-established a 4-H camp. But it’s for limited income farmers' children. And other groups use it. They use it for picnics. And recently they just finished a conference center on the other side of the lake.

Houston: Okay. And when you were going there, it was ... it was a camp for the children of farmers?

Jenkins: It was strictly a 4-H camp.

Houston: Okay. And you worked there as the counselor.
Jenkins: And I worked there as a counselor until ... I guess, about my junior year in college.

Houston: Okay. Yeah. The emphasis on children helping with their educations so that they can ... so that the family can send other kids through school was a ... a strong tradition?

Jenkins: Oh, that was a strong tradition in my family. Very much so. So, it wasn’t that you were not exposed, if you ... if you didn’t partake of what was ... of your exposure. It was just expected that you would go on to college.

Houston: Right. The ... when you ... you moved here, to this area, in the mid-1940s, and then you ... you finished school here ... '52 or thereabouts ...

Jenkins: '51. I finished high school in '51.

Houston: Okay. Were there ... you were at the ... you were at Wilkinson High School, when you graduated. Let me just stop this for a second ... Okay, it’s on ...

Jenkins: The four years at Wilkinson High School was probably the best years of my life. As a ... as a young adult. Didn’t know we had the best of two worlds. Even though we were segregated, we were happy. We had good teachers. We had a good school environment, because Wilkinson High School,
where I attended, is right over here on Garth Avenue, right in the back door of Claflin and South Carolina State. So we were exposed to all of the lyceum programs that were at Claflin and at South Carolina State. And the teachers wanted to bring us to any of the lyceum programs and it was carte blanche to any of the colleges. I took Art Appreciation at Claflin. Claflin had a renowned art department, and still has. It’s always been known for its art department. I took Music Theory and Music, after I had Music over here at South Carolina State. But, the Music Theory that I received at Claflin was second to none. It really made me appreciate playing the piano. Eileen Southern, who is a renowned African-American musician now, and educator, taught to me theory. And she grounded me very well. I wish I had had it earlier; I really do. My mother really wanted me to go into Music, but that was not my calling. I did not want it. I liked it. I liked to play it. I enjoyed it. But, I really thank Dr. Southern for the theory, for the music theory that she instilled in us as music students. And not only did she give us theory, we had to compete with the National Guild. And so, it made it competitive. And people came in and scored us on our playing abilities. So, it really made you strive for something. Wherein, when I was taking Music over at State, and I’m not saying that they were not good Music teachers, but we just took Music just to be playing the piano. But, when I got ... when I had switched to Claflin, and was taking Music under Dr. Southern, it was the theory that ... that really grounded me.

Houston: This ... were you a student at Claflin at the time, or you were ...
Jenkins: No, no, no, no. I was at Wilkinson and I was still taking piano. Well, I took piano until I finished high school.

Houston: Okay, so this was ...

Jenkins: I had piano from the time that I could sit at a piano, until I finished high school. My mother made me take piano every year.

Houston: Okay, so these were private lessons that you were ...

Jenkins: These were private lessons.

Houston: Okay. Okay. I was under the impression for a second there that perhaps this was something that you did at Wilkinson ...

Jenkins: Well, I was at Wilkinson, but these were private lessons. But still, these are the kinds of things that we could enjoy and we could take advantage of, being in Orangeburg, being at Wilkinson. And the Art that I had over at Claflin, as a student at Wilkinson, has really made me see my colors. I know my primary and my secondary colors very well, and the various architectural forms. Because we really received basic instruction. It was thorough.

Houston: Were the ... frequently teachers at schools like Wilkinson would have been eminently qualified because African-Americans had few ... fewer opportunities.
Jenkins: All of the teachers at Wilkinson High School were graduates ... were college graduates, every one. Even the secretary was a college graduate. Now, one thing about Wilkinson High School, the teachers, from the Principal on down to the teachers, instilled a sense of school pride. We wore our colors once a week, maroon and grey. We were forever, continuously singing the alma mater. We had assemblies ... I can’t remember whether it was once or twice a week. And, of course, at that time, you had to participate in the assemblies. So you weren’t a listener all of the time. A lot of the times you were a participant. And that’s where you learn behavior ... how to behave at public programs.

Houston: Well, after Wilkinson, you ... you left and you went to ... you went away to school.

Jenkins: I went to Bennett.

Houston: You went to Bennett, okay. And you were going away just after the ... just after the school teacher’s salary equalization struggles here ... I’m sorry, not ... the Clarendon County struggle was going on in the late 1940s.

Jenkins: Right. Right. Right.

Houston: Did any of that reach school children? I mean, did ... was ... were any of those issues presented, either ... I mean, did they surface at
Jenkins: Well, vaguely, now, and after I talk to my mom ... My uncle, B. T., who was a dentist, practicing dentist, over in Sumter, was one of the ones who went in on the suit for the equalization of teachers' salaries in South Carolina. You see, at that time, only those persons who could not be touched by the state could come forward and ... and be active in the Civil Rights movement, in terms of bringing a suit or anything like that. Teachers could not.

Houston: Because they could be fired.

Jenkins: That’s correct. My father was a federal worker. He could not. But my Uncle B. T. was very active with the NAACP in South Carolina. Now, they did not say you could not attend the meetings. Because my parents were actively doing that. I even belonged to the Junior NAACP here. So, I’ve been active a long time.

Houston: Okay. What kinds of things did the Junior NAACP do?

Jenkins: Oh my, you’re really stretching my memory now.

Houston: Well, that’s okay. Did it have meetings in conjunction ...?

Jenkins: We had meetings in conjunction with the regular NAACP. I can’t really remember anything specifically now. I guess I’ll have to check that,
too - what we did.

Houston: Yeah, I’m not sure I’ve talked with anybody who was actually a member of a youth ... of a youth league. It would just be interesting to know.

Jenkins: All I know is we paid our dues and we belonged.

Houston: Sure. Right. Then you were at ... you were at Bennett from 1951 to 1955.

Jenkins: Correct.

Houston: During the time when the NAACP suit was won.

Jenkins: That’s correct.

Houston: And while you were a student at Bennett, did you join a sorority or ... 

Jenkins: Well, at Bennett, we did not have sororities. President Jones -- David Lee Jones was the president then -- and he did not believe in sororities for young women. He felt that it would bring too much division among young women, in a small environment. So what ... the kinds of organizations we had were activities, like we had the Student Union ... the Student Union. We had a Student Government Association. We had class
organizations, honor societies, and discipline-related organizations. And we had what was known as a Marshall Board, and you were elected to that. I was a Marshall Board ... I was on the Marshall Board.

Houston: So, all of the student activities, somehow, reinforced academics and ...

Jenkins: That’s correct.

Houston: And I suppose he was trying to de-emphasize the social life.

Jenkins: He was trying to de-emphasize, but now, as far as having a social life, we had plenty of that. Because A&T was just a few blocks away. The fellows from Moorehouse would come every Thanksgiving. Because we could not go home and we always had a Thanksgiving formal. So the Moorehouse Choir would come. And, of course, we met a lot of the Moorehouse guys. Then the fellows from Smith would come - Johnson C. Smith, North Carolina College. And, of course, Howard University, they were forever coming. So, it wasn’t like we were isolated. [Chuckles] And then, too, we would get together and have small parties. Each dormitory had what was known as a play room, or a rec room. And you could entertain. So, a group would get together and they would entertain and invite who you want to invite. So, the purpose was, a group of us started out freshman year ... so many would invite Q’s, Kappa’s, Alpha’s, ____ , we invited a mixture. And that was our entre into the dances at A&T. And it worked. Plus, the fellows from A&T would come every day. We had visiting hours; I think it was from four until six. And
then, during initiation, the guys would come and sing. All of them ... Greek hymns and sweetheart songs. So, we really were not isolated at all.

**Houston:** Were ... with the emphasis on education at Bennett in the early '50s, was there ... was there emphasis on ... on students pursuing careers in the professions, or ... or was ... was education for women looked at more as ... as kind of preparation for ... for domestic life?

**Jenkins:** No. That’s one thing I liked about Bennett. That’s one thing I liked about Bennett. With a small environment, a young woman could develop her potential. The environment was there, so if you were aggressive enough, then you could take advantage of it and move right on in and develop into leadership roles. So, it had that kind of climate. You had a small student-faculty ratio. There was very good interaction with faculty members. The atmosphere was conducive to academics, fellowship, leadership ... and we also developed as young women with responsibility. A lot of people think that it was a school where you didn’t do anything, but that’s not true. Each one of us, from your freshman year to your senior year, you had something known as beauty work and then you had dining hall duty. And the beauty work was, in each dormitory, you were assigned to clean up something before eight o’clock in the morning. We didn’t have maids. So, if your job ... your beauty work, was to clean the brass handles on the front entrance door, you got that done before eight o’clock. Or to sweep the front steps before eight - you got that done. But by eight o’clock, the dorm was clean, the halls, the bathrooms, and your room. And you were ready for the day, to go to class. On dining hall duty, you were assigned six, or either eight weeks. And
either you were a waitress, you set the tables, you cleared them. For dinner we had one sit down meal, which was dinner, that we sat down family style.

Lunch ... breakfast and lunch were buffet. So, you either worked the line for lunch and buffet or you waited tables. And that was from freshman to your senior year. Far different from what it is now. I understand they have maid service and everything else. Now, back to the kinds of activities that we had. President Jones was well renowned. He was a good friend of Mordecai Johnson, Benjamin Mays, just about any well-known Black educator or any well-known white person in the South, and sometimes in the North, he knew. So, he continuously had people to come in and speak at our chapel programs, which was Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Vespers, on Sunday.

I think the only day that we really did not go to Anna Merna Fifa Chapel was Saturday. We had formal Chapel Mondays and Fridays and one day was like for current events and the other time was for Music Appreciation, or something in the arts.

**Houston:** You had a date for current events, a program for current events?

**Jenkins:** Sure!

**Houston:** What ... I don’t understand. I mean, you’d come in and hear, or ...

**Jenkins:** We’d have a speaker, or either the students would do it themselves.
Houston: Okay.

Jenkins: But, somebody had something planned.

Houston: Okay. And the student body as a whole would receive or participate in the program.

Jenkins: That’s right. That’s correct.

Houston: Okay. Okay. How big was the student body? It must have been very small.

Jenkins: Oh, I’d ... I’d guess, back then, we were looking at probably about three hundred students.

Houston: So, I mean, about the time of Brown, then, there would have been someone coming, making a presentation on ... on ... on racial issues?

Jenkins: Oh, yes. We had people to come in. I remember Billy Graham came. Oh, we had ... we had ... we always had speakers, outstanding speakers coming.

Houston: Okay. Was there a Youth Chapter of the NAACP on campus?

Jenkins: Well, you know, I really can’t remember, because we didn’t have ... one thing I ... I regret that we did not have, and that was an annual.
We didn’t have enough money. But we did have a school paper. But I just can’t remember an NAACP Chapter. We might have had.

Houston: Okay. Okay. Now, in '55, did you come back, when you graduated?

Jenkins: Okay, when I finished Bennett, I went on to the University of Illinois for graduate school in Library Science. I got my Master's. And that was an experience.

Houston: How so?

Jenkins: First of all, they wanted a handful of Blacks up there in the graduate program, and I guess you would see a handful of Blacks in the undergraduate program. So that meant we all had to mingle together, in order to survive mentally.

Houston: So, you were ... you were ...

Jenkins: There was a Delta House there and there was an Alpha House. See, Illinois, at that time, was something like the fraternity and sorority capital of the Big Ten Schools, and they had just rows and rows of fabulous kinds of houses. I had never seen anything like it. So you can imagine, in the middle of the prairie, as I call it, Champaign-Urbana, because it’s nothing but a college town, and this ... that’s all it was, was a university town. Urbana was more for the university setting and Champaign was more for the other people, the working-class people. But only a street divided the
towns. So you really, you couldn’t distinguish the two. But, that’s the way it was. Now, for class, let’s see ... there were four blacks that first semester, when I went there. And I’ll never forget the lady who taught me cataloguing and classification. Her name was Dr. Thelma Eton. And the first ... at the end of the nine weeks, she gave me a “D”. And, of course, you can imagine this young girl coming from Bennett, who had ... was an honor graduate. And I’d made Alpha Kappa Mu’s Honor Society. And I got a “D”. It just about blew my mind. So, I called my mom and I was very upset. And she told me, she said, “Well, just go to the instructor and find out what happened.” Because I had been passing in my work like everybody else. So I did, I went to her and I asked her for a conference. And so she told me that I could, you know, sit down there. And she was a very buxom lady, plain Jane-ish. And so, she told me, she said, in no uncertain terms, she said, “You didn’t take my 255 course?” -- which was an introductory course to cataloguing. And ... and she said, “And you came from a Niggra school”. She was very frank about it. So that let me know, right up front, where she was coming from. She didn’t hide it. She came right out with it. And she said, “That’s why you got the “D”.” So, the 255 course was like an introductory core course that you had to take for cataloguing, one for reference, and the other one to ... introduction to librarianship, and I forgot the other one. But there were like four core courses. But you see, I was a Library Science minor, so I had the hours. I had already had a cataloguing course. So, when I registered, they put me right on into the regular graduate level classes. So, she was letting me know, in no uncertain terms ...
Houston: That that didn’t count.

Jenkins: ... that that didn’t count.

Houston: Because you had gone to a Negro school.

Jenkins: That’s correct. Because I had gone to a Niggra school, as she said it. So, I said, “Well, I know exactly where you’re coming from.” So, what I did, I continued to go ahead and do my work like everybody else and made sure that my assignments were right. And she told one of my friends at the end of the semester ... she gave me a “B” in the class, that really, I had deserved an “A”. But, she gave me a “B”. Now, that’s ... would you call that racism?

Houston: That’s clearly racism.

Jenkins: Clearly racism, because I know that I didn’t have a thing wrong on my exams. But she let it be known.

Houston: So, she never told you what you had to do to get an “A”? She never said ...

Jenkins: Oh no, she never said. Oh no, she never said. Now, the other teachers that I had, even if they thought it, I never saw it. I got “B’s” and I think I got an “A” out of Miss Hofsteader. So, I mean, I survived the others. But, with Dr. Eton, it was obvious ... very obvious. Now, with
housing, I would not have encountered housing, had I been able to live on the campus. But going from my graduate work in the winter, I could not stay in the dormitory. So, I had to find a place out in the city. So, I lived with a Jewish ... two Jewish families. I lived with one one semester and the other one another semester. And we had what was known as these little attic apartments. And where I lived that second semester, I mean it was truly an attic because I had ... I had to send for a small heater. And I would have froze that second semester.

Houston: Well, it’s a very cold place.

Jenkins: It was very cold. And you know how it is in Champaign-Urbana, it’s cold. And there’s nothing to stop that wind. And of course, when it snowed and the ice came, it was cold. So, I was very glad to see the spring and the warm weather. And at the end of that semester, I moved on to the Delta House and stayed there until I finished my work in August. So housing was really a problem.

Houston: Was there ... was there ... was there overt racism among the student body at that time, I mean, in the mid-‘50s? I mean, did ... were there any ... you said the Black students sort of had this ... had to ... had to band together because there was so few of them ...

Jenkins: There was so few of us, we had no choice. Now, there were a few whites who would talk to you. But then, there were others just passed you straight on by. So, you know, having grown up in the South, I knew if
somebody ignored you, you know, to just leave them alone. But when it comes out to be a personal attack, then it’s different. So ... or when they personally do something to you. And see, that was my first encounter with ... no, it wasn’t my first encounter with a white instructor, because I had a white instructors at Bennett, and I didn’t have that kind of problem.

**Houston:** So, was this particular teacher the only one that you had a problem with? Thelma Eton?

**Jenkins:** That was the only one. She was the only one. Everybody else was ... decent, I’ll put it like that. If they thought otherwise, they didn’t show it. But I have no love for Illinois. It was just ... it was a different time, a different environment, as to when I went to get my doctorate.

**Houston:** Right. So you went back there for your doctorate?

**Jenkins:** No, no. I went to Rutgers . I went to Rutgers . In fact, for years I tried to get into the doctoral program and each time, it was always some kind of excuse. Because, you see, at that time, when I ... when I went to graduate school, there were two Blacks that had doctorates and Ph .... who had two ... had doctorates in Library Science. One was Eliza Gleason , who was the first Dean at AU, Atlanta University School of Library Science. And the other one was Virginia Lacylook Jones, and she was the second Dean. So you can see, we were few and far between. Then, later on, Dr. Annette Lewis Finezey , who was originally from Orangeburg, got her doctorate from
Columbia. And then Illinois started accepting, and Jessie Carne Smith of Fisk and Charles Churchwell got their doctorates in the ’60s. And ... I mean, it went like that for a couple of years. And after the assassination of Dr. King, then the library schools started opening up. And that’s how I got into Rutgers, because a friend of mine, Hardy Franklin, who is the director of the D.C. Public Library now, was at Queens. And of course, we’d all gone to American Library Association Annual Meetings together and become friends, and everybody knew what everybody’s plans were and what you were aspiring to. So, whenever there was a break in anything, you let the other fellow know. We had ... we have ... we had a good network then and we still have a very tight network. So, he and another friend of mine, Benford Connolly, called me and said that they were looking for Blacks. And I said ... they were looking for Blacks, I said, “Well, what do they want, a super, super Black”? And so, both of them said, “Now Barbara, now you know we don’t have any super records.” And knowing Hardy and knowing Benford, I said, “No, you all don’t.” But they said, “But, they’re looking for somebody who can stick with the program. They’re looking for somebody who has a fairly good track record, who has had some experience in the field, and who can make it.” So, with their encouragement, I went to Rutgers. I was accepted.

Houston: Right. That was in ’68 or ’69?

Jenkins: This was ’71.

Houston: Okay. So that means you had been out, working in the field, for ...
Jenkins: Oh, I had been out working since ’57.


Jenkins: I finished Illinois ... I finished ’56 and I came to South Carolina State in September of ’56.

Houston: Okay. So you were here at the time of the demonstrations?

Jenkins: oh, yes.

Houston: You had just started working here at that time?

Jenkins: Um hum. A lot of the demonstrations ... but, now, I was not here when there was a demonstration ... when the students ... with the Fred Moore demonstration. That happened in ’54-’55. See, I was away, I was in school then. All right? So ... or ‘55-’56 ... I was away then. See, I didn’t come until Fall ’56. So Fred had gone ... all of that early movement then, was started because of the repercussion of the Citizens’ Council? Okay, those students ... that group of students had finished.

Houston: So, what demonstrations were going on in ’56 ... in the Fall of ’56, when you arrived? The ones I’m thinking about are the ... are the ... are the demonstrations boycotting the ... boycott against the school for not ... for not joining the boycott, for not ...
Jenkins: Well, we had a lot of that. Now, I’m at the stage where we have been through so many boycotts ... we’ve been working with the hos ... trying to get the hospital desegregated, the schools integrated ... It was just one thing after another. But, now, as far as student participation on this campus, big student participation, that kind of laid low until about ... I guess the late ‘50s or early ‘60s. And then they started up again. It must have been about two or three big ones, I’d really have to sort of get my book now, and kind of go back and look at those dates. And then, with the last one in ‘68. But there were several in between. Because one was ... now, see, all of that’s after that.

Houston: Okay. Well, I’ve just noticed ... I know you have an appointment at 11:30, and I’d like to start this questionnaire, if we may, do it on tape.

Jenkins: Oh, all right.

Houston: Because I don’t want to run out of time, and this is really important. I’m going to start with ... a lot of the information I should be able to get by going back over my notes. But I will ... let’s see, ask you ... You were born in Union.

Jenkins: Union, U-

Houston: And what county is that?
Jenkins: It’s Union, South Carolina, Union County.

Houston: Okay. And your marital status is?

Jenkins: Married.

Houston: Married. And your spouse’s first, middle and last name?


Houston: And what is his... when was he born, please?

Jenkins: Where?

Houston: When? And where.

Jenkins: I’ve got to go get Bobby’s date. He was born in Manning, South Carolina, M-A-N-N-I-N-G.

Houston: Okay, and what county is that?

Jenkins: Clarendon, C-L-A-R-E-N-D-O-N.

Houston: Okay. And his occupation?
Jenkins: He’s a retired teacher, guidance counselor and coach.

Houston: And your mother’s first and middle names?

Jenkins: Okay, her name is Johncie, J-O-H-N-C-I-E.

Houston: C-I-E. Okay, and her middle name?

Jenkins: You want her maiden name or her middle name?

Houston: Her middle name.

Jenkins: Louise, L-O-U-I-S-E.

Houston: Okay. And her maiden name.

Jenkins: Sartor, S-A-R-T-O-R.

Houston: S-A-R-T-O-R. I’m putting the spelling into my notes. And what’s her date of birth?

Jenkins: I gotta go get it.

Houston: Well just, you know, the year would do. I mean, you don’t ...

Jenkins: It’s August 30th, 1908. I think.
Houston: Okay. So she’s got a birthday coming up soon.

Jenkins: Yeah. My husband’s is August 13th. And I think his is 1923, but put a question mark by that.

Houston: Okay. And you mother was born outside of Union?

Jenkins: Yeah, Union County.

Houston: Union County. And your ... her occupation was teacher?

Jenkins: Teacher. Um hum.

Houston: And your father’s first and middle names?

Jenkins: His name is ... his first name was Ernest, E-R-N-E-S-T, his middle name was Nesbit, N-E-S-B-I-T.

Houston: Okay. And when was he born?

Jenkins: January ... where?

Houston: When and where.

Jenkins: Okay.
Houston: I know he was born in Union County.

Jenkins: No, no ... Elloree .

Houston: Elloree , that’s right.

Jenkins: E-L-L-O-R-E-E.

Houston: Which is Orangeburg County?

Jenkins: Orangeburg County.

Houston: And ... and his date of birth?

Jenkins: January 28th ... God knows ... it was either 1902 or 1903.

Houston: Okay. I’ll just put a question mark beside it. I’ll put ’02 and put a question mark beside it. And when did he pass, please.


Houston: Okay. And his occupation was County ... 

Jenkins: He was State Extension ...
Houston: State Extension ...

Jenkins: State Extension Agent.

Houston: State Extension Agent for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

South Carolina State Extension ...

Jenkins: Director.

Houston: Director.

Jenkins: Um hum, USDA.

Houston: Okay. Well, this next one’s easy. It asks for the names of your brothers and sisters, their birth dates, and ...

Jenkins: None.

Houston: And, yeah. And children ... do you have any children?

Jenkins: My husband has two children - Ronald Robert and Pamela Ruth.

Houston: Do you know their birth dates and where they were born?

Jenkins: They were both born in Manning. Pam was born in ’56, I think. And Ronald was born in ... it must have been ‘45. Their mother passed, okay?
Houston: And do they have children?

Jenkins: Yes.

Houston: Okay, and how many between them?

Jenkins: Four.

Houston: Okay. This next question asks the places that you’ve lived, and you lived in Union, South Carolina ... Union, Union ... Union City, Union County, South Carolina. And you lived there from 1937, you were born in 1937 ...

Jenkins: ’34.

Houston: ’34.

Jenkins: Till ’4-

Houston: Until you were twelve - ’36 ... ’46.

Jenkins: ’45 or either ’46, yeah.

Houston: ’45. And then from then on, you’ve lived in ... you’ve lived in Orangeburg - except for the times you were away at school.
Jenkins: Orangeburg until I got married in '79. I don’t live here now, I live in Manning.

Houston: Okay. And is Manning in Orangeburg County ... no ...

Jenkins: Clarendon.

Houston: Clarendon, right. That’s a long drive, isn’t it?

Jenkins: Forty-five miles, one way.

Houston: I’m sorry, 1979?

Jenkins: ‘79 I got married, um hum.

Houston: 1945 to 1979. Okay. And then your ... the schools you graduated from were Wilkinson High School ... and that’s here. And the dates you graduated from there ... 1951.

Jenkins: ‘51.

Houston: So, you went there grades eight ... you started there grade nine.

Jenkins: Grade nine, I went in ‘47.
Houston: Okay, and then you went to ...

Jenkins: We came here in ’45, that’s how I know. Okay, you got ’45?

Houston: Yeah, I’ve got ’45 here.

Jenkins: That’s it.

Houston: For Orangeburg.

Jenkins: Right.

Houston: Yeah. To ’79, and then ...

Jenkins: ’6-, ’67, that’s right.

Houston: Okay. Then you went to Bennett College, in Atlanta.

Jenkins: Um um, Greensborough, North Carolina.

Houston: I’m sorry, okay. And you were there in 1951 ...

Jenkins: To ’55.

Houston: And you graduated with a ... with a B.A.?
Jenkins: A B.A.

Houston: B.A., 1955. And then you went to the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, 1955–’56,

Jenkins: Right.

Houston: M.A.

Jenkins: Um um, M.S.L.S.

Houston: Sorry, M.S. ...

Jenkins: Um hum, Master of Science in Library Science.

Houston: L.S., 1956. And your current position is Director ...

Jenkins: Dean.

Houston: Dean, sorry.

Jenkins: Library Services.

Houston: Dean ... and that’s ...

[End of Tape 1, Side B]
[Begin Tape 2, Side A]

Houston: ... and before that you were Director?

Jenkins: What they called Director.

Houston: And you were Director from what to what period?

Jenkins: I think it must have been 19- ... about ’70.

Houston: 1970. And prior to that?

Jenkins: And prior ... Head Librarian.

Houston: Prior to that you were Head Librarian?

Jenkins: The Head Librarian. The same position, just name change.

Houston: Okay. And that was 1956?

Jenkins: Uh uh . 1962.

Houston: To 1970?

Jenkins: Um hum.

Houston: And ... and then ... You came to the campus in ’56.
Jenkins: Um hum.

Houston: In the fall of ’56.

Jenkins: And before that I was Reference and Doc- ... after ... before ...”

Houston: Before Head Librarian?

Jenkins: Reference and Documents Librarian.

Houston: ... and Documents ... And that was 1956 to ’62. Okay. And this next one is a long one. It’s awards and honors or offices held ...

Jenkins: Oh God. You want my vitae?

Houston: Yeah. I could pull it off of there, but let me read the rest of this for you so you’ll know what they are. This ... the following question is easy. Current religious denomination.

Jenkins: AME.

Houston: AME. And Church?

Jenkins: My church? Williams Chapel.
Houston: Here?

Jenkins: Um hum.

Houston: And this isn’t ... this next is probably a CV question as well ... Please list below any organizations to which the interviewee has belonged ... belongs or belonged, including civic, community, educational, political, etc. Include dates and places, if possible.

Jenkins: Oh, Jesus.

Houston: But that’s ... that’s probably on your CV, right?

Jenkins: Some of it will. Let me get a copy of it and you can see.

[disconnected microphone] [End of Interview]

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