

Storer College Oral History Project
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Interview with Dorothy Young Taylor by Elaine Eff
311 Ambrose Drive, Ranson, WV
May 5, 2014

EE: Okay. Looks good. Today is Monday, May 5, 2014. This is Elaine Eff, and I am doing a recording for the National Park Service about Storer College. I am interviewing Dorothy, known as Dot, Young Taylor in her home at 311 Ambrose Drive in Ranson, West Virginia, and it is a beautiful day. So, first, thank you for letting me come to your house.

[00:00:48.24] DYT: Oh, you're welcome.

EE: And we are going to start by asking you first to say your name and then tell me where you were born, where you grew up, and then we'll get into the college. So, start with your name and where you were born, and where you got your [inaudible] [00:01:04.04].

DYT: Okay. My name is Dorothy Y. Taylor. I was born in Charles Town, West Virginia. I lived here all of my life. My parents were Catherine and Aldridge Young. [00:01:19.20] They're both deceased, of course, at this time. And I have one sister who is deceased and one brother who is still living, and that's my family.

EE: And tell me, if you want to, if you don't want to, I understand, when you were born, what year were you born?

[00:01:38.09] DYT: Oh, I was born on February 29, 1936.

EE: Leap year. Whoa. So, you're really only a quarter of your age.

DYT: Wouldn't that be nice. [laughs] That would be lovely.

EE: Let's talk about your early memories of Charles Town and education. You know, your schooling here.

[00:02:11.17] DYT: Okay, let me think. I went to Eagle Avenue School at the age of five and the first grade. At that time, they didn't have kindergarten. Then when I went into high school, I went to Page-Jackson High School and graduated from that in 1953.

EE: Okay. So, you're talking about going to school here in Charles Town, and you graduated from Page-Jackson. I'm trying to understand what you remember about education and what the importance of education was in your family.

[00:03:00.19] DYT: Well, my parents, of course, didn't go to college or anything like that. As a matter of fact, I'm the only one in my family that went to college. My sister didn't go, and my brother didn't go. And education was important. I mean, it was talked about that, at that time, everybody needed to finish school, you know, especially

high school. But I was the only one in the family who decided to go to college.

EE: Now, why was that? How early did you start thinking about that?

[00:03:34.05] DYT: You know, I really don't know. It's just something I just wanted to do. I said, nobody else has done it in the family. So, I think I'm going to college, and I'm going to finish. It was my thought at that time, and, well, I did it.

EE: Where were you in the birth order in your family?

[00:03:52.17] DYT: The middle child, which may be—that might have been one of the reasons why I was stubborn about doing it. They say middle children lose out on a lot of stuff anyway. So—

EE: So, tell me when you first heard of Storer. When you said you wanted to go to college, where did you want to go? What were you thinking about?

[00:04:15.27] DYT: Well, we'd known about Storer, you know, all of our lives, because it was there, and we knew a lot of people went to Storer. So, when we graduated from Page-Jackson, this was before integration, of course. So, Storer was the next, you know, place that you thought—you know, for everyone around here, that was where you went to school. And we had a friend that graduated before me, and she went to Storer. And of course, she talked about it. So, it made us want to go. You know, everybody in my class that wanted to go to college, this is where they went. Meg—Margaret, [Jackson Smelley] as we called her—went to Storer with us. We had another friend, Mary.

[00:05:00.14] So, everybody around here that wanted to go to college, that's where you went. You went to Storer. And, of course, when Storer closed, we had to continue that education. We didn't want to give it up. So, we went to Shepherd [College] after that.

EE: What did your parents do? What kind of work did they do?

[00:05:21.00] DYT: My father worked at the Halltown Paperboard Company, and my mother was just a domestic. She helped in homes.

EE: How did they feel about your wanting to go to college?

[00:05:32.21] DYT: Oh, they were very much in favor of it, yeah. I mean, it was just something you did. You didn't stay home, you know. You had to either go to school or you had to go to work.

EE: So, tell me, when you first saw Storer, how old were you?

[00:05:53.15] DYT: Oh, my goodness. I don't even remember because when we were growing

up, there were certain things that went on at Shepherd that we went to, you know, like concerts or—

EE: You mean, at Storer?

DYT: At Storer. Yeah, I'm sorry.

EE: Do you want to say that again? Do you want to say that again and use Storer?

[00:06:14.15] DYT: I'm trying to think of what I said. [laughs]

EE: You said Shepherd.

[00:06:18.08] DYT: Yeah, when we were growing up, when they had programs there that we wanted to go see, the parents wanted to go see, too, we just, we were there, you know, at different times. This was at Storer, of course.

[00:06:32.18] So, it was something that you just grew up with, you know. It was there, and it was a place everybody just wanted to go for certain reasons. When they had, like I said, programs or if they had choirs and things like that, programs like that, my parents went to see that.

EE: How did you get from Charles Town to Harpers Ferry?

[00:07:00.03] DYT: We drove.

EE: You had a car?

DYT: Uh huh.

EE: Could you get there by any other means?

DYT: No, unless you wanted to walk.

EE: There was no public transportation?

DYT: No, no, back in those days, no, it wasn't.

EE: So, describe Storer College to me as you remember it, your earliest memory of it.

[00:07:25.23] DYT: I can't remember that far back.

EE: What did it look like? I know you've probably been back in recent years.

[00:07:32.19] DYT: Yeah. It really hasn't changed that much. When I went to Storer, it probably

looks—I'm sure it looks the same. The same buildings are there, used for other purposes, of course, but the buildings are the same, and it really hasn't changed that much from the time I was there and going back later on, years after it closed. It hasn't changed that much.

EE: How did it compare to Shepherd College?

[00:08:04.11] DYT: Very small. It was a small school. It was just those few buildings that were there. I'm trying to think how many was there at the time. I think about six or seven buildings.

EE: Do you remember how many students were in your class?

[00:08:28.02] DYT: In my freshman class, there were probably about fifteen or sixteen, just a very small class.

EE: How many were men and how many were women?

[00:08:45.18] DYT: There were more girls than boys. That was for sure. I would say that there were probably about, maybe about eight males, the rest females. Now this is not probably true because I can't remember really.

EE: I actually think we've seen a picture of your freshman class.

DYT: Oh, good.

EE: I'm pretty sure that Margaret has a picture.

DYT: Okay. Margaret would probably have a better idea of how many.

EE: So, when you went to Shepherd, how different was that in terms of size and student body?

[00:09:31.25] DYT: A larger student body, much larger. I went in as a sophomore...

EE: But you only stayed for one year?

DYT: At Shepherd?

EE: At Storer.

[00:09:48.02] DYT: Two years at Storer.

EE: So, you went in as a junior.

DYT: No, I went in as a freshman.

EE: You started Storer as a freshman.

DYT: Yes.

EE: And then you went to Shepherd as a junior.

DYT: Yes. I'm sorry. I misunderstood you, yeah. Just two years.

EE: Were they different kinds of schools? What was the difference between Storer and Shepherd?

[00:10:22.23] DYT: It was really different. For one thing, there wasn't that many black kids at that time, and some of the teachers were friendly enough, and some weren't. You had to deal with that problem. But, after all, it was a pretty good school.

EE: What do you remember about being a day student at Storer versus if you had lived there? Was there a difference in the kinds of activities that the students were engaged in?

[00:11:06.23] DYT: Well, I only commuted. You know, we only commuted. So, I didn't stay on campus. I wasn't involved in any of the activities really. Maybe, you know, at night, if they had something like a dance or something like that, maybe we could stay for that, but I didn't get involved in any of the activities that they had on campus at that time. When our last class was over, we drove home. If it was any activities any other time, maybe we would go, you know, at night or something like that when we had something going on.

EE: Do you remember going to homecoming or any of the football games?

[00:11:57.07] DYT: No.

EE: So, you were really just very much a day student.

DYT: Yes.

EE: Who did you go with? You said "we."

DYT: Well, we had another girl, Joanne [?] [00:12:11.22]. Her mother would drive us sometimes.

EE: What was her name?

[00:12:14.14] DYT: Joanne Baring [?]. She's deceased now. And there was another one. Her name was Mary Taylor. Who else would go? That's the only two I remember from here.

EE: How did you get to be friendly with Margaret Smelley?

[00:12:48.06] DYT: Margaret and I graduated from high school together. She was in my graduating class. They lived in Harpers Ferry. Of course, there wasn't a high school there. So, they, after they finished, I guess, sixth grade at Grand View, they had to come up to Charles Town to go to school. So, she was in, I guess, from the seventh grade on up.

EE: So, what did you study there? Do you remember what you studied at Storer?

[00:13:32.09] DYT: Just maybe basic classes then. We had English lit, biology—boy, oh, boy. It's been so long. I can't even remember. Just the basics that we had that you would take when you entered into college, your English, your sciences. [clash] You know, I can't even remember half the classes.

EE: Do you remember any of your teachers?

[00:14:18.26] DYT: Yes. We had Dean Johnson for a teacher.

EE: What did he teach?

DYT: You asked me too fast. [laughs] What did he teach?

EE: What kind of man was he? Was he white or black?

DYT: He was black. We had Dr. McKittrek [McKinney ?] [00:14:45.00]. She was white. She taught us the English lit and those courses. The biology teacher, I can't remember her name.

EE: Was it Ms. Jemison She gets mentioned a lot. I hear her name quite a bit.

DYT: It doesn't sound familiar. I can't think of her name.

EE: Were any of the teachers like the ones that you needed to—were there teachers that you had to stay away from? [laughs]

[00:15:18.06] DYT: No, no. Oh, Mr. Patrick. He was the social studies teacher.

EE: Was he white or black?

DYT: He was black.

EE: So, the student body was all black, but the teachers were mixed.

DYT: Uh huh.

EE: Was there a difference in the way they treated the students at all?

DYT: Not at all.

EE: How did you feel as a student during that era, an era of unequal rights, I would say.

[00:16:03.06] DYT: You know, we didn't feel anything because they treated us just like we were students. I mean, there wasn't any difference. Dr. McKittrek [McKinney(?)] who was white, she was just our teacher, and we never thought, you know, we didn't look at her as just, you know, "She's our white teacher." She was our teacher, and that was the way that we approached her, and she approached us as students. You never thought, you know, there was any difference as far as race was concerned. As a matter of fact, we used to tease her, and she'd laugh. You know, we just had fun with her.

[00:16:42.17] Of course, Mr. Patrick was a very stern type of—I mean, when you went into his classroom, he was ready to work, you know. You didn't tease him. And Dean Johnson, of course, he was the same. He was very stern. He was, we had to teach these bunch of little kids around here. That's the way we looked at it, as a bunch of kids.

EE: When you were there, you were all four-year students, even though some of you couldn't stay for the full four years at that point. What degree were you going for, had you hoped to go for?

[00:17:22.29] DYT: Just a BA, a bachelor of arts.

EE: What were you planning to do with that?

[00:17:26.10] DYT: I really didn't know at that time. I didn't make up my mind until I went to Shepherd what I wanted to do.

EE: And what was that?

[00:17:35.10] DYT: Elementary education. You know, I just didn't have any goals at Storer, you know.

EE: Storer was primarily an education institute for teachers. I think it turned out mostly teachers?

[00:17:56.14] DYT: Yeah, mostly. I mean, a lot of them, you know, you could get your degree in any subject matter, biology or whatever, you know, literature, English, at that time. I really didn't have a goal when I went to Storer.

EE: How do you feel Storer prepared you for going to Shepherd?

[00:18:23.12] DYT: Very well because when we went to Shepherd, all of our classes, we didn't have to repeat any classes, you know. We were accepted. Every class that we took was accepted as the same as—if you were already there at Shepherd.

EE: Do you have any great memories, particular single memories of Shepherd, things that really stood out in your mind?

DYT: Not really.

EE: Is there any place that you really liked to be, to go, like to sit, like to walk to?

[00:19:14.06] DYT: We used to—they called it the Rams' Den We used to just go there and eat lunch and stuff and just sit and talk until it was time for your classes to begin. But other than that, you know, that was it.

EE: Where was the Rams' Den? Which building was that in?

DYT: I don't even know the name of the building.

EE: What other activities happened in that building?

DYT: I don't know.

EE: Was it down in the basement?

[00:19:58.07] DYT: Let me think. It has changed so much. So, I'm trying to remember. Let's see.

EE: I've heard people talk about the canteen. Would that be the same building?

DYT: Yeah, it'd be the same place, I guess. Now you're talking about at Shepherd or at Storer?

EE: Storer.

DYT: Oh, at Storer, it was called a canteen. It was like in the basement.

EE: What was that Rams' Den? Was that at Shepherd?

[00:20:31.24] DYT: The Rams' Den at Shepherd.

EE: I'm going to have to not mention Shepherd. I can see that it's getting confusing.

DYT: Yeah, it is.

EE: We'll not even think about it again.

DYT: We won't even mention the word.

EE: Never again. All right. So, what was the student body like in general? Would you say they were fun loving or they were very studious? Was it a competitive environment? What was it like?

[00:21:03.25] DYT: No, it wasn't. It was a friendly, fun-loving type of group because it was small enough. Everybody knew everybody else. Even if you didn't live on campus, you knew everybody there, and when we'd go to that little canteen, like it was called at Storer, we'd sit there, and people would talk and laugh and play and have fun, and, you know, you either brought your lunch from home, or you sit there and ate. You could buy lunch there, whatever they would have at that time.

EE: Now, why don't you tell us about—you went to Storer just two years before it closed forever. I wonder if you had any idea that that was in the future, but I'd love to know like, if that was the case, what you knew and what it was like when you learned that the school was going to close.

[00:22:12.14] DYT: Okay. We found that the school was going to close in our second year there. And we were told by different teachers that this was what was going to happen. They kind of gave us some ideas about where to go to school, what to do, you know, how to transfer to another school and all of that. So, it wasn't a secret. You know, they let us know that next year, the school's going to be closed.

EE: Do you remember how you learned?

[00:22:49.05] DYT: One of the teachers mentioned it. I'm not sure who it was. I don't remember who it was. And I mean, it might have been Dean Johnson because he was also the Dean of the school at the time. He just, you know, let you know this was what's going to happen. So, start making plans about what you want to do, where you want to go to school to finish. And it was just a matter of fact, you know, that was it.

EE: So, how did you feel about that?

[00:23:28.12] DYT: I didn't feel one way or the other. Like he said, this was a matter of fact, this is what's going to happen. So, make plans. I mean, there was nothing we could have done about it. So, it was just something you just—that was it.

EE: So, how did you feel, having gone to two colleges in your career, what place does Storer College hold for you?

[00:24:01.29] DYT: Well, it was a place where, you know, we had a lot of fun there. We met a lot of new people coming in. It was comfortable. If you were in a place where you feel comfortable, you enjoy it. We were just very comfortable there. And the thing about it, like I said, we commuted. We didn't live on campus or anything like that. So, when our classes was over, we came home. So, it wasn't anything like, it would have been a different feeling if I lived on campus, but you went there. You took your classes, and you came home.

EE: Did you spend time in the library? Where did you do your studying?

[00:25:03.24] DYT: We studied mostly—we did some studying in the library. But you didn't do a lot of studying there because we came home. If we had an eight o'clock class and maybe didn't have any more until the rest of the day, when that class was over, you came home. You did your studying at home. But if we had all day classes, we would go study where we could find a little room to study in. We went to the girls' dorm and studied there. But we did have a special place for commuters, you know, people who commuted back and forth. You found a place where you wanted to study, and it could be anywhere.

EE: Did you ever go into town, into Harpers Ferry?

[00:26:12.11] DYT: Sometimes in between classes. Now, one class I had at eight o'clock and didn't have another one until four o'clock. So, on days like that, we'd maybe walk around Harpers Ferry a little bit. But mostly you just—sometimes we came home and went back at four. But we didn't do a lot of things like in the town itself.

EE: Were there places that were off-limits? Were there places that you couldn't go?

[00:26:45.11] DYT: No, no. I don't remember that at all, anything off—no.

EE: Did you ever go into Bolivar? Did you go to friends' houses?

[00:27:02.03] DYT: The only house, maybe it would be Margaret's. We would visit there. But other than that, we didn't know anybody else there that we would want to visit. That was about all.

EE: Tell me who Margaret is so we can have it on the record.

DYT: Margaret is a friend of—

EE: What's her full name?

[00:27:19.15] DYT: Margaret Jackson Smelley. They lived in Bolivar. I'm not sure whether they lived in Harpers Ferry or Bolivar, which is confusing, like Charles Town and Ranson. We would visit them, and then there was another friend that we

graduated from school with. He lived there, and he went to Shepherd—I'm sorry. He went to Storer for a while.

EE: What was his name?

[00:28:00.03] DYT: His name was Leslie Dennis, and other than that, that was the only people that we really knew there because there was a lot of older families there at that time living in Harpers Ferry, but they were only ones that we really knew.

EE: Did you go into town, into Harpers Ferry or to the college on Sundays for vespers? Was that required for you, too?

[00:28:25.13] DYT: No.

EE: Were you familiar with that?

[00:28:29.12] DYT: Yeah, we heard, the ones who lived there, we heard them talking about it. But like I said, we weren't, you know, part of that weekend was not—you know, we went to our own churches here. So, you know, things like that, we weren't required to do. It was just people who lived on the campus.

EE: Now, I'm guessing that you were aware of the Niagara movement and sort of the role that Storer played in early civil rights. Was that kind of part of the education? What was your consciousness of that at the time?

[00:29:07.25] DYT: That was not even part of what was even discussed at any time when we were there, and I didn't really know about it until after I was older, and you heard about it. None of the teachers ever mentioned it. Nobody ever talked about it. I guess, in the lsat maybe about fifteen or twenty years did you hear anything about the Niagara movement.

EE: Did you have any kind of social life there? Was there any dating? Were you aware of people coupling off?

[00:29:52.08] DYT: Oh, aware of that during school, during the day, but, no, we—like I said, we just came home after everything, you know, after classes were over.

EE: How do you feel about the Park Service taking over or being the new stewards for Storer College?

[00:30:14.27] DYT: I thought that was really a good thing because it preserved the buildings. You know, I think it was really great that they did.

EE: Now, do you ever go back there? If so, what do you do when you're there?

[00:30:37.15] DYT: Back to Storer? Like I think I said before, last year, when they had the reunion, I went and ate lunch with a friend of ours, but I never really went to any of the reunions because I didn't know anybody there. There were usually the older people who remember Storer much better than I would. They were the ones that you would see at the reunions. But, other than that, I don't think I've ever been back to anything maybe. I'll take it back. I went to something they had last year. Oh, what was it? Some discussion. I can't remember what the title of it was. But that would have been—you know, I didn't go back to anything like that. I guess maybe because we weren't really so much a part of the campus life itself, that, you know, once you got finished with whatever you were doing there, you just came home. You had things to do, you know, here, and we had our churches we went to here, not vesper there. So, we were kind of—we weren't isolated, but we just didn't feel like we were really a part of everything that went there, that was going on there, rather. But, other than that, we just enjoyed ourselves when we were there, but we weren't that much involved with things after classes were over.

EE: When you say “Storer College” to people, what do they know about it? How do they respond to it?

[00:32:57.16] DYT: Well, a lot of people don't even, I mean, a lot of people just didn't know about Storer. Now, younger ones growing up, you mentioned it, they have no idea what you're talking about. It wasn't very well known. It was just—even though there were some students there from Africa, there were students from Virginia, and let's see if I can remember some of the places that some of them were from when I was there, New Jersey, but it probably was because a parent or an aunt or an uncle or a grandmother or somebody attended Storer that talked to that particular person and told them about Storer because I couldn't imagine a lot of those students coming all the way from New York or the New Jersey area coming to Storer, you know, a little small school in the middle of nowhere up in the mountains in Harpers Ferry. But it was because of the parents, like I said, the parents or grandparents or somebody knew about that or either went there years ago. And they talked, I guess, to their children or grandchildren about Storer, and that's what happened. A lot of them decided, “I'd like to go there. It's a small school.” And I guess at that time, you know, when we went there, now this, like you said, there wasn't that many small black schools around that didn't cost a lot of money, you know.

EE: Do you remember what it cost when you went?

[00:34:44.10] DYT: No. It wasn't hardly anything. Maybe a hundred dollars a semester or something. It didn't cost anything.

EE: Was John Brown's Fort on campus when you were there?

DYT: Yes.

EE: Can you tell me a little bit about that? What that meant or not? [laughs]

[00:35:09.08] DYT: We didn't pay much attention to it. It was just there. You know, a lot of times, we didn't even know who John Brown was at that time. We knew that that fort was there, and, you know, in talking maybe to somebody, "John Brown did this, and John Brown"—okay, you know, it didn't mean a whole lot. I guess, when you're young, and you don't really think about stuff like that, you know. It's other things that are on your mind. Now, now, of course, I know what it's all about, and I wish I was more involved in history at that time because everything was there for you to learn about the history of John Brown, but we just said, "Well, okay. The fort's here," that's it. It didn't mean a whole lot.

EE: It's a pretty remarkable place, and sometimes you have to be away from them to realize.

[00:36:18.06] DYT: Yeah, probably so. But I guess, you know, it's like everything else. People would come from all over to visit Charles Town to find out where John Brown—his trial was here. And we never, it never dawned on us that, you know, how important that was. We said, "Okay, John Brown's trial was here, and there was the courthouse."

[00:36:49.04] It's like, you know, even in your hometown, there's some places in your hometown you probably say, "Well, there it is. It's just there," you know, and it's just something you just, it's just there, and you don't really realize how important something is. It's your hometown, and that was just it.

[00:37:10.05] But with Storer, it was a lot of history there. Even later on, we didn't even know who started the school, and later on, after I got older, we found out about John Storer. We found out a lot about Brackett and the missionaries from New England that came down to start these schools in this area. And we knew there was one that started a school here in Charles Town, and we knew that—we found later there was another one, Dudley, that went to Martinsburg and started a school. But this all happened after you were grown up and older. So, as you were young and you're going on your teenage years, you don't think about stuff like that. But really now it's important to know that history.

EE: How old were you when you started Storer College?

[00:38:18.09] DYT: Sixteen. You know, a little giddy headed, giggly sixteen. You know, how much do they really think about stuff? But it was sixteen.

EE: It's nice to know that life is long enough that we get sort of to come back and look at things in a different way.

DYT: Yes, in a different way.

EE: Is there anything that you want to tell me about the college or about your memories or just any specific things you loved or hated or just remember specifically, any quick vignette?

[00:38:57.05] DYT: I really can't. You know, sixty years is a long time to try to keep a memory. I can't remember. Let's think.

EE: Just in case I turn off the machine and you say, "Oh, I wanted to tell you this." So, I just want to—just know that if there's a question you think I should be asking you, let me know. Otherwise, I think we might just—

[00:39:36.07] DYT: I really can't think of anything other than that we really lost out on a lot of things that were going on at Storer because we weren't on campus, as I said before. And, you know, I'm sure that after classes were over and they went to the dining room, this is when you could really, you know, sit and talk. We missed all of that, you know. And that's a time when a lot of memories are made, when you have a chance to get together with friends and talk and giggle and tease each other. I think you even make your little memories with your little—little boyfriends start to come in together. So, we missed a lot of that. So, I think that—I guess memories that I just didn't have like that, you know?

EE: How would you rate your education there?

[00:40:43.11] DYT: It was really a very good education. We had to work hard for our grades because, like I said, some teachers were very stern, and you either had to really work at your grades. There was no playing around. They were serious about what they were teaching, and they were serious enough to make sure that you got what you were supposed to get because I said, when I transferred to another school, we didn't have any problems at all. Transferring our transcripts were okay. Our grades were what was accepted. So, the education I got at Storer was a good education, very good.

EE: And how did it prepare you for your career?

[00:41:41.20] DYT: I had the subject matter that I needed, you know, for my first two years at least. It did a good job of giving me what I needed.

EE: Tell me what jobs you got when you got out of college.

[00:42:03.15] DYT: I taught school. I was a third grade teacher for many years.

EE: Where did you teach?

[00:42:11.14] DYT: There was a school here called Wright Denny, and that burned down. During a storm, it got struck by lightning, caught on fire. And then they built a new elementary school, which was named Page-Jackson Elementary School

because the high school itself had closed up. So, I taught there for a number of years. As a matter of fact, I taught school for about thirty-eight years.

EE: All in Charles Town?

[00:42:53.16] DYT: Uh huh. And then, of course, after I retired, I did a lot of substituting within the county, and I've often asked myself why after all those years of teaching, why I would want to sub, but I did it because a lot of the teachers asked me would I come, would I do it, you know. But both schools, whatever school I transferred to, really gave me everything that I needed to do whatever I wanted.

EE: Did you say both schools you transferred to?

[00:43:38.27] DYT: No, when I transferred. Remember we're not mentioning. [laughter]

EE: So, when you graduated ultimately, why don't you tell me when you graduated from college and where you graduated and sort of maybe paint a picture of the four years.

[00:44:07.01] DYT: I graduated from that school.

EE: Which one? You're allowed to say it. We're wrapping up.

[00:44:16.18] DYT: I graduated from Shepherd, and it was kind of—you know what? Thinking about it, going from a small school like Storer with maybe fifty students or seventy-five students and then going into Shepherd, I think my graduating class of Shepherd was four hundred students. You know, it was kind of funny. Who ever thought that I would be in a class of this many? You know, once you started at Storer, I thought that I was going to, you know, finish at Storer, and to have a class of four hundred students was almost unbelievable, you know, to me at that time. It just didn't dawn on me this was what I was supposed to be doing, you know.

[00:45:15.25] And at first, it was a little different, going from a small school to a larger school. There was a whole lot of adjustment, but I think it helped because there were a lot of friends of ours that were at Storer went to Shepherd. So, you know, you had that closeness even with certain people there, you know. Then you met a lot of new students, too. So, it wasn't too bad after all.

[00:45:59.09] But Shepherd really, the school itself helped me to do what I, to go into teaching. They did a really good job of teaching me everything that I wanted, that I needed. I didn't have any problems at all finding a job at that time.

EE: It's all really good to know, and it's a good story.

[00:46:31.21] DYT: Sorry, I couldn't, a lot of it, I can't remember a lot of things after sixty-some

years. My gosh.

EE: Edwin Remsberg is here in the room, and he'll be talking photographers of Ms. Taylor, and I have a feeling that he has a question.

ER: How did the closure of Storer affect the rest of the community that wasn't students there? How did people who were not students who lived in this area, how were they affected when it closed?

[00:46:56.21] DYT: You know, I don't think it really affected anyone a whole lot other than the students who lived on campus. I don't think it, because we lived in Charles Town, and Harpers Ferry was another town, and you're around your own, your town, this is where I was born and raised. So, this is where things were important to you.

[00:47:29.21] Now, going to Storer, after Storer closed, I didn't want to visit there. I didn't want to do anything there. And like I said before, not living on campus kept you kind of isolated from a lot of things that you could be involved in, and it would have been nice if they would have maybe said that we had to attend vespers. It would have been nice to attend something like that.

[00:48:06.10] Now, after I got older, when they have reunions and things like that, we'd come back and go to church there. What was it, last year or the year before? We went to—I think it was last year. Yeah, it was. They had an eleven o'clock service at that little church, but while we were there, we weren't involved in anything like that. We didn't have to go to that church because we were home, going to our own churches.

[00:48:53.21] So, when Storer closed, it didn't mean a whole lot. It may have meant a whole lot to the older people who went there, that lived in the county, but it didn't mean a lot to us. It was just like, I guess, anything else.

EE: Well, I thank you.

DYT: I wasn't a lot of help because I can't remember a lot of stuff.

EE: Well, you remember what you remember, and that's worth a lot.

DYT: That's it. [laughs]

EE: Thank you so much.

DYT: You're quite welcome.

[00:48:53.21] [End of File]