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Iron Hill School Oral History Interview

Interview with Gloria Howard Hinson

Date of Interview: February 15, 2008
Interviewer: Roberta Perkins
Transcriber: Marcia Adams

Roberta: This is Roberta Perkins and today is Friday, February 15th, 2008 and I am here at the home of Mrs. Gloria Howard Hinson on Gubb Road and I am going to be talking to Mrs. Hinson about her experience in a two room school. She went to school in Conowingo, Maryland, in her early years and she finished her schooling at Howard High School. Mrs. Hinson thank you very much for your time.

Mrs. Hinson: My pleasure.

Roberta: Would you begin by telling me you know a little bit about yourself and Conowingo. Who your parents were and if you had siblings.

Mrs. Hinson: Okay, my mother died when I was five years old. I just barely remember her and my father, well that's another story, I don't remember him really and I lived with my grandmother and my three brothers, actually I had four brothers and when my grandmother died, well we went to a little two room school up the hill. We lived at the bottom of the hill and the school was at the top and believe me when snow was on the ground it wasn't easy getting up the hill so my grandmother used to put men's stockings on over our boots and we'd go up the hill through the snow so we wouldn't slip and slide going, you know because there were horses and buggies and a few cars that were there came down the hill. I always remember the school was always warm. There were two rooms, there was a wood burning stove in each room and there was always a pot of vegetable soup

on those stoves that she had for lunch. You took your little sandwich but you always had some soup if you wanted it and there was two teachers and I can remember them very well. They were sisters and they lived next to the school. I guess they went over early and started those fires because I never remember it being cold in school. Never. We had an outhouse. The kids that came to school there came on a bus from Rising Sun I believe it was or somewhere up the road, these kids came down there to this little country school on a bus so I've known about busing all my life.

Roberta: What were the teacher's names?

Mrs. Hinson: Berry. They were related to my family because my family name was Berry. My mother was a Berry.

Roberta: What was her first name?

Mrs. Hinson: Ada. My mother's name was Ada.

Roberta: Do you know what their first name was?

Mrs. Hinson: The teacher? Let's see isn't that strange. I can seem 'em. I can't recall their first name right off hand and I can remember one of their daughter's name was Zoreeze. Isn't that funny I can remember her name but I can't...

Roberta: So what was the day like? So you would walk to school...

Mrs. Hinson: Yes I would walk to school and we had all the things we were supposed to like we did arithmetic and reading and we had art and we had you know the regular things and when I left there and went to Chester to live with my aunt and went to a big public school at Booker T. Washington I was a little behind maybe in some things but I had all the things that they were having you know. I can remember my aunt who was a teacher, getting me straightened out with math because I was a little behind in math but I caught up. I had no problem with it. Then I went to Booker T. in Chester, I was in fifth grade when I went to Chester to live with my aunt and I went

to Booker T. and then I went to Douglas Junior High School and when I finished the eighth grade, that's when my aunt got married and we moved to Newark, Delaware, should I keep going?

Roberta: Yes, go ahead and then I'll come back

Mrs. Hinson: Then I was bused to Wilmington to Howard High School. **[Inaudible]** the teachers at Howard High School were really dedicated. Really dedicated teachers.

Roberta: What kind did you start at Howard High?

Mrs. Hinson: Ninth grade. I went there the ninth grade because I had finished eighth grade in Chester. I went to junior high school.

Roberta: Do you remember what year?

Mrs. Hinson: Oh gee I graduated from high school in 1943 so subtract 4 years. Maybe 1939 that I went to Howard High School, yeah, maybe it was '39 that I went to Howard High School.

Roberta: 1939?

Mrs. Hinson: That was very nice, I enjoyed going to high school, at the program the other night they talked about the old books that they used to get at Howard but Joe Johnson said that he thought was that he said...well he thought that P. S. duPont was a publishing company because all the books that we got had P. S. duPont in them. Old books that they were sending us so I remarked to somebody if you think the books were old you should have seen that school bus we had to ride in bad weather, old rickety school bus and the school bus came in from Hockessin and one came in from Delaware City that had schools because this was the only high school in the area that blacks could go to and there were some people in some parts of Maryland and lower Delaware would have their children stay with relatives in Wilmington so they could go to Howard School. Now my

aunt came to Wilmington from Conowingo to live with family so she could go to Howard School and Caroline Betsy Williams was a teacher at Howard School, my aunt lived there with her and her sister and worked for them until she graduated from Howard High School.

Roberta: What was her last name?

Mrs. Hinson: Cora Berry Saunders ? She was an active person in Newark because she taught in Newark for a while after she left Chester she taught in Newark for a while [inaudible] and retired from one of those schools. She was one of the first black people to get a Masters from the University of Delaware. As soon as they opened it to blacks she went to school to get her Masters. Which she got.

Roberta: Did she ever talk to you about what her experiences were you know as a teacher and being one of the first to go to the University of Delaware?

Mrs. Hinson: Oh yes, and I went there too, as soon as she went [inaudible] and I started taking summer classes there. It was pretty nice. It was like you would run into a teacher that wasn't pleasant. I remember that one of the teachers that I ran into was most unpleasant was from West Chester. He was a professor at West Chester [inaudible] but they were very nice the first time I visited. They did everything to make people happy and the teachers that came up from downstate [inaudible] they stayed on campus. They used to have movies and picnics and things. I remember one time they even took us all to dinner at Longwood Gardens which was really fabulous. It wasn't bad you just had to get used to stuff and because when I lived down in the country I didn't know anything about segregation and people being mean about it because I was out there in the country and Mrs. Jones, who was white, lived up on the road near the church, her chickens were laying eggs and if we didn't have eggs we would go up there and get some eggs or something and we went to their church and they came to ours. There was a white church down the road from us and

we would go to their church when they had things. Living in the country was pleasant you didn't come into all the foolishness with busing. It was real pleasant. When I got ready to go to college I went to West Virginia State and when I got on the train they had cars that had colored on it but we did not have to ride in those cars going to West Virginia cause West Virginia was not segregated, public transportation. So the first thing the boys did when they got on the train was take off those tags and throw them off the train. So really when I went to Chester now I guess I was pretty sheltered I just didn't run into a whole lot of stuff. Now I have friends now who went to Chester High School and they had all kinds of problems. I didn't. I was in the black schools and things was pretty pleasant. I remember one bad experience I had when I was going to summer school I made friends with this one young lady, she was from somewhere up in Pennsylvania and she wanted me to go downtown and have lunch with her one day and I said to her, "I can't do that, I can't go in the restaurant," and she was just flabbergasted but I couldn't go downtown and go to lunch with her. My aunt had a son and one day I took him into Wilmington to shop and he got cranky and he was hungry and I went inside the 5 and 10 to see if I could get a glass of milk for him. You know they wouldn't sell me a glass of milk for a child.

Roberta: How old were you then?

Mrs. Hinson: Oh I was seventeen or eighteen maybe. Yes, because I remember we got on the bus and went to Chester I guess I was on vacation to visit a friend of mine that was in school with me.

Roberta: So you went to Chester from Conowingo?

Mrs. Hinson: I moved to Chester from Conowingo.

Roberta: Oh I see so you were in Chester when you boarded the bus, you were just going to another part?

Mrs. Hinson: No, no I was in Wilmington, you're talking about when I went in the Five and Ten?

Roberta: Right.

Mrs. Hinson: No this was in Wilmington. The Woolworth Five and Ten at Ninth and Market. And then after I came out of school we had a NAACP that was very active and a white minister was president of the NAACP and he was in seminary in Chester and he bought this young man from Newark to introduce to us to help us start a youth group. Martin Luther King helped me start a youth group with the NAACP in Newark because he wasn't famous then he was just a seminary student and I had pictures of him and I can't find them. When I moved out of my aunt's house some how or other I lost my pictures but he was there. You could tell he was going places I mean the way he talked, the way he walked.

Roberta: Very interesting. How much time did you spend with him?

Mrs. Hinson: Oh he came often because George Walton who was the president, lived in Christiana and they were good friends and he told us how he went to Atlanta to visit him. He said and boy they live in a big house and they have a maid, he was so impressed.

Roberta: Who was this that was impressed?

Mrs. Hinson: This was George Walton. I would love to know where he is. He was minister of a church in Christiana. So when Martin started getting famous, we used to always say, we knew him when. He was really a great man

Roberta: Tell me about when, I am going back to you going to school in Conowingo, what was the school like and when I say like, the structure of the school. You walked in the school.

Mrs. Hinson: There was two rooms, you had a little hallway with just two rooms. They turned it into a beer garden. The last time I was in Conowingo it was a beer garden but it was just two rooms, nothing else.

Roberta: Did, so how were the two rooms divided, were there three grades in one?

Mrs. Hinson: Yes. First, second and third I guess and fourth through sixth in the other.

Roberta: Did you go for all six grades?

Mrs. Hinson: No I left when I was in the sixth grade. When I went to Chester I was in the sixth grade [inaudible]

Roberta: So what do you remember about how teaching was carried out and what do you remember about supplies that you had to use for lessons?

Mrs. Hinson: Well we had books but I don't remember now what type or the names or anything. We had a local store where we used to go buy tablets and what and I guess the teachers had access to some kind of paper and stuff. They probably gave her some you know. I'm sure they did.

Roberta: Do you remember whether you had a library?

Mrs. Hinson: No, we didn't have a library. No. I know we had books. No we didn't have a library. I'm trying to remember if there was a piano in both of the rooms because we sang. I can't remember.

Roberta: Do you remember if children helped one another out with their lessons or was that strictly for the teacher to do?

Mrs. Hinson: No, no I can remember after school the smarter kids helping you know other kids. I can remember that but it's been a long time.

Roberta: What about health? If a child got a knee scrape who took care of that?

Mrs. Hinson: The teacher, the teacher had a medical kit because it was kind of rocky and stony around the school and somebody was always falling down or falling out of a tree. We used to climb the trees and everything else and like I said, I was raised with boys, I was a real tomboy. I was the only girl, I had these four brothers. One of my brothers, of course didn't live there with us he was the one that my mother took [inaudible]. One of the brothers was younger than me and he moved to Wilmington when we split up, with an aunt, he and the oldest brother and he and a couple of his friends played hooky one day and went down there by the Christiana River down by Fourth Street and he fell in there and drown. He was in second grade or third grade.

Roberta: Did dentists or doctors ever periodically visit the school?

Mrs. Hinson: I don't remember.

Roberta: What about holidays? Were holidays celebrated, did the teachers kind of, what did they do?

Mrs. Hinson: Well I can remember decorating for holidays. We had holidays off just like regular school and we had little parties.

Roberta: Programs?

Mrs. Hinson: Programs, yes, and all those things and we had like May Day you know where we played games and ran races and stuff like that.

Roberta: Did other schools ever visit for programs?

Mrs. Hinson: I don't remember that. I don't think so.

Roberta: Did the teachers live in the area?

Mrs. Hinson: Yes, they lived right next door to the school. They had a house that they lived in.

Roberta: Was that house provided by the school system?

Mrs. Hinson: No, I think it belonged to them.

Roberta: So that would explain why the school was always warm.

Mrs. Hinson: Yes, I don't remember it being cold.

Roberta: You said you remembered vegetable soup in the wintertime. Did the teacher prepare it?

Mrs. Hinson: Yes.

Roberta: Did they ever involve any of the students in preparing the lunch?

Mrs. Hinson: Of yes, I'm sure they did. I don't know though they might have served it hot but I imagine they cut up that stuff at home and brought it you know.

Roberta: What games did you play and recreation?

Mrs. Hinson: All I can remember is dodge ball and foot races and just stuff like that you know. We played baseball.

Roberta: Did the boys and girls play together in baseball?

Mrs. Hinson: Yes.

Roberta: Were you good at all that?

Mrs. Hinson: Well I am left-handed and I always did play baseball because we had a little baseball team when I was in college. I used to play baseball in my spare time, we had teams between dormitories you know. We did play baseball. I did a little of everything. I never will forget one time we was supposed to learn how to play tennis and the President got up there and said if somebody dug one more hole on campus they're going to get in trouble.

Roberta: If they dug one more hole?

Mrs. Hinson: Dug one more hole to knock the ball in and that was a no-no, you couldn't do that. So we played tennis, I believe I played tennis while I was in college. I played tennis and baseball and we had soldiers on our campus and they had made down off of campus a way they had made like a, what would they call it, where the soldiers went to exercise, like they had ropes and different things and bars and stuff like that and we used to go down there and play when they weren't down there and they were all smart guys too, they sent all the boys overseas and practically all of them got killed. Every time we went to chapel, another one of them they would name. They didn't know anything about fighting. It was so sad.

Roberta: What school was this?

Mrs. Hinson: This was West Virginia State.

Roberta: Which war was this?

Mrs. Hinson: World War II and the Korean War. A lot of fellas in my high school class left and went to war before they graduated in 1942 because my husband was in the class of '42 and when they came back they finished. [Inaudible] went in the Marines.

Roberta: Did he ever talk about it much?

Mrs. Hinson: What, the Marines? Not too much. He used to, he drove a truck and how at night they couldn't turn their lights on you know before the enemy fired at the lights and he could still drive. We would go to Detroit and he would drive from here to Detroit. We'd only stop for a cup of coffee and get something to eat. At night, we would always leave at midnight, our best friends lived in Detroit. He would drive, I would say aren't you sleepy and he would say no. He would drive everywhere. We would go to Atlanta, everywhere we went, he would drive.

Roberta: Because he got used to it?

Mrs. Hinson: Yes and when he died, we had made plans to take a trip across country, me and my brother and his wife and we were going to rent a van, a sleeping van and we were going across the country. He died, suddenly and my brother died so Carol and I kept on going. She and my brother had a time-share and we did something everywhere. We decided, well, they were gone so we would travel and we traveled so I have been a lot of places. Been to Europe twice. I'm still scared of traveling. I don't like to get on a plane anymore. I never did like to fly, the only reason I go on them is it's the only way to go. I finally decided, Gloria, if you want to go you have to get on the plane. Never did like it, I don't tell anybody I like to fly.

Roberta: Where in Europe did you go?

Mrs. Hinson: I've been to Rome, I've been to Paris and I've been to England.

Roberta: In school did you have any classes, did you have any history classes that kind of prepared you for what you might see, when you were in Conowingo?

Mrs. Hinson: Oh no, even when I was in college I really didn't start traveling until my husband died. Well we had been lots of places together like Atlanta. We had been to Las Vegas once, I believe that's as far as we went together and my aunt won that trip and gave it to us but when he died is when I really started traveling. It was my aunt who was a traveler. She's been every place. I used to always tell her all somebody had to say was "let's" and she was ready so I got that travel bug from her I guess.

Roberta: Did you have history of any sort in Conowingo?

Mrs. Hinson: Oh yes, sure, I can remember we had history and geography. We had all that stuff. Like I said when I went to Chester and went to school I wasn't

lacking that much you know. I can remember not being really great in math...I can remember that course.

Roberta: Was that difficult for you in Conowingo? What was the name of that school anyway? Conowingo?

Mrs. Hinson: I don't know that it had a name. It was just Conowingo School I guess. I don't think it ever had a name. Now see my brother ought to be here, he would remember everything, he has the best memory in the world. I still have a brother, my youngest brother lives in Huntsville, Alabama, and he's the one [inaudible].

Roberta: What kind of lighting did the school have?

Mrs. Hinson: Well see we were never there at night unless we had a program and then they had their lanterns and their lamps because I remember those lamps at Conowingo.

Roberta: So did the school have windows on one side, on both sides?

Mrs. Hinson: Each room had windows.

Roberta: So did the windows go the full side of a wall?

Mrs. Hinson: I can't remember how many windows.

Roberta: And a stove, do you remember what the stove was like?

Mrs. Hinson: Yes it was one of those big old potbellied wooden stoves you know.

Roberta: How did you get water?

Mrs. Hinson: Well I guess we had you know...how did we get water. I guess the teacher brought in water [inaudible] We might have had a well because we had a well in our yard. There might have been a well, I don't know.

Roberta: This ends tape 1 side 1.

Roberta: This is tape 1 side 2 and I am here speaking with Mrs. Gloria Hinson. What was it like living in the community of Conowingo as far as you can remember when you were young when your mother died, but day-to-day what was it like going back and forth to school? The activities? On the weekends?

Mrs. Hinson: It was nice and my only girlfriend lived quite a distance away from me but on weekends it was playhouse. On weekends I used to go up to her house and play with her. Her grandmother was good cause even if we was sitting in there and it was raining her grandmother would come out and bring us something like gingerbread and a glass of milk. She died very young, I was living with my aunt in Chester when she died I remember but it was nice, I played with those boys. I tell you I was a tomboy and my cousins, let's see, we lived here and the next house was I'll say as far as the church up here and I had a cousin and he was the same age I was and we used to play all the time since the other boys were a little older, sometimes they didn't want us playing with them and we had a creek we used to play in all the time, the creek was down the road. We used to go down there and play and in the field fanciful strawberries, wild strawberries would grow and we used to go out and pick strawberries and when blackberries were in season we'd go pick blackberries and it was nice you know. The only life I knew you know and I will never forget one time a plane went out of control and landed in Conowingo in a field and it stayed there two or three days and everybody went to see this airplane and the pilot let us go on the plane, to see this airplane. They finally got it, it didn't crack or anything, he just landed. He was having problems, he said so he landed. He saw an open field so he landed and that was an experience and you know, close up to an airplane.

Roberta: Was it a large one?

Mrs. Hinson: No it wasn't a large plane.

Roberta: Did you have chores?

Mrs. Hinson: Oh yeah, we had a garden, yeah. We had to you know pull weeds out of the hard and rake the garden and my brother had to cut the grass around the yard but I can remember pulling weeds out of the garden.

Roberta: Who planted the garden?

Mrs. Hinson: My uncle lived with us. Uncle Ely, I'll never forget him.

Roberta: We were talking about your garden...

Mrs. Hinson: Yeah, my uncle, he also made wine. Uncle Ely and he also told us ghost stories that would scare us half to death cause down in the country and we didn't have no lights. If you went out at night you had to have a lantern or a flashlight or something with you and like if we went up the hill to the school or something at night or to church and church was a good distance away. Let's see, church was as far as from here I guess down as far as further than the entrance to I-95 down there. It was a good haul. Of course in good weather we would cut across the fields but if the weather was bad you had to take the road you know. It was a good walk to church and we went to Sunday School every Sunday and the church is still there. The church looks good. In my church where I go now we have a male chorus one day one Sunday in church said they were going to go to Conowingo to sing. I said, to Conowingo? So I asked them and they said, yes we are going to take a bus and I said well I'm going so I got on the bus and went with them. Conowingo, it was the first time I had been down there in years because when my aunt was still living she always wanted to go to the homecoming they always had and whatnot so I went down and the church really looks good there. They fixed the church up and they had electricity and a beautiful dining room and they served us dinner and I only saw one person that I knew, one lady, and she had a hard time remembering who I was. I had to tell her my whole family history before

it dawned on her who I was related to but everybody I knew was gone but the church was nice. The cemetery wasn't well kept up, when they saw me walking to the back of the cemetery where in the world does she think she's going and I said all my ancestors are buried back in here [inaudible] so I was telling my son the other day, I talked to him on the phone and I said one day I want you to take me to Conowingo, I would just like to go down the hill where I used to live and see what the house looks like. Your Mama kept that house for years and we kept telling her, why don't you sell that house. I said I won't never go back there in the country to live, you know, nobody wants it so she finally did. She finally sold the house but she kept it for years so I guess you hated to get rid of it you know. It was nice.

Roberta: Oh, I wanted to ask you about the school maintenance, do you remember who was responsible for that?

Mrs. Hinson: I guess the kids and the teachers. They kept the place clean probably, you know, swept the floors you know and straightened up the books and bookshelves and whatnot. I'm sure they had to do it. I don't remember anybody else coming in there.

Roberta: What about if repairs had to be made?

Mrs. Hinson: You know I don't know about that either. See like I said I was in the fifth grade when I left.

Roberta: That's a long time ago.

Mrs. Hinson: Yes, but like I said, I remember being nice and warm and dry you know. We had an old school bell, cause it had a bell on it. They would ring the bell in the morning.

Roberta: Was that to get everybody in?

Mrs. Hinson: Yes.

Roberta: Where did she keep it?

Mrs. Hinson: I don't know, it was a bell I think on the building that she could pull, yes.
I think it was on there, yes. I don't know what year the school closed.

Roberta: Do you remember being told because you had moved away probably when it closed.

Mrs. Hinson: Oh yes.

Roberta: Do you remember being told when it closed?

Mrs. Hinson: I'm sure I'd been down there because my aunt used to love to go like every September they would have homecoming at church and we used to go to that and I remember one time we went down and my oldest brother loved coconut cake and saw this great big coconut cake and he bought practically half of it and on the way back he said to me taste this cake, I said it doesn't taste too good because it's a box cake because I am a cake maker, I'm famous for my cakes. He said, I knew something was wrong with this cake, he said, damn, excuse me, the box cake has come to the country. He just knew he had a homemade coconut cake. As soon as I tasted it I knew it was a box cake. So I am sure I must have heard, you know, when they integrated the schools and the kids had to get on the bus and go up to Rising Sun or somewhere to school, you know. Back then for years the church had a place outside, it was like a building but it had sides that came down and that was where they would serve the food when they had homecoming and whatnot, they had tables, like a picnic [inaudible], the church had a lovely yard [inaudible]. I still remember the pine trees, they had these great big pine cones. Those trees had great big pine cones on them because I remember a couple of times collecting some and putting them in the trunk of the car and bring them home. Then they built onto the church and now they have a lovely dining room, electricity. I'm sure at one particular time we didn't have electricity. [Inaudible] He

said to me do you remember how to get there and I said, sure, all I've got to do is go down to Newark and go out South College Avenue and keep going. It will take you right to Conowingo. It will take you right down there.

Roberta: How large a community was it? Do you remember when you were growing up and by that I mean the African-American community.

Mrs. Hinson: I don't have any idea because everybody was scattered around you know. There weren't any houses really close together.

Roberta: It was real country huh?

Mrs. Hinson: It was real country, yes.

Roberta: When you came home from school did you have homework? What did you do?

Mrs. Hinson: Sure we had homework, I can remember sitting at the kitchen table doing homework with those lamps, sure we had homework. We would come home from school and my grandmother would always be there. I was telling somebody the other day how we would bake sweet potatoes... those big old stoves and it had like a shelf at the top to sit things on and she always had sweet potatoes in there. We could go home and we could get sweet potatoes and they would be warm, you know **[inaudible]**

Roberta: So that was your treat while you were doing homework?

Mrs. Hinson: It could be, yes.

Roberta: How much homework were you guys given.

Mrs. Hinson: I don't remember, not a whole lot I'm sure.

Roberta: Did you ever find it difficult?

Mrs. Hinson: No, not really and you know I'm trying to remember, my brother [inaudible] isn't that crazy...they were older than me and I'm trying to think where they went to school, isn't that funny?

Roberta: Did they go to the Conowingo?

Mrs. Hinson: Yes but when they left there I was trying to figure out where they went. Isn't that funny, I don't remember. And it, [inaudible] those kind of things bothered me. [inaudible] You can't remember stuff and you don't have anybody to talk to about stuff.

Roberta: That makes it difficult.

Mrs. Hinson: I know they went to school because my oldest brother graduated from Howard High School and the one next to me that I was always with, he went to live with an aunt in Philadelphia in Frankfort. Up in Frankfort and he graduated from a high school up there so they were never out of school you know except for the time my older brother quit Howard School and Miss Caroline Betsy who my aunt had lived with was still teaching there and she called my aunt up and told her that Donald had quit school and my aunt went and found him and told him he'd better get his butt back in school and he went back too. He joined the CCC Camp. You ever heard of the CCC Camp?

Roberta: Yes.

Mrs. Hinson: Something dumb like that he'd done.

Roberta: What grade was he in?

Mrs. Hinson: He was a senior and wasn't going to finish you know you go back because he graduated because I have a couple friends that he graduated in the class with them, class of '38, he graduated from high school.

Roberta: What year did you graduate?

Mrs. Hinson: '43. I graduated from Howard High School and I was lucky I mean you know my aunt raised me and I always knew I was going to get the chance to go to college because she always told me you know if I got good grades she was going to send me to college and she did.

Roberta: That was fortunate.

Mrs. Hinson: Yes, very fortunate and she had one son and he died when he was something like 26. He was teaching at Warner School and he got sick. He went to William and Marshall up in Pennsylvania somewhere and when he was a junior he decided he was going to go to a black college so he came home and went to Morgan and I can remember my aunt saying if that's what he wants to do that's what I'm going to do, she said, I'll take that extra money to buy myself a mink coat and that's what she did. Bought herself a mink coat and he went to Morgan and when he got ready to graduate he got sick and missed his graduation. He was in the hospital during his graduation. When he graduated he was working at Warner School and he got sick and he died suddenly and he was married. He was married to a young lady, really nice young lady, she taught school and then you know several years later she married again and that husband died suddenly so she said, I give up. Strange.

Roberta: Your brother that joined the CCC when he graduated from high school, what did he do?

Mrs. Hinson: He's the one that married the Hazzard. He worked in New York. He lived in Wilmington for a while cause I had a key to their house. I'll never forget I came home from school and went to their house and went in with this key and these people said to me, what are you doing in our house and I said, well my brother lives here and they said well they moved and I said here's you key and I flew. He didn't even tell me, he didn't even write me a letter and tell me he moved. They moved to New York because Emma worked in some kind of child care. She graduated from West Virginia

where I was in school and Donald worked for the city. He worked for the city for years in New York and he died, he had divorced Emma and she had died and he had remarried and he had a heart attack and he died one month after my husband. I don't even think it was a month. I got bronchitis when my husband died and the doctor said you are too sick you will have to stay home and I was home sick when they called me and told me my brother died. I don't think Donny had been dead a month and my brother died. I'll never forget. He lived a year with one kidney because when I was in college he had a kidney removed and it didn't phase him, he kept right on going. I remember going to see him in the hospital before I went back to school.

Roberta: If you can think of anything else you know I can always come back. I am right up the street. **[Inaudible]**

Mrs. Hinson: 75 years, **[inaudible]** that's a long time.

Roberta: That's a long time.

Mrs. Hinson: **[Inaudible]** ...but I can vividly remember coming up the hill going to school.

Roberta: In the beginning you were saying what you put on your shoes to get you up the hill.

Mrs. Hinson: Men's socks.

Roberta: Men's socks?

Mrs. Hinson: My grandmother would put them all over our boots so we would walk in the snow.

Roberta: So you would get traction?

Mrs. Hinson: Yes.

Roberta: Is that right.

Mrs. Hinson: There was a lot of snow down in the country and see the horses and buggies and the cars came up and down the road [inaudible] and across the road from us there was a field and the guy had calves and there was a bull [inaudible] over there too, and we had to watch and see where that bull and those cows were and we would walk up through the snow. The snow would be up to your knees almost. We always had school.

Roberta: So what was it about the men's socks?

Mrs. Hinson: I don't know.

Roberta: That made it easy to walk up the hill to school? Were they rough?

Mrs. Hinson: I guess so, probably so.

Roberta: You don't remember slipping when you had them on.

Mrs. Hinson: No, I don't remember slipping. For one thing the snow was too deep for you to really slip you went up through the field you know and my brother would always leave me. The one that was close to me [Inaudible], I guess when I was in the 6th grade he was in, maybe it was higher than the 6th grade. [inaudible]

Roberta: Mrs. Hinson I certainly do appreciate you giving me your time.

Mrs. Hinson: I've enjoyed talking to you.

Roberta: That's a long time to remember.

Mrs. Hinson: But I do know I had all those subjects, geography and history.

Roberta: So let me ask one or two more, I just happened to think, with those required subjects that you had taught to you during the day, did the teacher kind of take time out for some fun activities do you remember?

Mrs. Hinson: Well, I'm sure we did. I don't remember being bored to death. I know we had art because I always liked art and I was a little artistic you know at school.

Roberta: Do you remember with your enjoyment of art whether or not you helped with some of the decorations for some of the programs? Do you remember?

Mrs. Hinson: I don't remember. I may have. My daughter teaches art at Mt. Pleasant Senior High School. She's an art teacher, she's quite an artist.

Roberta: That's is nice, that's professional.

Mrs. Hinson: [Inaudible] she went to Paris for one year, studied art for 6 weeks, she went to Kansas City to a meeting some kind of workshop or something that they sent her to but all my grandchildren are artistic. Everybody says I guess they got it from you but I said I wasn't as good as Marlene. I'll never forget when Marlene was in high school I had a picture of a little girl eating an orange, you're not still taping are you? And I said to her I want this picture made bigger I want to put it on the bulletin board and I gave her these colored pencils, when she finished with it it was just like the picture. Exactly like it, in no time at all she drew it and I said to her – she went to Bancroft for one year because she was in school down in Colwyck and she had so many problems down there with kids and I took her out of school and I asked Dr. Jackson if I could bring her to Bancroft because we were getting ready to move here and he said, sure so she said it was the best year she ever spent in school and Theodore Wells, do you remember him, he was an art teacher he said to me one day, your daughter is going to be an artist because she is good in art. I said look here she draws some nice pictures. He said I'm not just talking about drawing, this girl's got talent and he pushed her all the way. He really did, he got her in an art program at Tower Hill and when she graduated from college he could hardly walk because he was so crippled up but do you know he

came to her graduation and she was so tickled to see him but her cared for her future. He really did.

Roberta: Wonderful.

Mrs. Hinson: And she graduated from Philadelphia College of Art, went back and got her Masters. She finally finished that picture for me.

Roberta: Let me stop the tape. I want to thank Mrs. Hinson for her time in sharing her memories with me and this concludes the interview.

End of side B of Tape 1.