

**MSS 587, Iron Hill Museum oral history recordings and transcripts,
Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.**

**Special Collections Department, University of Delaware / Newark,
Delaware 19717-5267 / Phone: 302-831-2229 / Fax: 302-831-6004 / URL:
<http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/>**

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

Use of materials from this collection beyond the exceptions provided in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law.

Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. Please contact Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library,

<http://www.lib.udel.edu/cgi-bin/askspec.cgi>

Interview with Charlotte DePrisco Corday
Student at Pleasant Valley School

Interviewer and Transcriber: Marcia Adams

Note: Charlotte DePrisco Corday is a sister to Elsie DePrisco Mills who was also interviewed.

Marcia: Today is Wednesday, March 14, 2007, my name is Marcia Adams and I am here on Frenchtown Road interviewing Charlotte Corday as part of the Iron Hill Museum's Oral History Project. Mrs. Corday if you would be kind enough to give me your name, including your middle name and your date of birth.

Charlotte: Charlotte Elizabeth Corday, my birthday is 9-24-35. I was born in Wilmington, Delaware. My maiden name is DePrisco. My father's name is Charles N. DePrisco. He was a carpenter and my mother was Elizabeth Ann DePrisco. My father was a carpenter and we rented several years and then we owned our home. My mother was always a homemaker. I have 6 sisters and 2 brothers. My brothers are deceased. All live in Delaware. We have lived in the Newark/Glasgow area nearly all our lives. My parents moved to Newark from Wilmington 60 years ago. My present home I have lived in for 46 years. Glasgow was a farming, rural community and Newark was a small college town. We belonged to church and 4H. Our activities centered around these and family gatherings. Many days we helped our friends do farm work. Holidays were centered around home and visiting relatives. Sundays were visiting with both grandparents. Neighbors were usually friendly, stayed to themselves but ready to help in time of need. The neighbors were always nearby; family oriented, regular factory workers, farmers and skilled laborers. We were all christened in the Methodist faith however when we lived in Glasgow we attended the Pencader Presbyterian Church. Our home was adjacent to the church cemetery. My siblings and I were the majority of the Sunday School. We lived in a rural area where we had service stations, a diner, a popular restaurant, gift shops and some antique

shops. My sister and I were bus girls at the Glass Kitchen Restaurant but only on Sundays when liquor license was approved. No liquor sales were made on Sundays. Our home was right on a busy highway intersection but a rural area. Two churches a nearby Glasgow one-room school. No access to grocery stores, pharmacy, no bus transportation. There was a skating rink, the only source of sport activity. It was mostly farmland. I worked co-op for a dental office while in high school and after graduation. My sisters and I worked part time at a 5 and 10 cent store in Newark, 5 miles away. My father was our transportation. When we attended Pleasant Valley School we lived on Iron Hill. The school taught 1st grade to 6th grade. My classmates were Willard McNeal, Bobby McCormick, Joann Kirk, we were all in the 6th grade class with me. There probably was a total of 20 to 25 students, grades 1 through 6. My hobbies were sewing and gardening. Being the oldest of 9 children I had to help my mother with my siblings and house work. I did not mind living in the country but it had its disadvantages. You could not belong to any after school activities because there was no extra bus provided. Living in a country where segregation was the only way of life but it really had no effect on us. We got along with people of other races and nationalities. We had colored neighbors that were our friends even today. I don't feel racism is a problem with most people, especially Christians. We are learning to accept other races and beliefs. Life in the country, or rural areas, has always been a friendlier environment to grow up or to rear families than the hectic, stressful city life. My father was the provider for transportation, my mother did not drive. He would take us into town, Newark or Wilmington, to buy groceries or general shopping. Newark was 5 miles away and Wilmington 20 miles. The traveling speed when I was growing up was much less than today so it would take longer to get wherever we were going. There were several roadside produce stands in our area but my father always planted a large garden which my brothers and sisters and I maintained as well as my Dad raised chickens in addition,

working 2 jobs to provide for his family. When I was growing up we did not have the radio, later TV for news and entertainment. We could purchase newspapers. We also had a telephone with 8 party lines you shared. You would only hear 4 different rings. One long; one long and one short; two short and two long rings. You were assigned whichever one. It was hard to get use of the phone if someone somewhere else was using it you had to wait. Just as well you could listen to others conversations. When I lived on Iron Hill the iron ore pit was at the road's end and we lived in the last house before it on a chicken farm. When we moved to Glasgow we rented on a dairy farm. The owner's planted all their grain for feed. We used to help the owner's grandchildren do their barn work so we could play games, etc. There was other farms in the area including some that raised horses and one or two raised hogs. I came to the Newark/Glasgow area 61 years ago. At that time Newark was a small college town, Main Street, like in the movies, was two ways. To go into town on Friday night was fun. You would see a lot of friends in town also. The local volunteer fire companies would have annual carnivals which we all looked forward to. Our schools for the most part would be from kindergarten to the 12th grade except for our one-room schools which went from 1 to 6th grade but these were in the country. One teacher only at these schools and she was teacher, nurse, disciplinarian, janitor, etc. Going to school when I was young was something to look forward to although when we lived on Iron Hill we had to walk 2 miles each way. Sometimes the teacher would pick us up if she came by while we were walking. As years went by and we went to other schools we rode school buses which always had 3 to each seat and some standing. Life back then was so much better. You could be poor but so were a lot of others. People were friendlier, more like family. Now with so many developments in the area and so many strangers it's like the city came to the suburbs. There is not much country living anymore. People are so stressed with work and daily living pressures that

the close neighbor unit is obsolete. Life goes on in the fast lane and it's too bad we can not stop to smell the roses.

Marcia: Mrs. Corday I would like to ask you if you could describe to me what the schoolhouse looked like.

Charlotte: This is a treat. It was a stone building that was stuccoed outside. When you walked in the main door, there was only one door to it, and there was a lobby, a little vestibule on each side had a shelf on which you would put your lunchboxes or your lunch bag and your coat hung directly under that on a little hook. The classroom had desks that the seats were attached to the desk, so many on each side of an aisle. In the front part of the school was a platform, like a stage. The teacher's desk was up there and there were several little chairs. She would call the 6th graders up and they would have their "math class" per se and when she was finished with that she would send you back to your seat and she would call the next class up. She rotated classes like that, each group and would go over whatever subject she was teaching at the time. We had music classes; we had exercises in the school. We also had our recesses outdoors and so were the 2 outside privies. We had to raise our hand to get to go out to the privy but that was basically how our school was run. She had a brass school bell that she would stand in front of the doorway to ring and call the children back in for class. It was fun; I could relive it again.

Marcia: Was there a playground outside with swings or did you make your own entertainment outside?

Charlotte: There were no swings. There was just an outside play area and it was on a corner yet. We had jump rope, we played hopscotch on the driveway that went up to the front door and basically you know kids just played tag and Rover, Rover Come Over, whatever that kind of game but we made our own games up. We made our own entertainment.

Marcia: Did everybody walk to school or was there a bus at that time?

Charlotte: No. Everyone walked as I said, my sisters and brothers and I, we walked from on the top of Iron Hill to Pleasant Valley School and our teacher at

the time lived in Newark. Her name was Elsie Stradley; she drove an old black Chevy but if she came along when we were walking she would pick us up and the same way when we got out of school, we had to walk home again and it was about 2 miles from where we lived to school.

Marcia: Did you live on Iron Hill Road or Ironside Road?

Charlotte: Iron Hill Road, right at the top of the hill. There is developments up there now that I know of. It is a dead end road. At that time there was a gentleman and his brother, they were older – German people I believe – they rode a tandem bicycle up and down that hill and the son used to bring my mother cherry tomatoes but there were so many of us and my mother at that time I know I am going away from the school situation but at that time we lived in a very small house, it was part of the chicken farm for the tenant and my mother cooked on a stove, it was like a coal stove or a wood stove except that my father put coal in it and had to keep that stove going all the time, even in the summertime, in order to keep hot water and for cooking. It was a source of heat as well.

Marcia: Now when did you move on top of Iron Hill?

Charlotte: We moved to Iron Hill, I was in 6th grade because I only attended Pleasant Valley School one year in 6th grade and at the time I was say 12 years old in 6th grade and I am almost 72 so that would have been 60 years ago and my father worked at that time for the Newark Lumber Company. He was an oil delivery man.

Marcia: And then you went to 6th grade in the Pleasant Valley School, then where did you go to school after that?

Charlotte: Then I went to Newark. At that time it was junior high. There is no such thing as a junior high anymore but at that time too I had to walk with some of the other people that lived in the area, we walked up to 896 and that's where the bus picked us up for 7th grade. That's when I transferred to Newark Junior High.

Marcia: You said the Pleasant Valley School was built of stone and then it stuccoed over or plastered over?

- Charlotte: Yes, it was more like lime whitewash, painted the outside but the building itself was stone, it had real wide windowsills in it.
- Marcia: How did they heat the school?
- Charlotte: We had an oil burner, just a small heater.
- Marcia: Was there a piano in there? You said you had music class.
- Charlotte: There was, yes.
- Marcia: What was discipline like for the teacher?
- Charlotte: Sit up in front of the class. If you did something wrong you were punished by having to sit in the front and face the class so that was punishment enough.
- Marcia: When you were there for the 6th grade about how many children were there in the school?
- Charlotte: There was approximately I would say 20 to 25 at the most.
- Marcia: What other duties did the teacher have besides being a music teacher and the disciplinarian? Was there any health issues at all?
- Charlotte: She had to be the nurse. She had to do everything and the lady that actually did the hard janitorial work was a Mrs. Stewart and at that time her house was on the opposite corner there and she would do the heavy cleaning of the place.
- Marcia: You said your teacher's name was Mrs. Stradley?
- Charlotte: Elsie W. Stradley.
- Marcia: Was she married or single?
- Charlotte: She was married and she lived on Paper Mill Road in Newark.
- Marcia: And she drove an old Chevrolet?
- Charlotte: Yes.
- Marcia: Describe her to me physically, what did she look like?
- Charlotte: Well she was very heavy, very heavy lady, round face and cheerful.
- Marcia: About how old was she when you were there?
- Charlotte: Probably in her forties at that time. She is long deceased now but when she was our teacher I would say she was in her forties.

- Marcia: So that was about – you said you moved here 61 years ago so that was like 1946 or something like that?
- Charlotte: Probably.
- Marcia: And the war was just over at that time. Do you remember anything about the war in this area?
- Charlotte: Well when World War II was going on we lived in Wilmington and at that time I remember when the war was over. In fact we lived on the east side of Wilmington and I got to see my uncle on a convoy for the last time before he went overseas. He was on the back of a convoy truck. I remember the air raids, the sirens would go off; everyone had to turn the lights off in their house. We used to sit on the front stoop and all the neighbors would be outside sitting until the sirens went off to say the air raid was over. It was scary.
- Marcia: When you lived in the Iron Hill area, you said it was rural area so I am assuming there were farmers around.
- Charlotte: Right.
- Marcia: Did you buy vegetables or eggs?
- Charlotte: Well actually like I said my father always had a garden. In the Iron Hill area there was several Finnish people, families that came from Finland, and their occupation basically was chicken farmers and we did used to buy eggs from them. Actually my father worked on the chicken farm that we lived on but that was more like he raised chickens to sell, not necessarily for egg production.
- Marcia: So you rented a house from a chicken farmer?
- Charlotte: Correct.
- Marcia: Getting back to discipline at the school you said the teacher made them sit in front of the class, what was it that the children would do that they got that punishment for, do you remember?
- Charlotte: Typical; he hit me, she hit me or whatever, that type of thing. I can't remember anyone doing anything bad, you know or she knocked me down or you know maybe somebody took something from their lunch bag but it

was typical kids. Innocent trouble you know like normally kids would do anyway you know.

Marcia: Did you have inside water to drink or how did you get water to drink?

Charlotte: We did. We had a well for water. We didn't have a bathroom. Not many people had bathrooms at that time. We had no TV when I lived on Iron Hill.

Marcia: What about telephones in the area? Did most people have phones?

Charlotte: The first phone we had was in Glasgow and like I said we had an 8 party line. One of the parties was a small restaurant that was on Route 40 further towards Bear. You could hardly ever get to use it. So kids today would go crazy if they had 8 parties to deal with.

Marcia: Absolutely. Do you know if the schoolhouse was used for anything other than schooling? Were there any social activities there?

Charlotte: No, just school. We had a Grange Hall in Glasgow years ago, I don't even think it is in existence now and we had 4H Club in Glasgow and that was held at the Pencader Presbyterian Church and we played in the cemetery.

Marcia: Where was your house in relation to the cemetery and then the church?

Charlotte: Right beside it. It faced Route 40, our house faced Route 40 but we were right next to the fence to the graveyard and when the state of Delaware put the new 896 intersection in they tore our house down. There was Glasgow Arms Restaurant in the center of 896 and 40 and Sherwood Diner was on the other side in-between the highways, that and then there was a service station on each corner of 896 that was adjacent to 40, Route 40.

Marcia: If someone misbehaved in school and was disciplined by the teacher did that news ever get back home at all?

Charlotte: Absolutely, the parents knew and they also had functions where the parents would come, like plays or programs you know and the parents would come and then they would bring cake or whatever and they would serve refreshments. It was really family oriented.

Marcia: So the parents were really involved then?

Charlotte: Right.

- Marcia: Did you have much homework?
- Charlotte: I would imagine truthfully I can't remember.
- Marcia: So after school, like what time did school start, 8? 9?
- Charlotte: Probably 8 because I can remember when it was bitter cold in the mornings walking down to the school. At that time Old Baltimore Pike from 896 to Elkton was called a 9 foot road. That's all the wider it was and we walked the shoulder. Of course there wasn't the traffic that we have today but it was still a long walk.
- Marcia: Especially in cold weather. When you got to school maybe you could just sort of tell me what the day was like. I know you told me you had music and so on but when she rang that bell to come inside, what was the procedure? Did girls go first or did boys go first or was there no difference going into school and hanging up the coats?
- Charlotte: Just everyone came in you know as they came to school and they always started it with the Pledge of Allegiance and to my knowledge I can't remember for sure if they said the Lord's Prayer or not but I knew they said the Pledge of Allegiance because I can still see the flag up on the platform, up on the stage per se whatever where her desk was.
- Marcia: Did she have blackboards behind her desk.
- Charlotte: Correct.
- Marcia: Did the older children, like you were in 6th grade, did the older children help the younger ones at all with their schoolwork?
- Charlotte: Always. Yes always and in fact like because there was so many of us if anybody had a problem with a parent where the mother was in the hospital or something we could bring our younger siblings to school with us.
- Marcia: What about books, did you have decent books to work out of.
- Charlotte: Yes I think so. At that time too we had a PTA and I think that's who provided with our – we were never sent home with orders that we needed this and that like they give to kids today. We were given our basic supplies at school.
- Marcia: Did you ever get a visit from the superintendent that you remember?

- Charlotte: Not to my knowledge. Mrs. Stradley was all we had that I knew of.
- Marcia: Was there a dentist that came in or a doctor to check your height and weight?
- Charlotte: No, not that I know of. I think she did it herself as far as that goes. I can remember watching her how the kids that would have head lice, she would take a fine tooth comb and go through their head, oh. She would take them out in that little vestibule to do it. Oh my.
- Marcia: And this happened every year probably?
- Charlotte: Yes, most likely.
- Marcia: Do you know what year they opened that building as a school?
- Charlotte: Truthfully I don't know exactly. I haven't researched back that far but the date of the school is above the door now even though it has been painted many times you can still see it. I wanted to buy it one time, it was for sale, the building was for sale and I wished I could have bought it because I wanted to take it back because we had so many good memories when we were kids.
- Marcia: Did you have Christmas plays and things like that?
- Charlotte: Yes and that's when the parents were invited and at that time too they could see the work that you had done you know.
- Marcia: Was it ever used as a voting place?
- Charlotte: Not to my knowledge.
- Marcia: And you graduated in what year?
- Charlotte: 1953 from Newark.
- Marcia: And you went to Newark for the last 5 grades then?
- Charlotte: Right.
- Marcia: So when you went in, in the morning, you said your Pledge of Allegiance and maybe a prayer and then everybody sat down to their lesson then?
- Charlotte: Yes and basically we all had a schedule you know we knew which class would go first and all so when you were done you went back to your desk and you worked on the work that she gave you to do in fact that's why I

am thinking I don't remember homework because I think we did it while we were there.

Marcia: So then in the afternoon, after school, when you went home what would you do?

Charlotte: Work. My father worked 2 jobs as I said, he always did no matter whether we lived in Iron Hill or we lived in Glasgow but you know I especially had to help clean. I always did the cleaning for my mother and my sister next to me, she always took care of the baby but there was so many and there was always laundry to do and you know

Marcia: And no automatic washing machine?

Charlotte: Oh no, in fact I never had an automatic washer until, well my twins are 48 when we moved down here, I didn't have an automatic washer until I would say about 1964, 65. We had a well and you couldn't run water – automatic washers took so much water and when you have a well you have to go easy so you had a wringer washer and when my children were little, my nephew, my niece rather, said that I had a washing machine with gear shifts on it but they were the good old days.

Marcia: Was there anything in particular when you were going to the Pleasant Valley School in the 6th grade, was there anything that you didn't like about the area?

Charlotte: No basically because then we didn't know any better. You know we didn't have to compete with kids that had their own cell phones and TVs and stuff like that. We just didn't know about it and didn't think about it.

Marcia: Would you say or do you know of any families in the area at that time that you would consider wealthy or were you all basically of the same economic means?

Charlotte: One family owned a business in Newark. Their last name was Kirk and he owned a service station and I forget what else, he sold car parts I believe and that was in Newark up on Main Street but other than that you know everybody was pretty much the same. I think some parents, or fathers, might have worked at the Vulcanized Fiber plant in Newark and I can

remember when Chrysler first came to Newark they built tanks for the Army and I think some of the parents might have worked there, maybe some of the mothers were waitresses in small diners. We had a diner in Glasgow and we had a nice restaurant but basically we were family orientated people you know and everything revolved around that. My mother, she cooked so much for all of us kids, she didn't have time to do anything else. I don't remember other mothers working, truthfully.

Marcia: Did everybody around have large families?

Charlotte: Basically.

Marcia: Do you remember a plane crash on Old Baltimore Pike?

Charlotte: Absolutely.

Marcia: What year was that?

Charlotte: That would have been around 1960 I think and it wasn't on Old Baltimore Pike it was on Delancy Road which runs from Old Baltimore Pike to Route 40. I definitely remember that. I was sitting right where you are because we had a little dining room and I saw it through the window, I saw the flames and the flames it looked just like on television you could see the flames shooting back and you could see all the little windows in it and I sat down on the chair and I said, "Oh my God those people are going to be killed," and it was such a big airplane and my father at that time had just gotten out of the hospital from a heart attack and he worked at the New Castle County Air Base, he was in the Air National Guard and they brought their fire trucks down to help assist every other company that went up there and when my dad parked the fire truck, when he went to step out there was a little child's body. He almost had another heart attack on top of the one he had but it was awful. It really was awful. There is homes built on that property now. It was on Delancy Road.

Marcia: Did you know the Slack family?

Charlotte: Yes I did, personally, very much. For a short period of time we lived on South Chapel Street which now there is a Wawa Store there. It's on South Chapel Street and Route 4, I believe, well West Chestnut Hill Road and

Dr. Walker's office was there after we lived there when we were kids and Slacks had an old house, a farm and a big barn. Mrs. Slack's father was a blacksmith and he did that in the barn and the Slacks were Norman and Sarah Slack, they had a son John who was very close to my brother and I used to do Mrs. Slack's breakfast dishes for a dime and get on the school bus at her house. They were a very prominent family, very well respected and very well-to-do family. John was an only child and he kind of like adopted my brother and when Johnny went to get a haircut, Sonny went also but they were there for a long time. The house was so nice, it was a white house, had a big front porch on it; beautiful antiques. Johnny has the Nationwide Insurance business.

Marcia: Getting back to playtime activities when you were living on Iron Hill, you said when you went home from school you had chores to do. Did you ever have time to play at all, do you remember?

Charlotte: Yes, which kids don't do anymore now but we played hide and seek and we played hopscotch and tag and that type of thing. Kids just did things together because there was no television and you made your own fun. Good fun, jacks, you know.

Marcia: Did you have a chance to play with other children in the neighborhood?

Charlotte: When we lived on top of Iron Hill we didn't have any neighbors with children.

Marcia: What brought you to live on top of Iron Hill?

Charlotte: Well Dad worked for Diamond Ice and Coal in Wilmington. As I said he delivered oil, he was an oil truck driver and why we moved to Newark I honestly don't remember but maybe he knew the owner who had the chicken farm. I remember their last name was Reale and I don't know how my father – I really – I was young and I don't remember how come we moved there.

Marcia: Did your father have a vehicle, a car or a truck?

Charlotte: Correct, an old Model T Ford. My Dad used to raise chickens like I said and he would kill them on Saturday morning and my Mother would dress

them (I will never clean a chicken) and Dad would put them on ice, put them in the back of the truck and I am talking about a closed-in old Model T Ford truck, the back of it had a gate and us kids would pile in there, that's how we had to go and go into Wilmington and Daddy would sell fresh chickens and people would make fun of us kids in the back of the truck. Oh that was mortifying let me tell you.

Marcia: What was Christmas like?

Charlotte: Christmas was always fun for us because we didn't get birthday presents; we didn't get things through the year. In fact, when my children were little, the same thing I mean we waited until Christmas and my Dad worked 2 jobs and belonged to the Army Guard and then the Air Guard. He did everything he could to supply stuff for his family and Christmas was always special. We always had good Christmases when we were kids and family times.

Marcia: One time you mentioned a family by the name of Laws and you said they owned a lot of Glasgow and were somehow related to the Cooch family, how did that go?

Charlotte: There was a lot and there still is several Laws families in Glasgow. They owned a lot of farmland and to be truthful with you my sister was the one that mentioned the Laws being related to the Cooches. I'm not sure about that. I know we went to school with the Laws children, Norma Skyler was a Laws and there was Laws in the Bear area as well but a lot were here in Glasgow. The same with the Brooks family, I think we told you Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks was the teacher at the Glasgow one-room school and her son still lives in Glasgow in that big brick house on the corner across from the church (Pencader Presbyterian Church).

Marcia: What is his first name?

Charlotte: Melvin and Audrey Brooks.

Marcia: You said you were raised Methodist but you went to the Pencader Presbyterian Church Sunday School?

- Charlotte: Well it was right there, right next door. Children's Day it was the DePrisco kids. No matter where we went there were so many of us, we were the majority. 4H as well.
- Marcia: Who ran the 4H Club?
- Charlotte: Mrs. McElwee and she lived right there beside the Presbyterian Church; she was the Sunday School teacher as well. Mamie Palmer was a Sunday School teacher there, Mrs. McElwee and the Ford family from Bear. Now I tried to look up Donald McElwee's phone number but it wasn't listed and he could tell you more about that, the Glasgow area as well.
- Marcia: Tell me about walking to school from on top of Iron Hill when you walked to the Pleasant Valley School, did you meet children going to the Iron Hill School at all in your travels back and forth?
- Charlotte: I don't remember. Basically a lot of the colored kids that went to that Iron Hill Colored School, they lived closer to there. There were several that lived right near Pleasant Valley School for that matter and here are like you say, here's these colored kids they had to walk past the white school to go to school. The Congo family for one; there were a lot of Earls, there was Grinnages and I'm trying to think, the Bullocks, the Yanceys and the Jones, there was a large family, Charles and Grace Jones had several kids and they lived on Pleasant Valley Road right down from the school. Now that I am thinking about it I don't remember where the Finnish kids went. I never thought about that but there was several Finnish families and if you could track down Mia Zistl, I don't know her married name but she lived on Welsh Tract Road; I think Mia might have gone to Pleasant Valley School as well. Z-i-s-t-l. There is a couple Zistl families, there is a Paolo family. I could show you in my car.
- Marcia: Did you ever have an opportunity to interact socially with the colored children in the area?
- Charlotte: Oh yes, we were all one I mean there was no difference. The same where I am living right now, we have neighbors down the road, the Yanceys, a large Yancey family and they have several homes down on Frenchtown

Road. We are all friends. When my children were little, I had 5 children in 5 years and I didn't even have a fence around my yard, they knew not to go out in the road, but I always had other kids here and a few weeks ago my daughter and I went to a Yancey funeral over in Newark and one of the boys introduced me to the pastor and said, "this is Mrs. Bonner (of course they refer to me as my married name because that's all they knew me by) we were always in Mrs. Bonner's yard, always." When I bought popsicles they all got popsicles. Color was not a big factor with people in this area. There was no trouble, no one gave anyone any trouble. A colored man move us in this house. They were respected the same as the white people – it was all the same.

Marcia: When you went to Newark High School had desegregation started then or was that after you got out of high school?

Charlotte: I would say after because even when I was a senior I had no colored kids in my class and that was '53. That's strange I never though about those things.

Marcia: You said the Pleasant Valley School was made of stone, was that all natural stone I would assume, from the area?

Charlotte: Correct.

Marcia: And then they plastered over it or something?

Charlotte: I think it was plaster and then they whitewashed it because really I don't think it was actually painted. Back then we used a lot of whitewash, lime – a mixture of lime and water – I used to paint the foundation of my house with it myself. I used to paint the bottom of the trees with whitewash to keep the bugs away.

Marcia: When you went to the Pleasant Valley School was it that whitewashed effect or was it still the stone?

Charlotte: Whitewashed. It always was when I was there?

Marcia: On the inside of it, what were the walls like?

- Charlotte: The same thing. They were plaster. It was a smooth plaster I can remember that. Same way with the windows. The windowsills were wide.
- Marcia: To accommodate for the stone I guess?
- Charlotte: Yes.
- Marcia: You said you did exercises in school, was that once a week or every day or do you remember?
- Charlotte: Probably every day to keep the kids from getting rammy for sitting for so long. By the time the teacher would take a certain class up front, actually it was a platform but it was called the stage I think well then the kids were doing their other work while they were waiting for them to be called up. It was a touch-your-toe-type of exercise or that kind of thing.
- Marcia: Was there a flag pole out front or trees?
- Charlotte: Yes there a flag, I do remember the flag pole and I think Mrs. Stradley did that. I think she is the one that put it up and took it down unless she assigned the kids to take it down, I don't remember.
- Marcia: What kind of pictures were on the walls in there, do you remember?
- Charlotte: I don't remember pictures being on the wall because they were white. There were 2 windows on each side inside the schoolroom and the doorway to go to the vestibule where the coats and lunches were and then the outside door.
- Marcia: Did you eat your lunches at your desk?
- Charlotte: Yes.
- Marcia: After lunch did you have an opportunity to go outside and play then?
- Charlotte: Then we had some recess time and then she would come out with her bell.
- Marcia: This is the end of side 1 of tape 1.
- Tape 1, side 2
- Marcia: This is tape 1, side 2. Mrs. Corday could you just explain to me about Old 896, the people that live on that road – if you are coming south on 896 and you veer off to the right to go down Old 896 you mentioned a Dennis McElwee...

Charlotte: Donald McElwee.

Marcia: Where does he live on Old 896?

Charlotte: You come off of 896 per se, you bear to the right, it is parallel with the 896 that we use presently, it's now called Glasgow Avenue but originally it was the Old 896 the only road. When you get off onto Glasgow Avenue to your right is a one-room schoolhouse that was, it's now used by Enduro Motorcycle Group, it was the Glasgow One Room Schoolhouse. The teacher at that time was Elizabeth Brooks. That building is to the right, the first building you come to and then there is a church, a Baptist church on your right, the next 2 buildings, the first family is John Jordan, the 2nd house is Harvey Ogden and then you come to a large brick home, it is an old historical home, Audrey and Melvin Brooks live there. Actually his mother was the teacher at the Glasgow One Room School. On the opposite side of Glasgow Avenue you have an old house and a garage and then there is 2 small ranch houses, Donald McElwee lives in the first ranch house to your left, his son is the one that lives in the first house. Then you would come to a big manse, it was the Presbyterian manse at one time, another large brick building. Next to the manse there used to be Glasgow Methodist Church which was purchased and torn down. The next building is a building that is owned by Pencader Presbyterian Church and it is used for church functions. Then you have the Glasgow cemetery; the Presbyterian cemetery, at the intersection. Years ago, between the two Route 40s, one going east and one going west, there used to be a prominent restaurant called the Glasgow Arms on the east side of that was the Sherwood Diner. There were service stations on each corner of Route 40; a Texaco station facing the west side and on the opposite side, going east, used to be an Atlantic service station and a little restaurant. Opposite it on the east side of 40 on 896 was an old antique shop. The Grange Hall was the large brick building before you hit the intersection on the southbound lane of Old 896 which would be Glasgow Avenue. The Glasgow Grange Hall was held there.

- Marcia: And your house which is no longer standing was where?
- Charlotte: It faced Route 40, in fact it was only a few feet right off the highway and it was facing the highway on the westbound side of Route 40 and it was almost attached to the cemetery. It was like 6 feet away from the fence to the cemetery. We played hide and seek in that cemetery, we slid down the hill on sleds.
- Marcia: So now after you have told me what life was like do you think it was a good life back then, are you happy where you are at now with your life, would you change anything?
- Charlotte: My childhood, until I got married, I got married the day after I turned 18 to get away from a strict father but even though my father was strict I realize now that he meant well, he only wanted us to turn out good, which we did, thank God. I don't regret my childhood and I don't regret having my 5 children in 5 years, I wish they were small now. Now that I am a senior, I'll be 72, I feel I am at a place in my life where I am at peace and I am happy for my family. I am very close to my sisters and my children and I can't ask for anymore. I am just grateful.
- Marcia: Thank you for sharing everything with us. This concludes the interview on tape 1, side 2.

**Charlotte DePrisco Corday and
2737 Frenchtown Road
Newark, DE 19702
834-9459**

**Elsie DePrisco Mills
2102 Sheldon Drive
Newark, DE 19711
266-7416**

Meeting on Thursday, March 8, 2007 at 10 a.m.

Both ladies were students at Pleasant Valley School. They are sisters and Charlotte attended Pleasant Valley School in the 6th grade only and Elsie was there for maybe 1st grade and definitely for 2nd and 3rd grade. Then the family moved to Glasgow next to the Pencader Presbyterian Church.

Directions to her residence: Take road between Wawa and Kohl's on Route 40. Go to end of the road and turn left on to Frenchtown Road, there is a stop sign in front of her house. House is tan with green shutters.

She knew the Congos, Bullocks, Yanceys, Earls, the Leasures, and the Grinnages. Did she know Victor Doyle, who went to school with Charlie Swarz.

Charlotte Corday's maiden name was DePrisco. There were 9 children in her family, 7 girls and 2 boys. Both her brothers have passed away. Charlotte has 5 children.

Charlotte was a student at Pleasant Valley School (a one room schoolhouse). She graduated in 1953. **Elsie W. Stradley was the teacher.** There were 20 students at the school; grades 1 thru 6. She remembers some of the student's names as McCormick (Charles McCormick 410-398-4508 had a brother & sister who went to Pleasant Valley School) Jerry McNeal, Warner. There was also an Aloyseus Woerner and his sisters Peggy and Marie who also went to Pleasant Valley School. **There is a John A. Woerner in the phone book 239-6801 who may be a relative to Aloyseus.** Her family moved to Iron Hill in 1942-1943 and they lived "on the top of Iron Hill, next to the iron ore pit. At one time they lived next to the cemetery by Pencader Presbyterian Church on old 896. There was a Grange Hall across the street from the Pencader Church.

She said there is a family, last name of **Laws who owned a lot of Glasgow** and are related to the Cooch family.

Mr. DePrisco (father of Charlotte and Elsie) was a truck driver for Newark Oil Company.

Charlotte said she did John Slack's mother's dishes, **the Slack family was considered well-to-do.**

They remember going to Otts Chapel for a barbeque.

Margaret Keith's (husband Clayton Keith 368-8124) mother Mrs. Stewart was a janitor at Pleasant Valley School. Thinks Margaret Keith lives on Old Baltimore Pike.

Charlotte also mentioned Dennis Kemether; Marge and Eleanor Brown, the Biederman Horse Farm, Minnie Brown (2 room house).

The Reale's owned the property on Iron Hill Road where Charlotte's family rented a home.

Mamie Palmer was the Sunday school teacher at the Pencader Presbyterian Church.

The Kirk family owned a lot of property.

Mia Zistl lives on Welsh Tract Road.

Charles and Grace Jones live on Pleasant Valley Road.

Charlotte's sister, Elsie DePrisco Mills was interview on March 16, 2007

Questions for Interview with Charlotte Corday
Lived in the Iron Hill area on Frenchtown Road

Name, date of birth, place of birth

What was your maiden name?

The names of your parents? What did they do for a living? Did they own or rent?

Did you have any brothers or sisters? Do they still live in the area?

Where did you grow up?

What brought you to this area?

How long have you lived in this area?

What was the neighborhood like?

What did you do for fun or what kind of socializing did you do with your neighbors? Or if you didn't have time to socialize, did any of your neighbors socialize?

How were holidays celebrated?

Did neighbors visit with one another?

How close was the nearest neighbor? Their names and what they did for a living.

Where did you go to church? How important was religion to you and your family? How has that influenced your life?

What were the names of some of the businesses in the area?

Do you know any of the children that went to the Iron Hill School or the Pleasant Valley School?

Can you describe the neighborhood – was there a grocery store? A gas station?
Did you have a job outside of the home?

Any hobbies?

What did you like about the area and what didn't you like about the area?
Were you involved in politics?

Did you interact with people of different races? If so, what did you do together?

Did you have a feeling that segregation was a real problem in the area? If so has that changed over the years?

How did discrimination affect you? What do you remember about any stories or incidents as to how discrimination occurred?

What kind of transportation did people use to get around?

Where did you go grocery shopping? What did you buy from local farmers? Fruits, vegetables?

How did people get the news?

What do you remember about the farms in the area, what did they grow, how did they sell their products, were large families common?

What would you like to tell people about what life was like here 40 or 50 years ago?

What is your happiest memory of growing up here?

What is your saddest memory of growing up here? Was it the increase in population or was it the lack of community spirit, if there ever was one?

