Interviewee
Dorrah-Evans, Dorothy Mae Lomax, 1906-2012

Interviewer
Crosby, Tom, 1940-

Date
August 20, 2010

Location
Temple Hills, Maryland

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Scope and Background Note
This second oral history interview with Dorothy Evans covers the nearly same subject matter as the first interview. Dorothy Mae Lomax Dorrah-Evans was born in Washington, D.C., on January 30, 1906, one of three children born to Adele Chapell. She died at the age of 106 on March 16, 2012. Tom Crosby interviewed Dorothy Evans at her residence in Temple Hills, Maryland, on August 20, 2010.
Tom Crosby: Today is Friday August 20, 2010 and I’m in Temple Hills, Maryland. And I’m at the home where a person that graduated from Allen University in 1925—

Dorothy Evans: Twenty-four.

TC: Twenty-four and her name is Mrs. Dorothy Mae Lomax Evans.
DE: Amen.
TC: Amen.
DE: You got it all down.
TC: Mrs. Evans, where were you born?
DE: In the District of Columbia.
TC: District of Columbia and the year?
DE: In 1906.
TC: In 1906.
DE: Columbia Hospital, they tore it down.
TC: Oh really?
DE: Didn’t they, Adrian?
Adrian Blount: Un-huh.
DE: Yeah, I think they tore my hospital down. It was a small hospital.
TC: Who were your parents?
DE: My mother was Adele.
AB: Chappell.
DE: Wait a minute. Adele.
TC: Adele Chappell?
DE: Chappell.
TC: That’s the complete maiden name, Chappell?
DE: Yes. She married a Chappell.
TC: Well, you know that name rings a bell to me, you know, Chappell.
DE: Yeah?
TC: You know why, what I’m referring to?
DE: Yeah.
TC: Two reasons.
DE: Chappell was at Allen.
TC: Yeah.
DE: Bishop.
TC: He was the bishop when you were a student, right?
DE: Yeah.
TC: And there is another significance of that name associated with Allen. It’s a building.
DE: Oh, yeah, didn’t they name that building for him?
TC: They named the building for him.
DE: Yeah, he was something.
TC: I think its W.D. Chappell; I think are the initials of his name. Okay, if we may go back just a moment and then we must come back to Chappell Administration Building because I’m sure you remember it well. Where did you go to elementary school or schools, the name of your elementary school here in the District I guess?
AB: Was it Bowen?
DE: Let me see.
AB: Was it Anthony Bowen?
DE: Huh?
AB: I don’t know. Was it Anthony Bowen? [Editor’s note: likely Amidon-Bowen Elementary located in SW Washington, DC]
TC: Okay, you don’t remember the elementary name now but most likely the high school, what was the name of your high school?
DE: I’m trying to think.
AB: Was it Dunbar?
DE: Who?
AB: Dunbar? Did you graduate from Dunbar?
DE: Armstrong.
AB: Armstrong.
TC: Oh, you went to Armstrong High School? [Editor’s Note: the full name of the school: Samuel Chapman Armstrong Technical High School]
DE: Un-huh.
TC: Okay. And did you participate in some activities there, some of the school activities, anything, basketball or?
DE: No.
TC: The choir?
DE: I sang on the glee club.
TC: You sang on the glee club?
DE: Un-huh. Let me see. I had to work, back in those days if your parents didn’t have enough money to pay.
AB: This was in high school.
DE: Huh?
AB: This was in high school.
DE: Oh, high school?
TC: Yeah. But you sang on the glee club?
DE: Oh, yeah.
TC: I see.
AB: At Dunbar, at Armstrong?
DE: No, I didn’t go to Dunbar.
AB: At Armstrong.
DE: At Armstrong.
TC: At Armstrong?
DE: Yeah.
TC: I see. Okay, so you remember the name of any particular teacher that you were fond of in high school?
DE: Let’s see.
TC: Maybe somebody that was very demanding.
DE: It’s been so long.
TC: Okay, you don’t recall the name now?
DE: I remember at Allen, what’s her name?
TC: Well, maybe we’ll come back to the name of one at Allen. Okay, so after finishing high school then you wanted to go to college?
DE: Un-huh.
TC: Okay.
DE: Yeah, that’s why I was at Allen. I went to high school here in the District. I went to not Dunbar.

AB: Armstrong.

DE: Armstrong, yeah. You see my mother she married and went, I was born in the District and my father died when I was a little girl. Then when I got up some size, I don’t know how old I was, but she married again and she married a man from South Carolina. So she went to South Carolina to live and I lived here with my godparents and I went to high school here at Armstrong. I didn’t go to Dunbar, I went to Armstrong. And let me see, what was his name, Captain, he had a military name.

TC: I see. Okay, so after finishing high school then you wanted to go to college?

DE: Yeah, when I got ready to go to college then I went to South Carolina to live and that’s when I went to Allen. I wanted to go to Dunbar, not Dunbar.

TC: Benedict?

DE: Benedict but didn’t have money enough.

TC: So Allen was cheap?

DE: Allen was cheap.

TC: Or cheaper?

DE: Cheaper.

TC: Allen was cheaper, I see.

DE: And Dr. Mance was the president. Bishop Chappell was over.

TC: Bishop.

DE: Bishop.

TC: Of the school.

DE: Because see Allen was a church school.

TC: Right, A.M.E.

DE: A.M.E. and Bishop Chappell ran the whole thing.

TC: He was a tough man?

DE: He was a tough man.

TC: In what way do you mean when you say he was tough?

DE: Well, he was a bishop and he would, you know, he had a Cadillac you know and he had a chauffeur and he’d tell him, “bring my cat around to the door.” (Laughter) He was full of his self. Yeah, “bring my cat around to the door.” TC: I bet the color was black.

DE: Black, yeah, he was black.

TC: No, the color of the car.

DE: He was black too. (Laughter)
TC: Yeah.
DE: But he was a good bishop.
TC: He was a good bishop?
DE: But he, oh yeah, un-huh.
TC: Now do you recall Chappell Administration Building being built?
DE: Yeah.
TC: You remember when it was under construction?
TC: And after it got finished you worked there in the dining hall, right?
DE: Yeah, I was still in school and I had to wait tables, you know. I remember we went in that new building that they had swinging doors and I was waiting tables and somebody met me with the dishes. I was, you know, going to set up the tables and somebody met me and knocked all the dishes and my mother had to pay for them.

TC: Isn’t that amazing that actually happened, you know, to your knowledge? You’ve heard it?
AB: Un-huh.
DE: Yeah, she had to pay for them dishes.
AB: Or you wouldn’t graduate?
DE: Huh?
AB: Or you wouldn’t graduate from school, you said they told you.
DE: I don’t know whether.
AB: They told her you had to pay for them before you graduated.
DE: Something like that. I know she had to pay for them. And you see it happened we had gone in this new Chappell Building and they had swinging doors and somebody, I was coming to set up my table and somebody was coming out and instead of them coming out the side door, the other door.
TC: Through the swinging door?
DE: They came in the door I had the dishes and knocked them off.
TC: Almost kept you from graduating from college.
DE: Oh, yeah.
TC: Now so your mom had to actually pay for those dishes?
DE: Oh, yeah.
TC: That’s amazing. Okay, you know that that building has a lot of history?
DE: Chappell?
TC: Chappell.
DE: Oh, yeah.

TC: Right and a number of noted persons visited Allen’s campus and either sang or spoke in that auditorium.

DE: Auditorium, un-huh.

TC: Of the Chappell Administration Building.

DE: Yeah.

TC: Do you recall any noted person that came to campus when you were a student at Allen?

DE: What you mean?

TC: Some big name person that may have come to campus. I have read an article somewhere where a poet, a noted black poet, spoke in that auditorium, Langston, Langston Hughes. Do you recall that name, Langston Hughes?

DE: I recall the name.

TC: Yeah, but you don’t recall his being there?

DE: I don’t recall him being there.

TC: Okay now also that building is noted for its architecture and there was a person by the name of, the last name is Langford, L-A-N-G-F-O-R-D, he was the architect. He drew up the design of that building.

DE: Drew up the design of that building.

TC: And many of the A.M.E. Church buildings also designed by him, yeah, Langford. Okay, now did you participate in activities on Allen’s campus?

DE: I sang on the glee club, not that I could sing, but. (Laughter)

TC: But you tried?

DE: Well, it was a way of, you know, getting around, you know, in the building. I tried. I sang on the glee club.

TC: Did the choir go different places?

DE: No, we didn’t. They took the people that could sing.

TC: But you didn’t travel with them, I see.

DE: They traveled. And on Sunday we used to go, they’d let us go to church on Sunday and we marched from Allen uptown.

TC: To Bethel.

DE: To Bethel, two by two. It was amazing and people would be looking at us, you know. We had to wear uniforms.

TC: You did?
DE: Yeah, we had to wear a middy blouse and skirts, blue skirts and middy blouse and had a black tie and a navy blue hat. That was the costume you had to wear. You couldn’t wear anything. I mean you had to wear what they said wear.

TC: And I guess the guys had to have a tie on. The boys, they had to have a tie?
DE: Yeah. But the boys they just let them do what they wanted to do.

TC: They did? I’m surprised. I’m really surprised that they let them do what they wanted to do.
DE: Oh, yeah, but the girls are the ones that they, they were really tough on us, you know. On the campus you could only go so far because the boy’s dormitory was on one side and the girls on the other and you better not.

TC: Now what was the name of that dormitory in which you lived?
DE: Coppin Hall.

TC: Coppin Hall, and I think that building was built in 1909 I think is when it was built, Coppin Hall. And those boys they were living in, do you recall the name of where the boys lived? It started with the letter A, A-R, A-R-N.
DE: Arnett.
TC: Arnett.
DE: Yeah.

TC: Arnett Hall.
DE: But they were way across on that side of the campus. We was on this side. And then you couldn’t go but so far on this side of the campus.

TC: You mean you had to stay away from?
DE: Oh, yeah, you couldn’t go all over the campus because I guess they thought you might run in the dormitory or something. They were strict and I know when, you know, like you supposed to been courting the matron would sit right beside the door and the door better not be closed. You had the door open.

TC: The matron sit and look at you?
DE: She set.

TC: Very near?
DE: She wouldn’t look in the door. She was just sitting like she—

TC: Was close?
DE: But that door was open and she sitting right there listening to everything you said. 

(Laughter)

TC: I see.
DE: Oh, yeah.
TC: So I guess the boys could come on Sunday. Could they come on Sunday to the dormitory?
DE: No, won’t no Sunday. That’s a holy day. *(Laughter)*
TC: But I thought the boys would walk you on campus, come to the lounge.
DE: No, we went to church on Sunday. We used to have to go up to Bethel and we had to wear middy blouse and skirts. You couldn’t wear anything. You had to wear white middy blouse and blue skirt and a navy blue hat. And we marched to church and marched back.
TC: I see. Now how many times per week did you have I guess they called it devotion or chapel, like maybe two or three times a week you had to go?
DE: To chapel?
TC: To chapel, something like that. More than once I guess, right?
DE: Oh, yeah, we had prayer meeting, you know, and we had to go. They were really strict, you know.
TC: Do you remember the name Holman?
DE: Who?
TC: Holman, H-O-L-M-A-N, the last name Holman, he was from Newberry.
DE: Newberry?
TC: Yes.
DE: Was he there the years?
TC: He may have been there during the time. Mr. Swinton, Tony Swinton?
DE: Oh, Swinton.
TC: Tony Swinton.
DE: Yeah.
TC: Little short guy.
DE: Swinton, you didn’t say Swinton, yeah. *(Laughter)*
TC: Correct me, little short man.
DE: Short man, un-huh.
TC: So he was a student during the time that you were there.
DE: Yeah, Tony Swinton, yeah.
TC: Think so? I think he played football.
DE: Yeah, he played football. Is he still living?
TC: No, he passed maybe like fifteen, twenty years ago. How about, I don’t think so,
T.B. Nelson, that was later I think, I’m pretty sure. Any other student name you remember?

**DE:** Let me see.

**TC:** May I, I’m sorry to interrupt you but with reference to Tony Swinton, he taught me history.

**DE:** He did?

**TC:** He taught me U.S. history, eight o’clock in the morning, just as you go up the steps, that room on the right, the very first room is where he taught me.

**DE:** He used to teach at Allen?

**TC:** Yeah, he taught history.

**DE:** I didn’t know that.

**TC:** He was a great motivator for football pep rallies.

**DE:** Yeah.

**TC:** He would say, “Give me that old A.U. spirit.”

**DE:** I didn’t know he worked at Allen. He was a student when I was there.

**TC:** Yeah, but he taught me history.

**DE:** Oh, my goodness.

**TC:** We had an exam and somehow I became aware of the teacher’s manual that had tests in it, okay, and I studied those chapters that he said would be on the test and I did alright on the test. And so he was, but the other students, to be frank about it, the other students didn’t have access to the teacher’s test bank but I did.

**AB:** How did you get it?

**TC:** From a friend who had transferred, from a friend who had transferred from South Carolina State, yeah. He had the teacher’s test bank and so, to be honest and I know this is being recorded and so forth; I really wasn’t cheating because, you know, I had access to the teacher’s test bank. So I really wasn’t cheating. So anyway, I passed the test.

**DE:** I see. Do you have a record of when they had a, what was that they had?

**TC:** You talking about the choir?

**DE:** Huh?

**TC:** You referring to music?

**DE:** No, when they sent us home. What was that? They wanted to make us, what was they wanted to make us clean up because they had this new building, the new Chappell Building, that was a new building at that time. They wanted the boys, you know, to clean. They didn’t hire nobody to work, nobody but the cook, and the cook they gave
him so much money and that’s how he got his salary, how much he could save out of what he got, you know. What was his name?

TC: So what did the boys do? Did they do some work on campus?

DE: No, the girls, boys didn’t do nothing. They told the boys they wanted them to clean that new, see they built that new building.

TC: And they wouldn’t do it?

DE: And they said they, and they told us not to do it. (Laughter) And so when the boys said they wasn’t going to do it then they came to us, to the girls, because the boys told us don’t do it. And so we didn’t do it and they sent us home. And there was a girl that was cleaning.

TC: Excuse me, did they send all the students home or just some of the students?

DE: Those that they had—

TC: Refused to work?

DE: Selected to clean. See the seniors was the ones they wanted to clean the president’s office and they sent us home. We didn’t think they was going, the boys said they ain’t going to send you home and we’re not going to do that. So we listened at the boys and a girl was cleaning the president’s office and she found this copy of a letter that they were sending to our parents to tell them to meet us, what train they was going to put us on. They sent us home. And, honey, we cried. We were scared to go home. (Laughter)

TC: So how did you get back in school?

DE: Well, Bishop Chappell came there and asked Mance why did he do it. It was in the papers down there, you know.

TC: Really?

DE: Un-huh and then they sent for us to come back.

TC: So your parents had to say that you were to do what they asked you to do I guess or so forth?

DE: Un-huh.

TC: Now you were an elementary education major, right?

DE: Un-huh.

TC: I see. Any particular teacher you remember?

DE: Huh?

TC: Do you remember any teacher that taught you in elementary ed?

DE: Mrs. Bowman.
TC: Bowman?
DE: Un-huh.
TC: I see.
DE: Let me see, who else? I can’t remember the Latin teacher. It’s a man.
TC: Was that, it wasn’t Baumgartner was it, Baumgartner?
DE: Baumgartner was there.
TC: As a teacher or as a student?
DE: No, he was a teacher.
TC: Baumgartner, yeah.
DE: Baumgartner. I’m trying to think of, Mrs. Bowman was a teacher. She taught, you know, education, Beatrice Bowman.
TC: Beatrice Bowman?
DE: You’ve heard of her?
TC: I’m not sure. Did you know any students that, I’m not sure there were any students majoring in law at that time.
DE: Taking law?
TC: Taking law.
DE: Un-huh.
TC: No? Not familiar those?
DE: Huh?
TC: Not familiar with any students taking law, studying law?
DE: Un-uh.
TC: Okay. You’re aware that they did have a law department at one point, yeah. I have a photo of the first graduating class, 1884. I’ll try and send you a copy of it, yeah. Okay, now you had science I’m sure.
DE: Who?
TC: You had science, biology, biology?
DE: Yeah, I had everything. It’s been so long.
TC: How about the name of a teacher that taught biology? No?
DE: Beatrice Bowman, she was teacher.
TC: Education, right?
DE: Yeah. I’m trying to think of the man. He taught Latin. I can’t think of his name.
TC: Was a person there by the name of Fountain?
DE: Fountain?
TC: Yeah. You don’t remember that name?
DE: Un-uh.
TC: How about Paguese?
DE: Pageese?
TC: Robert Paguese. Now Allen had a high school too at that point when you were there. So you remember any interaction with the high school students, let’s say maybe in your education courses? You may have had some interaction with those students, high school students.
DE: No because we were on one floor and the high school students were up on another floor and we didn’t pay them no attention. *(Laughter)*
TC: You were too big for them.
DE: Yeah, and they were on another floor up higher. We were on one floor and then they had them up on another floor.
TC: In Coppin Hall?
DE: Yeah, in Coppin Hall.
TC: Yeah.
DE: I was going to ask do you remember she was at Third Street. She was a friend, I remember when she and her sister, Dinkins sisters.
( ): Vie Banks?
DE: Vie Banks.
( ): Bob Banks, I don’t remember her maiden name, but Vie was there.
DE: And she came there as a freshman and they had them up in the roof and we didn’t pay them no attention at all. *(Laughter)*
TC: I see. Now Allen also had a grammar school, grammar school as well.
DE: Yeah
TC: Any knowledge about the grammar school?
DE: Well see I think they used that when I guess if you were going to teach school, you know, and they used that.
TC: In some of the classes?
DE: Yeah.
TC: As a class, yeah. Now I think the grammar school discontinued somewhere around 1922 or ’25 I believe and the high school discontinued around 1932 I believe, yeah. So those high school people had to go upstairs?

DE: Yeah, had to go upstairs, up in the roof and this lady in our church she and her sister came. They called them the Dinkins sisters...

Adrian Blount: That’s their name, Dinkins.

DE: Yeah.

AB: Viola Dinkins.

DE: Yeah, they were [unintelligible]. (Laughter)

AB: Because their dad was at church.

DE: You know, Allen had desegregated.

TC: Yeah. So did you go out and what they call student teach before you got your regular job? Did you do that? You didn’t? You went right on, right from Allen? You didn’t have to teach kids other than right there on campus and then you got your job after graduating?

DE: You graduated you had to get a job yourself. They didn’t get no job for you.

TC: Right and where was your first job?

DE: My first job was in Camden, South Carolina. I had a classmate at Allen and she got me a job. She lived in Camden.

TC: Yeah. What was her name?

DE: Huh?

AB: Celia.

DE: Huh?

TC: What was her name?

DE: What was her name?

AB: Celia.

DE: Huh?

AB: Celia.

TC: Celia.

AB: Her name was Celia.

DE: Yeah, Celia.

TC: Do you recall the last name?

AB: Was she a Pickett?
DE: Huh?
AB: Was she a Pickett? I don’t know what her last name was.
DE: Celia, what was her name?
TC: Okay, you don’t recall right now?
DE: She’s dead now. But she got me a job.
TC: In Camden?
DE: In Camden and I lived with, you know, her parents because she was at home.
TC: I see.
DE: She never got married. She got killed before.
AB: Got killed in an automobile accident.
DE: Un-huh, automobile accident.
TC: So how long were you teaching in Camden?
DE: I taught two years there. [Editor’s note: Jackson High School, in Camden S.C.] The first year I would send half, I paid my room and board and then I sent half of what was left to my mother and so I didn’t have a whole lot of money to buy clothes. Celia was living at home. Her parents didn’t charge her nothing so she just would dress, you know, buying clothes, you know. So I sent my mother half. I paid my room and board and then sent her half and when I came home she had put the money in the bank. And I said I thought you would buy some clothes for yourself. No, I put it in the bank and saved it. So when I went back the next year I said it ain’t no need of sending it home, she ain’t going to buy no clothes. So, you know, I didn’t send money like I did before. But when I went home that year and my mother was so glad to see me and then she said how much did you bring home. I said ma’am? I didn’t have nothing but that last check. (Laughter) She said write them and tell them you won’t be back. I said I got my job there. You write them people. You ain’t going back because you don’t [unintelligible] your money and I didn’t go back.
TC: So after teaching in Camden you went to Clinton?
AB: Barksdale. [Editor’s note: full name of school: Barksdale-Harnie School in rural Laurens County, SC]
DE: Barksdale. Yeah, I had to get another job up and this, I can’t think of his name, he’s a graduate of Allen. He was a preacher. And he got me the job at Barksdale.
TC: Barksdale?
AB: South Carolina.
TC: South Carolina? What part?
AB: It’s not far from Union or it’s not far from Clinton.
DE: It’s between Clinton and Greenville.
AB: Yeah.

TC: So did you work at Bell Street High School?

DE: I finally got to Bell Street but I taught in a rural district before.

TC: I see. So you were teaching at Bell Street I think for about, what, seventeen?

DE: I don’t know, a long time.

TC: Long time? Now who was the principal?

DE: The first principal was Reverend Johnson and then Johnny Mims was the second principal. Of course, my godparents lived in the District and so they kept, you know, they said if we get you a job, you come back up here because you ain’t getting much salary, you know, down there, fifty dollars a month. And they was getting ready for the war, you know, in Washington and they got me a blank from the Bureau of Engraving. They told me, you know, fill it out and send it back and I did and they called me. So I told Johnny Mims, he was the principal at Bell Street, so I said I wanted to show them I have a job so I’m going up there and work until school opens and then I’m coming back down here. This was in the summer. So I came on up. My godparents were living in the District. I came on and stayed with them. The first pay I got at the bureau, because the bureau was segregated too, and I was used to segregation so I didn’t eat in the cafeteria, you know. They had a little table back in the corner. What’s that president? His wife was the one broke it off.

TC: Roosevelt.

DE: Roosevelt’s wife, she came there to visit.

TC: And his wife was named Eleanor.

DE: Eleanor Roosevelt and, you know, they had separate rooms for you to change your clothes and the blacks had a room and the whites had a room. In the cafeteria the whites would sit up front and they had little tables in the back corner. I carried my lunch. I’m used to segregation, you know. And so Eleanor Roosevelt came in and broke that up but I never did eat in the cafeteria because wasn’t no need in me going in there eating and sitting back in the corner.

TC: I see. So she was the one that discontinued that practice?

DE: They would fight, you know, when the colored women would go in the white they would jump on you to beat you. But see I was used to segregation. I didn’t even try to go in there.

TC: So is there something else that you would like to tell us about your experiences at Allen as a student? Anything you would like to say that we haven’t said thus far?

AB: Tell him about your meeting Claudia and Parnell. That’s where you met them, your life long friends.

DE: Yeah, oh yeah. Well, Claudia was from Clinton.
TC: Okay, now what was her last name?
DE: Claudia.
AB: Dorrah.
DE: What?
AB: Dorrah. Claudia Dorrah Ferguson.
DE: Yeah, Dorrah, yeah, Claudia Dorrah.
TC: D-O-R-A-H?
AB: R-R.
TC: D-O-R-R-A-H?
AB: Un-huh.
TC: Okay.
AB: And Parnell Sally.
DE: Yeah, Parnell. What’s Parnell’s last name?
AB: Sally.
DE: Sally.
TC: Parnell Sally?
AB: Un-huh. She was from Columbia.
DE: Yeah.
TC: I’m going to look for those names in the catalog.
AB: They’re in—
TC: They’re in the one that I gave you?
AB: No, they’re on her graduation program.
TC: Oh, they are?
DE: Un-huh.
TC: Oh, and she has it now? She still has the program?
AB: Wherever it is, we saw it. That’s a long, long time ago but I remember seeing it because I picked their names out.
TC: And she has her diploma too?
AB: Un-huh.
TC: Oh, I’d like to see it.
AB: I thought you saw it last time. We didn’t see it?
TC: No, we didn’t see it.
DE: She thought what?
TC: She’s looking for your diploma.
(): That’s interesting.
TC: Yeah, it is.
(): That far back.
TC: It really is.
DE: I don’t know where it is.
(): I sure wish my mom could be here looking as good as she does.
TC: She does look good. Yeah, she looks really good. I remember my mom’s hair being like yours.
DE: Oh, no.
TC: Yeah. You’re about the same height as my mother too.
DE: Oh, no.
TC: Yeah, part of life.
DE: Now that is something.
TC: Yeah. Now my mom her favorite color was pink.
DE: Pink?
TC: Pink, yeah. So you notice some of the flowers in there that I brought her are pink.
(): I saw them. It’s really a pretty bouquet.
DE: Oh, yeah. Look, I see them. I love flowers.
TC: So those won’t die on you.
DE: They won’t?
TC: Because they’re artificial.
DE: Artificial?
AB: So it’s something for you to remember him by for a long time.
TC: Yeah, well, it’s really been a pleasure interviewing her.
DE: Do you live in this area?
TC: No, I live in South Carolina.
AB: Oh, in South Carolina?
TC: Yeah, I live in Columbia.
DE: Where do you live in South Carolina?
TC: Columbia.
DE: Columbia?
TC: I’m on Allen’s campus almost every day.
( ): That’s where Bobby Leaper is, Columbia.
DE: Who?
( ): Bobby Leaper, Robert Leaper is in Columbia, South Carolina.
DE: Yeah.
TC: Yeah. Yeah, I’m on Allen’s campus. What I’m doing is doing taped interviews of persons that attended the black schools in South Carolina in the past, elementary through college. And I have done, she will make the forty-fourth person. And so I’m going to take excerpts of what some of them tell me and do a book about what it was like to have—
( ): To have been at the university?
TC: To have been in during that segregated time going to school. In fact—
( ): It’s interesting that her, oh, I’m sorry.
TC: No.
( ): It was interesting the part where she said how they didn’t want, the boys wouldn’t clean and they told the girls not to clean. I thought that was fascinating how they listened and they got shipped home
TC: Yeah, it was interesting. And it was interesting too about having the high school and the girls living on the second floor.
( ): She had shared that with me just not too real long ago so I was aware of that. She said they were upper classmen and that was the little old high school in college, you know, campus.
TC: Right, yeah. So what kinds of things did you do for entertainment other than going to class all the time? You went to basketball games I guess.
DE: Oh, yeah.
TC: You had basketball.
DE: Went to basketball games. We went to football. Now they never played it on the campus.
TC: They didn’t?
DE: Un-uh, we didn’t have no place on the campus to play no football.
TC: Yeah, I don’t know when that stadium was built but I know when the boy’s basketball started. I have an article. They played Claflin.

DE: We went to football games but it wasn’t on the campus.

TC: Yeah, you went off campus.

DE: Yeah. I’m trying to think because I’m looking at the campus and I don’t see nowhere for no football.

TC: Yeah, they had it off campus.

DE: Had it off campus.

TC: Right.

DE: We had to go to church every Sunday, yeah, and we marched to big Bethel downtown.

AB: This is a photograph album but I couldn’t find and I have seen her diploma and the program in recent months or recent weeks. I don’t know where it is.

TC: Graduation program?

AB: Un-huh. [unintelligible] Mangum is on there and James Albany, some people I knew.

TC: Oh really, I see. To conclude our interview here today, anything else you’d like to say at this point about attending Allen, your life in general, your work or anything along that line you’d like to say?

DE: Well, to me it was wonderful to be at Allen and it was a good life for us because see I lived up in Clinton and when I got down to Allen we was in a city. Clinton’s just a little old by town.

TC: Y’all come to town, yeah.

DE: Yeah and I enjoyed the time that I had at Allen.

TC: What were some enjoyable things—

DE: Beatrice Bowman, did you ever hear of her?

TC: I’m not familiar with that name.

DE: She was one of the professors at Allen at the time. Her name was Beatrice Bowman.

TC: Bowman, I see.

DE: And let me see, I was trying to think of my Latin teacher’s name.

TC: One named Mr. Garrett there?

DE: Who?
DE: No, I don’t remember him.
TC: Arnett, was Arnett there? He wasn’t there, was he? Yeah, okay.
DE: Beatrice Bowman, she taught us education. She was a good teacher.
TC: She was good?
DE: And I was trying to think of the man that taught us Latin.
TC: Yeah, I’ll look that name.
DE: Latin took me. (Laughter)
TC: Oh, really?
DE: I didn’t take to it.
TC: I heard it was very hard. Latin was hard. What I’ll do I will look through the old catalogs and see who taught Latin and I’ll call you and let you know who that person was.
DE: I wonder. It was a man and he taught Latin.
TC: I see. Okay, if you don’t have any additional comments, I’d like to thank you for the interview. I’ve learned a lot about our alma mater.
DE: Well, I ain’t been able to tell you too much because look it’s been so long.
TC: One interesting thing that you told me, to me, was about the girls, the high school girls, they lived in your dormitory on upper floors.
DE: Upper floors, up in the roof.
(): And to be a hundred and four to even remember all the things you do, I think it’s remarkable.
TC: It really is. So again, I thank you. Allen thanks you. So this tape is going to be at the University of South Carolina oral history archives. So that’s where the tape will be forever, yeah.
DE: They got a nice building in Columbia now.
TC: Yeah, on Allen’s campus?
DE: Yeah
TC: Yeah, those two dormitories were built.
DE: I was in Columbia.
AB: Three years ago. Put your name and addresses on here.
End of interview