Andrea L’Hommedieu: This is an interview for the South Caroliniana Library at USC. The date is March 1, 2012. This is Andrea L’Hommedieu. Today I’m in Camden, [sic] Maine with—

HT: Camden, South Carolina.

AL: I’m sorry. Camden, South Carolina and I’m with Annie McLaughlin Brannan. Is that correct?

Annie Brannan: Yes.

AL: And Harvey Teal. And, Annie, could you start just by telling me your full name.

AB: Annie B. Brannan. Annie B. McLaughlin Brannan.

AL: And how do you spell Brannan?


AL: Okay, and where and when were you born?

AB: I was born in Kershaw County in 1920.

AL: And is this where you grew up?

AB: Yes.

AL: And in which town in Kershaw County?

AB: It was in the country and Cassatt was our, where we got our mail from, was our post office.

AL: Okay, and tell me what size of a family did you come from?

AB: Well, I had three brothers but they were much older than I was. The youngest one was fifteen and I had one eighteen and one twenty.

AL: So you were the baby?

AB: Yes.

AL: And what were your parents’ names?

AL: Is Cato spelled C-A-T-O? Do you remember?
AB: E, with an E, C-A-T-O-E.
AL: Okay, and what did your parents do when you were growing up?
AB: My father was a farmer and a millwright and my mother was a housekeeper, stay at home mom.
AL: And can you talk about what your father did for work? Did you see him working and describe the sorts of things he did?
AB: Yes, he farmed and my brother farmed with him and when he was away working on mills, that would be water mills back then, and he would rebuild them and keep them up to date.
AL: And what kind of farming did he do?
AB: Cotton and corn, wheat, oats.
AL: Were you ever asked to go help with the farming?
AB: Yes.
AL: What sorts of things did you do?
AB: Well, (Laughter) from the time I could walk I rode on my brother’s plow, till I got so big I was sinking the plow down and he had to make me quit. Then I walked between him and the handlebars. Finally he gave me the plow and let me plow. (Laughter) And it was right funny to me, back then girls didn’t wear pants and Daddy went to town and bought a pair of overalls for me and my mom and my sister-in-law didn’t want me to wear them. They thought that was a disgrace. And they tried to take them away from me and Daddy said, “You can’t take them away from her; I don’t want my boy plowing a mule and wearing a dress.” (Laughter)
AL: So what was it like to be in rural, very rural South Carolina during those years?
AB: Yes. What was the question?
AL: What was it like? Did you have neighbors? What did you do for fun?
AB: We had neighbors and we would mostly go to church. And I don’t remember anything else.
AL: Did you have dances or suppers?
AB: Beg your pardon.
AL: Did you go to dances at the church?
AB: No.
AL: Or suppers?
AB: No.
AL: Was there anything like a grange hall?
AB: What?
Harvey Teal: A farmers organization.

Krissy Hinson (nurse): Was there a farmers organization?

AB: Farmers organization?

KH: Was there anything like that?

AB: I don’t remember anything like that. Daddy took care of all the business and my brother took care of the farm. He was a workaholic. He believed in working from before daylight until after dark. (Laughter) He would get up and feed his mules and Mama would have breakfast for him and he’d sit down on the porch and wait for it to get daylight so he could go to work.

AL: Well, tell me, do you have recollections of the Great Depression coming to South Carolina?

AB: Yes, I heard them talking about it. But I mean as far as I was concerned, we had everything we needed.

AL: So you didn’t go hungry?

AB: No. We had plenty of chickens and turkeys and guineas and vegetables and my mother canned everything she could get a hold of. And I remember her going in the woods and picking blueberries. And she always had all kinds of jellies and pickles. And we had several cows and we had plenty of milk and butter. So really, I wasn’t aware of it like other people were. I remember one girl that was in training said that she went in training because she was hungry and she could get food that way. She became a nurse.

AL: So where was your nurses training program?

AB: Camden Hospital.

HT: Where’d you go to school at in the country, Annie B.?

AB: Oakland School. It was a two-room school and the teachers boarded at home.

AL: Now when you say the teachers boarded at home?

AB: At my house.

AL: Oh, at your house?

AB: Yes. And we walked about a mile to school.

HT: High school, where’d you go to high school?

AB: Beg your pardon.

HT: Where’d you go to high school?

AB: Midway. I was transferred to Midway when I finished the seventh grade.

AL: And how big a school was that?

AB: It was still a small school at that time. I don’t know how many students we had. It was probably, well there were fifteen in my class and it was very small.

AL: And then you decided to go to Camden Hospital to train as a nurse?
AB: Beg your pardon.
AL: And then you went on to Camden Hospital?
AB: Yes.
AL: To do the nurse’s training program?
AB: Yes.
AL: What did that entail?

AB: Well, let me go back a little bit. I had pneumonia and I didn’t get to graduate with my class. They thought I was dying that night. And they draped my gown over a chair and Mrs. Montgomery will remember that better than I do. Her brother-in-law was our superintendent at that time. And I think my being in the hospital, I remember one of the nurses asking me what I was going to do and I told her I didn’t know, I reckon I’d have to go to college. And she said, “Have you ever thought about being a nurse?” And I said, “No, I didn’t know that I could be.” And she told me about the program and everything.

Well, I was willing to go. I mean, I kindly wanted to but Daddy said no, his daughter had to go to college. And he took me up to Spartanburg on Saturday and I almost beat him back home. (Laughter) I didn’t like it. Some of my friends were up there and I went down to the office and told them I didn’t like the room and I didn’t like the girls that was in the room. They were cursing and smoking and I wasn’t used to it and I was ready to go home. And they begged me to stay and they moved me down with my friends. And their mother and father came on Sunday and brought a picnic lunch and took us all out.

And Monday morning I woke up and water was up about ankle deep on the floor it had rained so. And we got dressed and went to breakfast and then the dean, I reckon he was, talked to the students and he said that they were taking too many cuts and they weren’t going to pass if they didn’t stop it. And I figured, well, I had already [ ] lost a month, because Dr. West wouldn’t let me go to the beginning of school. And I wrote a letter and asked the Parkers to put it in the post office. I knew my daddy would be there the first thing on Monday morning. And I didn’t hear from him and by eleven o’clock I went to the office and asked for my money that had been left there for me. And they wanted to know what I wanted with it. I told them I was going home and they said I couldn’t go because I was a minor, I was seventeen. And they wouldn’t give me my money and we argued for a while and they got up and left out of the office.

And there was a boy working in the office and he said if you want your money and you want to go home, they can’t hold you, stick with it, and I did, and I just did get the bus. And I got to Cassatt, and the bus stopped, and Daddy was at the bus waiting for me. (Laughter) He was glad to see me. I didn’t know how he was going to react to it. And I told him I’d go back the second semester.

Well, I got a letter from the hospital saying I had been accepted as a student. I was the youngest student they had accepted but I couldn’t take the state board until I was twenty-one and I may have to wait a while for the state board. But then it worked out that I was safe. I finished in March and I had, stood the state board in June. And then when I got the letter Daddy said I couldn’t go, I couldn’t be a nurse. And I kept begging. I said, “Just let me go and stay until the second semester and I’ll leave and I’ll go to college just for
you.” And he agreed to that, but when the second semester came around I wouldn’t, there was no way they could have gotten me away from there. I loved it.

HT: What year was that, Annie B.?

AB: Nineteen thirty-seven [1937].

AL: Do you know what, did your dad tell you why he wanted you in college so much more than nursing?

AB: He wanted me to be a stenographer but I had no interest in it. I had helped him keep the books at the gin. In fact, I started driving when I was nine years old. He couldn’t keep the car in the road (Laughter) and the man that was supposed to drive him to work didn’t show up and my brother had already gone with a load of cotton to the gin. He had no way of getting there and he woke me up and said, “Come on and drive the car for me.” He changed the gears and I held it in the road. (Laughter) He wouldn’t let me go home by myself and I stayed at the gin with him and I would keep the books for him. And I think that was why he wanted me to go to college.

AL: Talk to me about the nursing program. What was the training program like? What things did you have to do to learn?

AB: Well, they put us on a floor to work right to begin with but we only gave baths and bedpans and stuff like that. Then as we got some book learning and stuff, I don’t think they even waited for that. We were on the floor by the time, by ourselves by the time we were there three months. And the doctors taught us, and the senior nurses were our supervisors and they taught us how to do bedside nursing.

AL: And so what are some of your early memories working at the hospital?

AB: Well, one of the girls in the class, we were friends, and we thought we couldn’t do anything because this [other] girl kept bragging about how she was progressing with her work and we couldn’t do it. And we were down in the dumps one day and talking about it and the senior nurses told us to forget about what we could do, said we were doing fine. They said that she had been in training somewhere and had been sent home, they were sure, and for us to forget about what she could do because we were doing fine. I remember the first hypodermic I gave. This man was drunk. He was getting over his drunk and he was cursing and tossing and carrying on and they told me I had to give him his hypodermic, and I fixed it. And by the time I got to the bed I had lost all the solution in the syringe, but I stuck him anyway. (Laughter) He did raise sand then and he cussed and carried on. The doctor came in, and he jumped on him, and told him that the nurse didn’t give him anything in that syringe she stuck him with. And the doctor, I was expecting him to get on me. He just turned to the nurse and said, “Go fix him another one.” That was all there was to it. We had a good time in nursing.

HT: Did you ever see Mr. Baruch?

AB: Yes.

AL: Can you talk to me about him and what your memories are?

AB: I remember seeing him and he was a large man I think, not too big, and he was very nice. And he would leave money for the students’ entertainment. And Mr. Mannes
Baruch was the hospital manager and he kept the money and he’d give it to us ten cent at a time. The movies cost ten cent. We could get a hamburger for ten cent and a Coke for five cent or dish of ice cream for ten cent. And that’s all I remember about him. I remember meeting him and seeing him. That was it.

**AL:** So did you officially graduate from the nursing program and then was hired by Camden Hospital? How did that work?

**AB:** Well, I finished at the hospital and they sent me on a private duty nursing at, it was some place north of the hospital, some of the northerners, the man had had a heart attack and they sent me up there for a day or so until they could get a more experienced nurse. Anyway, that’s when I got initiated into the large plate and all the knives and forks and spoons and stuff. And after that they sent me to Kershaw to take care of this old lady and she broke out in a rash. The doctor came in and I told him about it and he said, he named a big name and I said, “What’s that? I never heard of it.” He said, “That’s what you call it when you don’t know what it is,” but a few days after that they moved her to the hospital.

And her mind wasn’t exactly right and she called me her child and she’d say, “Get up and go get the eggs.” And I’d say, “Yes ma’am” and I’d go out the door and if I didn’t she’d get out of bed, but if I went out the door she would be quiet and be still. And I’d go in and tell her I got the eggs and she’d want to know how many. Then she’d tell me go get a bucket of water and I’d pick up a pitcher and go fill it up with water. And I broke out in a rash. I had the measles and that’s what she had had. And so they made me go to bed with them and they called somebody else in. They had to tie the old lady down in bed. She couldn’t handle them, I mean they couldn’t handle her, because they’d try to talk to her and she wasn’t buying it. They had to do what she said. So they finally took her home before I got back to where I could take care of her.

Then after that I had a few patients. One night I had a drunk and he wouldn’t let me go near the bed. Every time I’d get up and start toward the bed he’d start out the other side so I decided I was just going to sit and not bother him. And it wasn’t long after that I met him on the street and he said, “You know that night you nursed me?” I said, “Yes sir.” He said, “I thought you were an angel and I knew I wasn’t ready to die. (Laughter) And every time you moved I wanted to run.”

Then shortly after that they called me one night and asked me to come on duty. They had hired a supervisor then and she had quit and hadn’t given them any notice and would I please come on duty until they could find somebody. They never did find nobody. I stayed on the nights for a good while and when they added the day supervisor then I started rotating shifts. But the thing about it was I received sixty dollars a month. I worked seven days a week and that sixty dollars was equal to five hundred or more today. We could buy enough groceries. Five dollars would buy two bags of groceries and then we’d have twenty dollars to pay on the rent and twenty dollars to play with.

**HT:** Who is we?

**AB:** Billy, my first husband.

**AL:** Did you get married during this time that you were starting your nursing career?

**AB:** Yes. It wasn’t a, I don’t want this on the record. I’d better not say it.
AL: Okay, we’ll skip over that. So tell me about when you came on a regular schedule as a nurse, what types of things, was it general, like you did everything or did you sort of move into a certain area of nursing?

AB: Well, we had to do everything from the beginning it seemed like. We enjoyed nursing.

HT: Did you nurse anywhere except at Camden?

AB: Yes, Billy went to work at Oak Ridge and I went up there with him. I didn’t intend to work. I had been classified by the Army as 7F I think, essential, and they wouldn’t let me go. Two of my friends had joined the Army, one of my classmates, and I wanted to go with them and they wouldn’t release me from the hospital. And I went up there and I didn’t intend to work and they called me up one day and wanted me to come to work and I told them I couldn’t, I wasn’t intending to work and I couldn’t come. And they said, they told me that I had been released from the Army and I was eligible for the Army now and that I had to come to work. And they said the police car will be waiting for you to bring you in fifteen minutes and I looked out the window and they were already sitting out there, two big policemen. (Laughter)

So I went to the hospital and they had two patients that had been operated on that morning and nobody to take care of them and so I had to go to work. They sent me to be processed in the next day and they went over my history for as far back as I could remember anybody and asked me all kinds of questions. And they sent me to another place to be fingerprinted and get a social security card. I didn’t have one at that time. And I was supposed to go back the next day and finish but they said that they needed me too much at the hospital; they let me go and I worked there for eight months. It was very educational. They did an appendectomy one morning and sent the patient home that afternoon at five. He went out to the bus stop and went home. That was the first that I had ever heard of letting one go home under a ten days.

Then they put me on the maternity ward and I worked there and it was very educational because it was a teaching school. They had these doctors from Missouri I think that were getting their last two years of practice in and the way they treated their patients was very up-to-date. I had left Camden where a maternity patient stayed in the hospital ten to fourteen days and then up there they were getting them up on the third day. The second day they were starting exercise and the third day they got them up. And the mountain women would come in and they’d take them to the delivery room, they walked back to the bed and they never had any problems and their bodies turned to normal faster than the ones that got up at three days. They never fainted but the ones on three day period would faint on us and have all kinds of complications.

AL: So what are mountain women? Where do they come from?

AB: Well, Tennessee, they would come from—

HT: The Appalachians, the Smoky Mountains.

AB: Yeah. We wasn’t too far from Knoxville and that was when the war was on. Everything was rationed. I’d go into, we didn’t have any shortening or anything like that. We’d have to stand in line sometimes two hours for sugar or coffee or something special
and I’d go into Knoxville to the farmer’s market and buy a fat hen and get the grease from that and that’s what I cooked with.

HT: Was Billy working at Oak Ridge?

AB: Yeah. I enjoyed it. And the war was over and they told us about it being over and said people walked out of there by the hundreds. They didn’t want anything to do with the atomic bomb when they heard what happened in Japan and security was very tight there. You didn’t talk to anybody, especially the workers on a job, they couldn’t talk. If they caught them talking they would either send them home or send them to another job.

HT: So you came back from there and came back to nursing in Camden?

AB: I came back and went to nursing and I went to the university for a year. And my mom got sick and she wouldn’t go to the doctor and my sister-in-law and niece came over and asked me to come home and make Mama go to the doctor. I went home, I had one cut and I could take it, and I told them I would go if they’d bring me back and they said they would. I told Mom to get in bed and I’d get my brother off to work, and I did, and I went and started in her room and she just fell in my arms and she wasn’t breathing. I picked her up and laid her back on the bed. I couldn’t even feel a pulse rate. I gave her artificial respiration and got her breathing. And I got my father and brother there and they had to go to Cassatt to call for an ambulance and take her to the hospital. And the doctor said that she had had a heart attack and she would probably get over it but she wouldn’t live more than two years. And I wasn’t going back. I called the school and they begged me to come back, said, “Don’t throw away the year that you have, come on back and take your exams,” and I did. But I stayed home with Mama and I worked too. And during that time I was teaching nursing. I was teaching nursing arts and professional nursing and math.

HT: At Camden Hospital?

AB: Yeah. Then after that Mrs. Barfield quit. She wanted to work on the floor and they asked me to take her place as director of nursing service.

AL: Do you remember what year that was?

AB: No, I don’t.

AL: Maybe around late ‘40s?

AB: It was in the ‘50s then. It was ’47 whenever I went to the university and it must have been about ’55, I’m not sure, that I took the job. And then they were planning the new hospital and we moved into it on February in 1958. And we had applied for adoption and they came one Saturday and said that there were two children available and we were the first choice and we had until Monday morning to make the decision whether we wanted them or not. And I offered to stay on and Mr., I can’t think of his name right now, it wasn’t Wilson. Anyway, I went to him and talked with him and he said, “You’ve been planning on this too long, you go ahead; we’ll get along fine.” And we went to Greenville on Monday morning and picked up a little boy and little girl, brother and sister, and I never did find time to go back to nursing. I had to stay home for a year to be able to get them and I was having too big a time. (Laughter)

HT: Now this is Tommy Braman you’re with now?
AB: Yeah.
HT: Billy had passed away?
AB: Yeah, we were married June 2, 1952.
HT: How’d you meet Tommy?
AB: Beg your pardon.
HT: How did you meet Tommy?
AB: He was in service and was called up to go to Korea and he was given three days to get to there, get to Shaw Field. And they gave their squadron a dance, a party, and they called the student nurses and invited them and I went as a chaperone and that’s how I met him.
AL: And so when the children got older, did you go back to nursing?
AB: No, I had, well, to begin with before we got the children a minister out at Malvern Hill was interested in this boy that had beat up an old man and robbed his store out there and he wanted us to take him and I wouldn’t agree to it. I told him, no, I wasn’t going to do anything that would hinder our adoption. And he went to social services and got them to promise that they wouldn’t penalize us for taking the boy. And the judge gave Tommy custody of the boy. He was thirteen and he had been in children’s homes and other homes all of his life. And he was living with his mother at that time and Tommy was very good with him. We told him the only rule that we were going to have was that he behave himself and that when we went to church he would go to church too. And we let him have what friends he wanted over on the weekends and any time he wanted to ask them to come but they had to go to church too when we went. And everything turned out real good and his mother moved to Connecticut and she petitioned the courts to take him back. She remarried and the judge granted him permission to go under the supervision of the courts up there. He finished school and went in the Army and finished his Army core and came out and got a job and he turned out real good. He was a nice boy.
HT: Were there others that you did that with too?
AB: What?
HT: Were there others?
AB: Yes.
HT: Other young people you did that with?
AB: Yes. My daughter had run away and got married and she was going to have a baby and she was keeping two little boys fulltime and she felt like she couldn’t keep them anymore. And anyway, anytime they’d come to the house they’d start crying wanting to stay and finally they started crying themselves to sleep because they couldn’t stay with Tommy and I. And she asked the mother if she’d be willing to let us keep them and she was and they were like our children.
AL: So you had them for many years?
AB: We had them for nine years and the mother decided that she was going to go back to school and take care of them herself. And we lost contact with them after, well, they
were both real smart, especially the second one, the youngest one. He got a full scholarship in college to go to, if you went to the Navy. Then he served his time in that and we lost track of them for several years, good many years, especially whenever Tommy died. And one day last summer, year before last, this man showed up and I didn’t recognize him and it was the youngest one. He found out where I was on Sunday night and he was here Monday morning.

**AL:** What were their names?

**AB:** Scott and Dennis Kimrey. And then as grandchildren came along they were dumped on me or rather I took them. *(Laughter)* My daughter and her husband was divorced and my husband was getting ready to retire and he said we need to adopt them to be able to support them. And they gave us their permission to adopt them and so we raised the grandchildren. And I had somebody in school from 1960 till, no 1957 till 1991.

**HT:** Annie B., when you were nursing and you had the maternity ward, were there adoptions out of the maternity ward? How did that work back then?

**AB:** We had a maternity ward. It was upstairs and the operating room was upstairs. And the old operating room downstairs was turned into an emergency room.

**HT:** I’m talking about adoption of babies from the hospital. I’m talking about sometimes unwanted babies and that kind of thing.

**AB:** Well, you know the lady that was in charge of the children’s home here took in these young girls and made them sign over their babies to her and she sold them.

**HT:** Was that, what was the name of that? Was it Mayfield?

**AB:** Yeah.

**AL:** So it was a local home that was near the hospital?

**AB:** It was down about two blocks below the hospital, the children’s home was. I lived across the street from them on the corner.

**AL:** And being a nurse at the hospital would you be part of the communication or coordination between the children’s home and your, no, nothing like that?

**AB:** Nothing. She would bring them in when they went into labor and she’d walk the floor. I don’t want that to get in there in this because I think that should be confidential.

**AL:** Okay.

**HT:** Well, Annie B., I remember it was 1950 you had a role with one of my children.

**AB:** Yeah, we had, pediatrics was upstairs too.

**HT:** You remember bringing my daughter out to me?

**AB:** No, I don’t remember it.

**HT:** You did, my oldest daughter in 1950. You stayed up with my wife all night with my daughter Catherine.

**AB:** Well, good, yeah.
AL: That’s wonderful, so I mean the Camden Hospital was small enough so you got that personal care.

AB: Yeah.

AL: That, you know, you knew who was there with you when your child came into the world. That’s a special thing.

AB: It is, it’s a very special thing and there’s a lot of joy and pleasure when one is born. But if things go wrong that’s the saddest place you can find.

AL: You saw over the years a lot of technology change in the way people did things in the medical field at hospitals.

AB: Yes.

AL: Can you talk to me about some of the changes that you saw?

AB: Yes. One special thing, I never did like medicine. I liked maternity and surgical and children. And I think the reason I didn’t like medical is because we didn’t have the things to take care of them then that we have now and I saw too many deaths and too much suffering. There was a lot of pneumonia back then and the people usually died that got pneumonia. And the only thing we had to treat them with was aspirin and mustard plasters, maybe a steam kettle.

And when I had pneumonia they had made a serum in Atlanta and it was experimental, I think. I’m not sure about that. Anyway, I know it was sent by bus to Columbia and then the patrolman brought it to the hospital and they gave it to me and I went through crisis that night. And usually when they went through the crisis they’d go into shock and if you can pull them out of that they would live. But most of them died during that time. And, of course, I lived but it was a hard road that night I know. And I remember the chicken soup, strained chicken soup, I got that every thirty minutes. I’d get chicken soup then I’d get whiskey and sugar. It was a tablespoon of whiskey and a tablespoon of water and they’d make me drink it and I’d beg and they still made me drink it and it would come right back up. It seemed like that was all night long but thankfully I pulled through it.

And heart problems was the next thing. Patients with congestive heart failure, they would be huge. They would be so big, filled with water, it would be seeping out of their tissues and they would be miserable sitting up in bed. And digitalis I reckon was about the only medicine they had that I can remember to give them. I’m sure there was some other stuff but I don’t remember that.

AL: I’ve been sitting and talking to you a little under an hour or about an hour and one thing that’s apparent is that one thing very important in your life over the years were children.

AB: Yes, I loved children. In fact, I had a black baby given to me. (Laughter)

AL: Really, yeah.

AB: It was in the hospital and nobody came to get it and I would go back and I’d pick the baby up and I’d take her with me as I made rounds and she was the cutest little thing. And this man came in one night and said he wish somebody would take her, that she was passed from one to the other, whoever would keep her. I said, “A beautiful baby like this,
I’d take her.” (Laughter) And the patient said, “Don’t you remember him saying you could have her?” And they made me take that baby and ride all over upper Kershaw County and Lancaster County, lower Lancaster County trying to find the family. I finally found them and gave them the baby.

HT: Your mother and father and your grandfather, did they sometimes have other people that they took too, like you did?

AB: Yeah, there was a little boy that lived close to us and he loved Mama and Daddy and he had come over there to pick cotton. And for some reason or other he wanted to stay with Mama and Daddy and they were planning to adopt him and the father came over and started demanding what they had to do and Daddy said, “You take your son and go home. I can’t do these things that you demand.”

HT: Didn’t Dan Sullivan stay with y’all too?

AB: Yes, Dan and Jim and John. That was Daddy’s half nephews. Their mother had died and there were five boys. And to begin with after the mother died my uncle kept the oldest boy and Grandmamma and Granddaddy took the next two oldest ones and the other grandparents took the two youngest ones. And when Grandmamma and Granddaddy died and Uncle Dump, they came to live with us. Of course, Jim and John had been in the Navy but they were out by that time and they lived with us for a good many years. Dan was the oldest.

HT: So he was related to y’all by blood though, wasn’t he?

AB: That’s right.

HT: So you had an example of grandparents and parents who had cared for other children, didn’t you?

AB: Yeah, that’s right. My poor grandmother had a time. She had Aunt Gina’s two boys, Uncle Dan’s two boys, and the three boys from her son, then my three brothers all at one time, plus all their friends. (Laughter) I don’t know how she got through it.

AL: That’s a lot of boys to feed. So both sets of your grandparents lived near you and you knew them growing up, your mom’s parents and your dad’s parents?

AB: Well, my mom’s parents they lived about, well, they lived about the same distance. They lived, I think y’all put the plaque up at Tillers Ferry.

HT: Yes.

AB: That was my grandparents. And my grandmother died when I was five and my granddaddy died when I was ten. And Granddaddy McLaughlin died when I was eight and Grandmamma died when I was nine. And then my Uncle Dump died when I was eleven I reckon, and that was when the boys came to live with us. They were grown then.

AL: Well, I think that’s all the questions I had. Harvey, did you have anything you think I missed?

HT: No, I don’t think so but looking back on all of it, Annie B., what would you change?

AB: What?
HT: Looking back on all of this, what would you change, if anything?

AB: I don’t know. I could tell you a lot of funny things but some of them I’m afraid they’ll get out.

AL: Oh, no, you know, that’s what so great about sharing those stories, the poignant ones and the funny ones.

HT: Tell us a funny story.

AB: I don’t want them to get out.

HT: They won’t get out.

AB: (Laughter) You sure that’s turned off?

AL: I can go ahead and turn it off.

AB: Okay.

End of interview