

Today is September 13, 2001. This is an interview with Frances Robb by Rosanne Butler in Williamsburg, Virginia.

TAPE 1 SIDE A

RB I'm going to begin today by asking you to talk a bit about your very interesting family background. I understand you're related through your father to the Bernard sisters whose Civil War diaries and letters were published in 1998 in War At Our Doors. Could you tell us something about the family background of your parents, and perhaps something about the beautiful family portraits that you have in your home?

FR My mother and father were cousins through the Lightfoot family, so they had always known each other, even though my father was a generation older than my mother. My first Williamsburg ancestor was John Page who gave some of the land for Bruton Parish Church (unless you want to count Chief Powhatan who had lived a little earlier in the seventeenth century). So both my parents had Tidewater roots, but they both grew up in and around Fredericksburg. And because of the shipping ties of Fredericksburg and its Rappahannock River neighbor, Port Royal, with Baltimore, the latter was the city that they identified with rather than Richmond.

RB And Gay Mont, the Bernard-Robb family home, was near Port Royal?

FR Yes, it was on a hill overlooking Port Royal and the Rappahannock valley. My mother attended boarding school in Washington, and later worked for the American Federation of Arts.

RB Oh, interesting.

FR She was the editor of the American Art Annual when she married my father who was a professor at the College. Her friends in Washington all felt very sorry for her having to come and live in this muddy one-horse town. (laughter) But, of course, they changed their minds very quickly when they heard that Mr. Rockefeller was on the scene. That did change the situation considerably. My father had never doubted the charms of Williamsburg even unrestored. He had been a student here in 1891-93. At that time nobody had any money, so when he left for college his mother said, "You're going to need some spending money," and she gave him a quarter.

RB How far did that go?

FR I don't know. He lived at the Travis House, then the Trevillian residence on Francis Street. He loved William & Mary, but he transferred to the University of Virginia because he wanted to major in astronomy.

RB And his mother was ...

FR His mother was Helen Bernard, whose diary is in Wars at Our Doors.

RB And she married Philip Lightfoot Robb?

FR Exactly.

RB Was your father born in the 1870s or so?

FR 1875.

RB And he was one of 6 children, I believe?

FR Right, good for you!

RB Yes, I was reading the book to get an overview of the Bernard family for this interview.

FR Well, you know they were very poor. They had not recovered from the Civil War, and Daddy said they had no money; they just bartered for things.

RB So he told you then about what it was like living through the Civil War?

FR He heard a lot about it, yes. His parents were very much involved because of all the fighting around.

RB Yes. And was Helen Bernard a cousin to Philip Lightfoot Robb? Were they related?

FR They were related, yes. There were a number of cousins intermarrying in that era.

RB And you mentioned Chief Powhatan, so you are related to Pocahontas and John Rolfe? Is there any family lore about that, any stories?

FR Not really. My father used to tell me that I walked like an Indian.

RB Oh, really?

FR I don't know what that meant exactly (laughter).

RB Perhaps you walked very quietly?

FR Hopefully.

RB And you were related to John Randolph?

FR I'm related to the Randolph family.

RB How did your parents meet? They were cousins, and they . . .

FR They just met through family.

RB They just always knew each other. And they married, in what year?

FR '27.

RB '27? And didn't your father receive a letter from Reverend Goodwin when he got engaged?

FR Oh yes, yes. Well, that, I can read you the whole correspondence.

RB I wish you would, I think it's great!

FR The first letter came to Dr. Goodwin from someone in New York, and he said, “Miss Mechlin, who runs the Federation of Fine Arts in Washington, is much interested in all that you are doing. She tells me that a very valuable member of her staff, a Miss Howard, is to marry in June, your Professor Robb. She should be a great addition to your community and a great help to you.” So to that, Dr. Goodwin replied, “By the way, let me thank you for the advance news with reference to our Professor Robb. My secretary and I are having quite a lot of fun over it. We are not saying anything, and probably will not, but the temptation is very strong. Miss Hayes happens to be in a social clique of which Dr. Robb is also a member, and if the news which you have sent down could be marked ‘released,’ she would have the time of her life. We both know Robb so well that we are sure the only thing that he is trying to do is to keep from getting the deserved teasing which would come to him if what you have told us could be let out.” Then, apparently, Dr. Goodwin wrote just before the wedding to Daddy, I don’t have a copy of that, but this is my father’s reply, “I thoroughly enjoyed your charming note, and I’m sure that Frances [that’s my mother] will appreciate your words of sympathy to her. I reckon she knows that she has a tough job on her hands, but I have, too, as she

will probably want to take me to Bruton Church twice every Sunday. Now that my boundless freedom is about over, it is encouraging to know from one who has tried it that the 'straight and narrow path' in spite of limitations and responsibilities also leads to happiness."

RB That's very sweet.

FR I think so too. So they were married and came down here, and lived in an apartment on Boundary Street for a while.

RB Oh, did they? Is that apartment still around here?

FR No. It's gone.

RB So then they went to live in Paradise House?

FR Yes.

RB And they were there how many years?

FR Just 1928 to '29.

RB And you were born during that period?

FR I was already born when they moved down there. [This section of the transcript was redacted per request of the narrator.]

RB This is Dr. Goodwin? Yes, I'm sure that's about right. And by then the house had already been sold to Rockefeller?

FR Yes, exactly. But it was nominally under the college.

RB Yes, I remember reading that. So then they did move out in '29?

FR In '29, they moved out. Mother was delighted. She did not like the fact that she had spent the entire winter stoking the furnace to keep her baby warm.

RB And that was you.

FR That was me. And she swore that the house was so draughty that the rugs would flap up and down when the wind was high outside. Dr. Goodwin requested that my mother open the house for the very first Garden Week in 1929, and she did this very reluctantly because she said that she and daddy had only two Victorian sofas, a couple of paintings, and very little else. Anyhow, they survived. And then one night, when my father was at a faculty meeting at the college, Dr. Goodwin stopped by and he told mother that she and daddy would have to move because Mr. Rockefeller wanted to complete renovations on the house, so then they moved to Chandler Court.

RB And they bought the house in Chandler Court from a cousin of Goodwin's?

FR Yes, exactly. Her name was Margaret Lewis Goodwin (Mrs. James W. Ballard).

RB Do you think Goodwin had a role in making that happen?

FR He probably said that his cousin would be willing to sell because she was planning to build another house at that point. And it worked out fine.

RB That's good. And so you've been there, except for the time that you've lived outside of Williamsburg, you have lived in that house?

FR Right.

RB Do you have any brothers or sisters?

FR I had a brother who died in '91.

RB I know we have in our Goodwin Papers collection here a letter from Goodwin in 1932 to your father inviting him to join the S.A.R. Did he ever do that?

FR No. He was not a joiner.

RB That's very interesting. So at least then, he was able to reject one request from Goodwin?

FR That is not exactly what Goodwin wanted, when he turned him down.

RB After you were born, did your mother work at all or did she stay at home with you; what did she do?

FR No, she stayed at home.

RB When did your parents die?

FR Mother died in '77, my father died in '51.

RB So you were quite young at that point, when he died?

FR Yes.

RB Is there anything else you would like to say about your parents?

We'll get into your father's work at William & Mary. Anything else about the Bernard family, or your mother's family?

FR I don't think so really. That's about it.

RB We may return to this later. At this point, could you tell us something about your own personal history here in Williamsburg?

FR I was born in Richmond at Stuart Circle Hospital on April 28, 1928.

RB So, you almost shared a birthday with Miss Hayes, then, didn't you?

FR Yes, we did.

RB She was the 29<sup>th</sup>.

FR Exactly, we used to celebrate together. I went to Mrs. Timberlake's kindergarten for two years and graduated from Matthew Whaley School in 1944. Then, I attended Sweet Briar College for two years before transferring to and graduating from William & Mary.

RB Where was Mrs. Timberlake's school?

FR On Richmond Road, opposite Blow Hall.

RB Is that building still there, or is that long gone?

FR Yes, that's gone.

RB Do you know when that went?

FR Probably in the '50's.

RB The houses that are now along Richmond Road, are they relatively new? I know some of them look like they're older, but others, do they go back to the '50's at least, or the '60's?

FR Yes, I would say from the Hospitality House on into town they were there, yes, pre-war.

RB Oh, they were pre-war. I always wondered where Goodwin had lived. At one point, he lived on Richmond Road in a house he rented from the Bozarth's.

FR Did he?

RB But I don't know what house he lived in, and I assume that it's gone.

FR It may have been one of the houses taken down for either the Presbyterian or the Baptist Church.

RB So you were born in Stuart Circle Hospital. Is that still there in Richmond?

FR Yes, but I think it's apartments now, but I'm not sure of that.

RB I think Goodwin corresponded with a doctor in Richmond, or whom he visited in Richmond when he was ill. And he may have gone to that hospital. That was not just a lying-in hospital, was it?

FR No.

RB And you had a brother. Did he live in this town all his life?

FR He was in the army for a couple of years and then he came back and he worked at the Weapons Station in Yorktown for about 35 years.

RB Did he have a family?

FR No.

RB And what was his name?

FR Robert Robb, Jr.

RB And you lived in the Washington, D.C., area for a period of time?

FR Yes.

RB We'll be returning to that a little later. When you went to Sweet Briar and to William & Mary, what did you major in?

FR English.

RB And so you graduated with a B.A. in English? Has literature always been an interest of yours?

FR Yes. Less since I got out of college. I really haven't used it. But it's been, of course, a resource.

RB I understand you worked for Phi Beta Kappa; is that right? In D. C.?

FR Right, the national office. The national office was on the campus of William and Mary from '51 to '55, and when they moved to Washington, I moved with them.

RB Do you know why they moved to Washington?

FR Some of the officers of Phi Beta Kappa were upset about the fact that they considered Williamsburg inaccessible, and at that time there wasn't a very good flight schedule. And, also, other educational agencies were beginning to cluster around Washington.

RB And you worked for them for a long time?

FR 'Til '91.

RB Your father was a professor at William & Mary from what year to what year?

FR 1918 to 1946. He was also the tennis coach for several years.

RB What did he teach?

FR Chemistry.

RB Did he become the chair of the department?

FR Yes.

RB Do you know when he retired?

FR In '46.

RB He must have known Dean Lambert at that point.

FR Oh, yes.

RB And you know Louise Lambert Kale?

FR Oh, absolutely.

RB She is very nice. I recently learned that her father as a student headwaiter supervised the table at which President Coolidge ate his lunch the day he came to William and Mary in May of 1926.

FR Really?

RB Yes. I had to get her permission to quote from her father's oral history for an article I did on Coolidge's visit. Mrs. Kale hadn't been aware that her father had actually supervised Coolidge's table. I think that's kind of neat.

FR Oh, that's wonderful.

RB He must have been quite a man. Did you know him fairly well?

FR Yes, I knew him fairly well.

RB Was he around when you were in school here?

FR Yes. And they lived quite close to us too. They lived on Jamestown Road.

RB Did they?

FR He had an absolutely photographic memory. He remembered every student.

RB Isn't that amazing.

FR It was wonderful.

RB That must have made the students feel very good.

FR It made them feel wonderful, yes.

RB What was William & Mary like, during the years you were growing up as a child of a faculty member? Do you have any memories of President J.A.C. Chandler or President Bryan?

FR I don't remember President Chandler. I know he was very controversial, and some people were unhappy with him because he was mercurial. He would fire you one day and hire you back the next. But he did do a lot for the college. He acquired all that property, the lake property. And without that I don't know where William & Mary would be today. That whole new campus he acquired. So he was a builder.

RB Around the Lake Matoaka area?

FR Yes. The first president I remember was John Stuart Bryan, and I don't remember him very well. But my mother always referred to his era as the golden age of the faculty.

RB Why did she say that?

FR Because he was wonderful in entertaining the faculty, and he had a great deal of money of his own to entertain with. He didn't depend on the limited resources of the college. And he would have a big Christmas party at his home in Richmond and then he'd have balls here. He just sort of brought a new dimension, brought a lot of good professors, particularly in the arts.

RB Do you know which, can you name any of those who may have come at that point?

FR Leslie Cheek was the first, I think, and he later became head of the Virginia Museum, and then there were several others that were excellent. I think Tom Thorne came at that time.

RB Who is Tom Thorne?

FR He later was head of the Fine Arts Department at William & Mary. And there was one named Ted Rust. It was an excellent department.

RB Did your mother pursue her interest in the arts after she stopped working?

FR Not really.

RB Do you recall any other individuals who might have been well known on campus? Student leaders, or other faculty members, staff members?

FR Well, there were some wonderful professors, several of whom lived in Chandler Court. Now, I do not remember Pollard who was so exceptional. But, Dr. Morton was an outstanding historian.

RB Morton Hall is named after him?

FR Yes.

RB How about Earl Gregg Swem?

FR Oh, yes. I worked for him. When I was in high school, I worked at the library during the summer of 1943 mending books. Got \$60 ...

RB For the whole summer? Wow! Oh well, that's better than a quarter.

FR Right.

RB So, they would let a high school student mend books? That's amazing. What was Dr. Swem like, as a person?

FR Oh, he was a wonderful person. He was tiny, sort of elfin-like when I knew him, and he was just a delightful person, and so was his wife.

They were very hospitable. And, of course, he was a splendid researcher. His Virginia Index is still a standard work.

## END OF TAPE 1 SIDE A

## TAPE 1 SIDE B

- RB You were talking about Earl Gregg Swem. He was “elfin,” and a wonderful person, and you know that his index is still of use. Did he have good relationships with the students?
- FR Yes, I think so. He was a very good friend of Elizabeth Hayes, too. He and his wife. She lived with them for a short time, I think.
- RB That’s true, she did. I’ve seen a reference to that. Apparently they had dancing in his home on Sunday evenings?
- FR That’s right, yes. Oh, they loved to entertain.
- RB They must have. This was a really small community, with everyone very close.
- FR Yes. And my father said that until Mr. Rockefeller came, everybody borrowed from everybody else. Nobody had full sets of this or that. There was no stigma about just borrowing what you needed, to have a party, a set of punch cups, a silver service, whatever.
- RB Well, that’s great way to live. You say you didn’t know John Garland Pollard very well.
- FR No.
- RB He was gone, I suppose, by the time you were ...

FR He was not actually gone. We moved in in the summer of '29. He was elected Governor that fall. And my mother said it was very exciting, because on election night the students came over from the College and sang. They were so excited about his winning the election.

RB Did your parents have much to do with him?

FR Well, he moved on at that point in time. So, they knew him, but they did not know him well.

RB Did he live next door to the house that your parents bought in Chandler Court?

FR Yes.

RB After he was Governor, he then went to work for the Veterans Administration?

FR Yes he did, in Washington, D. C.

RB Did he ever come back to Williamsburg?

FR Not for any length of time.

RB And then he died in the late '30's or the mid-'30's?

FR I believe so. One of his sons retired here, Charles.

RB Charles Pollard. Are there any Pollards still here?

FR His widow, Charles's widow, is at Patriots Colony. You might talk to her. I don't know what condition she is in, but she might have some interesting sidelights.

RB Is that at the Patriot's retirement center?

FR Yes, on John Tyler Highway.

RB O.k. What did William & Mary look like as you were growing up? What is there now that wouldn't have been there, let's say, when you were 5 to 10 years old?

FR When I was 5 to 10 years old, there was no Sunken Garden. It was just flat. And Chandler had done a lot of building, a great deal of building, but when they put the Sunken Garden in place, that added a whole new dimension to the campus. Also, during the '30's, there was a CCC force which developed the woods around Lake Matoaka. And they put in trails; they put in a boathouse and a small amphitheater. So that was nice.

RB Was that when The Common Glory began?

FR No, that was later. This was a small amphitheater in the woods, probably just for a drama class or something. It was approximately on the site of the present library.

RB Oh, really. What was used as a library at that point?

FR What is now called Tucker Hall, I think where the English Department is.

RB I don't know.

FR Next to the Wren Building as you face west.

RB So that was the library.

FR That was the library. Of course, at that time, the enrollment was so much smaller. When I graduated, the whole school was approximately the size of the present freshman class.

RB So you had about 300 people in a class?

FR Yes. But, of course, I did graduate when the veterans were coming back, so that was the beginning of the big expansion.

RB So that's when things started to change? When you were in college here, what was it like for female students? Were there a lot of rules you had to obey?

FR Oh, yes. You were not allowed to ride in a car without permission.

RB To ride in a car?

FR Yes, you had to sign out to ride in a car. You had to be in at a certain hour, and there were all kinds of rules. At that time, you see, there weren't many men on campus. It was still during, well, actually when

I got here, the war had just ended. But there were still these rules in place to keep the young ladies ...

RB In place.

FR Yes.

RB Were you still not allowed, let's see, something like Chandler, I think, wouldn't allow the, I think this is in the Interpreter article, Chandler wouldn't allow the women to go to the theater that was off-campus?

FR Maybe not, I don't know.

RB Yes, I've read that recently.

FR I don't doubt it for a minute.

RB Where were meals served in the late 1940s?

FR Trinkle Hall.

RB So that was still the dining hall?

FR Until the war. And the sororities, some of them had their own cooks, probably the best cooks in town.

RB Oh, did they? Really?

FR And the girls would eat there. I don't think the boys did. They may have, though. I believe, actually until the war the KA's had their own dining service. There may have been others.

RB Were there as many fraternities and sororities as there are now, or has that grown?

FR Not quite.

RB Not quite as many? Were they all located basically where they are now? On Campus Drive and on Richmond Road?

FR The boys had houses at that time rather than the lodge arrangements that they have now. These were largely on Richmond Road, or close to it.

RB Were the lodges there then, the places that they now call lodges?

FR No, they were not.

RB Do you know when those were built?

FR Right after the war.

RB Oh, right after the war.

FR I believe.

RB Do you know whether they were they used as student housing then, or were they used for fraternities?

FR They were used for the fraternities and each lodge, I think, had two or three boys that stayed there. I guess just the officers.

RB Did the college put on musical productions, and theatrical productions, then, that people could attend?

FR Yes.

RB What kind of shows would they have done at that point? Can you recall any of the plays?

FR I believe they did an operetta every year. They also had a varsity show. There was a wonderful drama department under Althea Hunt. She was very good.

RB Did you know her at all, or ever study with her?

FR No, I didn't.

RB Were there any classmates you care to mention? Anyone who became famous?

FR No. I can't think of...

RB How about anyone who's well known around town?

FR I think some of them became rich.

RB Well, that's good. That must be why the school's doing well. How about changes that you might have seen in the relationship between the College and the town, from the time you were a child to the time you were in college and now. Were there changes at all?

FR Well, I think the College is a little bit more removed now. You see, there was no campus post office, so the kids all came to the town post office and had their boxes there.

RB Is that the one that was at Merchants Square?

FR Yes.

RB That's where the Trellis Restaurant is now?

FR Yes, part of that building.

RB I attended William & Mary briefly, in the very late '60's, and I remember going there, to that building, for the post office. I don't know when the post office went to where it is now.

FR Well, it went first to where the Seasons Restaurant is.

RB Oh, it was there?

FR Yes, it was put there during the Kennedy administration.

RB Oh, that must be what I'm remembering-- is going over there. So first it was there...

FR And then it moved to its present location. I can't remember the date exactly.

RB So it moved down to where it is now on Lafayette.

FR Right, exactly.

RB Now, of course, they're building the new one out on Monticello Avenue.

FR Oh, I know. It's huge, isn't it?

RB Yes, and an odd-looking building. And so, the change you would see is that the college is more removed from the town now?

FR Yes, simply because it's larger, and they have their own systems. Although, I think students probably do more shopping in town. There are many more shops now, and places to eat. They probably do come out for those. And I'm sure Paul's Deli and all the nearby stores do very well with them.

RB Yes, I'm sure they do. When did the character of Merchants Square change? From what I have read, it seems to have had in the past more stores that dealt with normal household needs.

FR Oh, yes.

RB But now it's more specialty shops.

FR Exactly.

RB When did that change begin?

FR I suppose it began after the war. Everything changed domestically at the time of the war, but the housewives used to go down to the A&P and Penders (both on Merchants Square) just about every day. And, also, people came in from the country ...

RB Which was what – what would have been “the country” then?

FR Well, James City County was very rural, and York County also. There was a Mrs. Fuller who used to bring in watercress, and country gentleman corn, which she peddled from house to house.

RB What's country gentleman corn?

FR It's the finest.

RB Is that available now?

FR Not to my knowledge. There was an old black man named Haskins, who had a wagon. He would stand up on his wagon and bring in all his vegetables, and then he would cry out what he had. And so one day he said he had "cymlin's, snaps and roastin' ears." And my mother's neighbor, Mrs. Krebs, rushed over to her and she said, "What in the world is this man talking about?" (She was from Pennsylvania.) And mother said, "He means, 'I've got squash, green beans and corn.'" But he would always say "cymilins, snaps and roastin' ears."

RB How many vegetables would he sell?

FR He would also have tomatoes and potatoes.

RB This was a constant source of fresh produce? What sort of prices did he charge?

FR I think a little lower than the groceries downtown. He had blackberries, too.

RB Were his prices better than what you'd find in the stores?

FR Slightly.

RB Slightly less. Was the quality better?

FR I think it was.

RB Better, fresher, yes. Would people who lived in what's now the Historic Area come up to Merchants Square to do their daily shopping too? As well as people who lived where you did then in Chandler Court and around the College?

FR Right.

RB It's just so hard to picture the town in those days.

FR Yes. It was quite different. And, of course, the labor structure, there were so many maids, there were so many people in domestic service, and that changed very rapidly at the time of the war when the military installations began hiring them at much higher salaries than they had had before.

RB Did they tend to be black?

FR They tended to be.

RB Where would the black community have been located at that point?

FR It was sort of varied. People didn't enforce strict segregation and, I think, lived very amicably side by side. There was one neighborhood that was primarily black. It was called Braxton Court.

RB Where is that?

FR That is over near Paul's Deli. There's a little circle behind there where there are a number of houses.

RB Does that still exist?

FR Yes.

RB You went to Matthew Whaley School? And how long were you there?

FR It was an eleven-year school.

RB Now you'd go to school for 12 years. How did they do without that extra year? Was school more intensive or...?

FR Not really.

RB But after that, you were 18 years old after the eleventh grade, or would you be 17?

FR I was 16.

RB Oh, you were 16. Was that the usual age for people to finish high school at that time?

FR I think it was 17.

RB 17.

FR I was a little younger.

RB Did they have SAT-type testing then?

FR I had to take it for Sweet Briar, but you didn't have to take it for William & Mary.

RB Oh, that's interesting.

FR Well, Sweet Briar was very suspicious of me because I only had 11 years, so they made me do it. Not everybody had to go through that.

RB So this was not a common thing, for public school to be just the 11 years then?

FR Virginia schools then, I guess most of them were 11 years, but Matthew Whaley put in that twelfth year, maybe 5 years later.

RB O.k., that's interesting. Is there anything else you'd like to say on any of these topics we've covered? Your family, Chandler Court? Oh, could you tell us something about the history of Chandler Court?

FR It was laid out by Professor John Garland Pollard, as you know. It was always called the "Blessed Bower" by Dr. Swem who lived there, and it was and is a very pleasant place to live. Amazingly, the property is just right across from the campus but had not been built on

until the '20's. I like to think that some of the luminaries in the 18<sup>th</sup> century walked there and thought great thoughts.

RB So it was a wooded area before these houses were built.

FR It was wooded. And the lot my parents bought was listed as lying in the suburbs of Williamsburg.

RB Suburbs!

FR The suburbs.

RB That's really something! Did they feel it was far from everything?

FR I don't think they did.

RB Your father just walked to work, then?

FR Yes. That was one advantage of it. And there were a number of professors, Dr. Swem, Dr. Geiger, Dr. Krebs, Dr. Morton, and Dr. Pollard, of course.

RB Did Pollard already own the land, or did he buy the land for that purpose?

FR He bought it and subdivided it.

RB That's certainly an interesting thing for someone to do.

FR He was very interested in subdividing it.

RB Yes, in developing. Did you have anything like a community association?

FR No, everybody got along very well. We all chipped in to cut the grass in the center.

RB Do you still do that? Is that still how it's done?

FR It's still how it's done that way.

RB The neighborhood is essentially the same size that it was, or has anything been added to it?

FR A couple of the houses have been enlarged, but no, there's a definite limitation on building. One house was built at the end of the war, and that's at the end of the court. That had been a green also.

RB So, basically, it's the same neighborhood that it was then?

FR Basically, yes.

RB Did Pollard intend for professors to live there?

FR Yes.

RB That was the intention. And the properties were sold to them?

FR Sold to them. An interesting thing, I think, my father had saved his money very carefully. There wasn't much of it but he had bought some stock, so when he had to get out of the Ludwell-Paradise House, he sold the stock in order to buy the house from Mrs. Ballard. This turned out to be a great thing, because that was the summer of 1929,

and he would probably have lost it all otherwise in the crash later that year.

RB Were you all affected very much in Williamsburg by the Depression? I know in Goodwin's correspondence there's fairly constant mention of the Depression's affecting various family members. Would you say that your family was affected, or people you knew? Was there a definite change?

FR Well, all the professors, I think, had their salaries cut. I believe that the town was less affected than it would have been because of the fact that there was an infusion of Rockefeller money at that time.

RB At that point, yes, right in the middle of it. For the next session, we'll talk about the Restoration and how that affected all of you. Before we finish this session, were there any classmates at Matthew Whaley School that you'd like to mention?

FR Oh, we had a wonderful group I thought, but none of us became famous. (laughter)

RB Well, you'll be famous after this oral history is done!

FR About 15 minutes of fame.

RB Right!

FR Yes, Mac White, who was an interpreter, who's done some work with Colonial Williamsburg.

RB She was a classmate?

FR She was a classmate and is still a close friend.

RB How about Edward Belvin?

FR Oh, Ed Belvin. He was a little ahead of me, yes. He has done a lot of work on local history, as you know.

RB I'm sure you've read his book.

FR Oh, yes.

RB He mentions your father ... a whole page, I think, devoted to your father. How about people like the Channing Halls, or the Coleman family, Ashton Dovell, any of those people—are they people you would have known at the time or recognized? Or you were a child and they were too much older?

FR I am a good friend of Channing Hall's daughter, Sue Godson. She's somebody you should talk to sometime.

RB And she's Channing Hall's daughter?

FR Sister ... Oh, daughter of the first Channing Hall.

END OF TAPE 1 SIDE B

Today is October 11, 2001. This is an interview with Frances Robb by Rosanne Butler in Williamsburg, Virginia.

TAPE 2 SIDE A

RB Frances, I'd like to go back over some of the things you mentioned last time. Specifically, what boarding school did your mother attend when she was in Washington, D. C.?

FR Gunston Hall.

RB Did she ever talk about that experience?

FR Not much. It was on Florida Avenue, where the Hilton is now.

RB Did she ever go back there?

FR No. She kept up with her roommate, Otelia Medlin Rogers, who lived in Jacksonville. But other than that mother had no further connection with the school.

RB Is that school gone now, as far as you know?

FR The buildings, I believe, are still there, but it's not used as a school.

RB It's near where the Hilton is? I'm trying to picture that. I'm not sure if I can remember where that is.

FR It's right where the hill goes up on Connecticut.

RB Oh, that's right, I've been to that Hilton. Isn't that where President Reagan was shot?

FR Exactly.

RB Also, you had mentioned that your mother, when she was about to give birth to you, went to Richmond to the hospital there. Could you tell us why she did that and also maybe give a bit of insight into the medical facilities that were here in Williamsburg.

FR There was a place here where you could have your babies. I know a lot of people did do that, but mother had a first cousin in Richmond who was very welcoming and said come up and stay with her. And she recommended Dr. Greer Baughman who was a rather well known doctor there. And so mother went to him for both children.

RB Do you know which hospital he operated out of?

FR Stuart Circle.

RB What was Bell's Hospital here in Williamsburg used for?

FR I'm not sure that Bell's was in existence when mother had me, but there was just sort of a nursing home up on Richmond Road. Bell's, I think, was built several years later.

RB Was it used as nursing facility later?

FR Bell's certainly was.

RB So it wasn't a place you'd go for a treatment, I mean, a child would go or an adult. It was just for a nursing older people?

FR Bell's was for everybody. They had babies born there, and operations. They had office hours for both doctors who practiced there at night as well as day. You could just go over and sit until they took you.

RB That's long unheard of!

FR Oh, absolutely.

RB What doctors were there, which two doctors?

FR Dr. Baxter Bell and Dr. J. Randolph Tucker.

RB And do you remember when that stopped operating?

FR The hospital? It must have been 25 years ago.

RB Do you remember where it was--on Richmond Road?

FR Oh, the Bell Hospital was on Cary Street, off Jamestown. This other was a nursing home on Richmond Road and I don't know much about it, but several people I know were born there.

RB Is Bell's Hospital the building that the Omohundro Institute is in now?

FR Yes.

RB Were there other doctors in the town besides Dr. Bell and Dr. Tucker?

FR When I was a little girl, there was Dr. King, who was working at the College, and he also had patients here in town. He had this satchel,

mother said in which he had blue pills and pink pills, and you either were given blue pills or pink pills.

RB Depending on your gender?

FR I guess, I don't know. (laughter) Well, he was absolutely enchanting to children because on his prescriptions, he would draw little animals. The College has several of his drawings in Special Collections.

RB Do you know what happened to him?

FR I really don't remember.

RB I'd like to talk now about Gay Mont, your father's family home in Caroline County. It's the subject of War At Our Doors, by Rebecca Campbell Light, which is about, as you know, the Bernard sisters' diaries and letters. Could you tell us about Gay Mont and your recollections of going there? Do you still go there?

FR I still go there because my cousin's widower lives there now. It's a house that was built on this bluff over the Rappahannock valley. It's quite high for that part of the state. The house has white columns, very southern in that respect. The main architectural feature, though, was a room at the back which was an octagonal room. That was a music room. And all the daughters apparently, of the builder were

very musical. They had harps, they had pianos, and so forth, and they played there in the music room.

RB How big was the house?

FR It was quite large because there were so many children. There were three bedrooms upstairs and three downstairs. About six bedrooms, that's an awful lot.

RB Yes, that is. Did your father live there at any time?

FR He grew up there until he came to college.

RB I understand there's a story about the family dog at Gay Mont?

FR Apparently they had this dog trained. The entrance to the house was from the roadway down below the hill it's built on, and when this dog would see guests coming up the lane, he would start pumping the fountain. That is one of our family stories.

RB What time period was that?

FR That would have been, I guess, mid-1850's, somewhere in there.

RB Is the dog buried there, do you know, in a little dog cemetery?

FR I don't know. He should be. He should have a place of honor.

RB Yes, you'd think so, since he worked so hard!

FR Right. Absolutely, he deserved it.

RB Do you still go there in the summertime?

FR Not on a regular basis, but I do visit my cousin.

RB Is there still a rose garden?

FR Yes, there is.

RB The rose garden was mentioned in a 1930s architectural study of the house as being quite impressive.

FR It was very lovely when my aunts kept it going, but Jim, you see has a couple of acres to do, more than two I think, and so it's very difficult for him to do it all. And roses require so much attention.

RB Yes, they're impossible in the best of situations. And the house burned in 1959? Do you know what happened?

FR We really don't know. There are three theories: one is that the local school was having its graduation and that some of the graduates having a high old time to celebrate came and had a party there and accidentally started a fire. The second theory is that men who had robbed the house at one time, very disreputable characters, came back, and because they had been sent to jail by my cousin, set the fire for revenge. But the story that I like the best, and I tend to believe, is that it was set accidentally by a flare from a helicopter because the property backs up on A. P. Hill military reservation, and the army was having night maneuvers at that time. I believe that's what happened,

especially because a farmer who lived nearby said he thought he saw flares being dropped quite close to the house on the night of the fire.

RB Was the fire ever investigated?

FR No.

RB Your family later rebuilt the house?

FR My cousins. They bought it back from the owner who had bought it several years earlier. I guess he was going to restore it, but after it burned he had no further interest, so they were able to buy it back.

RB I understand that they carefully reconstructed it according to the way it had been.

FR As much as they could, within their budget. They did not recreate the music room, but left that space as an open patio.

RB And then they lived there? Is your cousin still alive?

FR My cousin's widower, actually, he is. And I call him my cousin just from marriage.

RB That's who, he and his wife, rebuilt it?

FR Right.

RB They gave the house to APVA in '75?

FR Yes, I think that's correct.

RB Do you know what the terms of that were?

FR He has the life right including rights to rent the fields and harvest the timber.

RB And then it goes to APVA.

FR Yes. Including the furnishings.

RB Do you like visiting there?

FR Yes. It's not like the old days because, you know, there was such a large family group then. It was like a country club, my mother said. There were always so many people around, people playing croquet and tennis, and just having a good time. They really had fun.

RB Yes, I bet they did. Did you go there frequently as a child?

FR We went there every summer for two or three weeks. My father had vacation from William & Mary. And all through the year he would go on weekends frequently to hunt or fish with his brothers, but mother, Bobby and I generally didn't go along those times.

RB Everyone would like to have such a place to visit. I am sure it's really beautiful.

FR It really is pretty.

RB You have a number of very interesting family portraits in your home. Could you talk about those, who they portray?

FR The one over the fireplace is of Jane Gay Robertson, who married John Bernard, and that's who Gay Mont is named for. It had been called Rose Hill before that. He renamed it for his bride. He went to Europe and brought back many, many things for the house and the gardens. His portrait I don't have, my cousin has that.

RB Was Jane Gay Robertson living in the early 1800's?

FR That's right. She married John Bernard in 1816. They had my grandmother, who was Helen Bernard, who married Philip Lightfoot Robb. And I have the portraits of his parents.

RB Of Philip Robb's parents.

FR Yes. Philip Robb's parents, Fanny Lightfoot Robb and Robert Gilchrist Robb.

RB Do you have any other portraits?

FR I have one of Charles Ogle Tayloe of Oaken Brow in King George County. He was a darling little boy who died very soon after the portrait was painted.

RB Is he related to the Tayloes who owned the house in the Historic Area on Nicholson?

FR I'm sure he was, both families being from the Northern Neck. I'm sure there's a close connection. And then there's a portrait of

Archibald Robertson, who was a William and Mary alumnus, as were four of his brothers.

RB Archibald is listed in the family tree I am working from--1776 to 1861, brother of Jane Gay. Do you know who painted the portraits?

FR Thomas Sully painted the one of Jane Gay Robertson Bernard. Vogle painted Archibald Robertson ("by lamplight" according to a note on the canvas). Samuel Scarlett painted Fanny Lightfoot Robb. The other three, I really don't know who painted them. They're not signed.

RB So it could have been an itinerant painter, or artist.

FR Right.

RB I understand that J.E.B. Stuart and Rooney Lee, Robert E. Lee's son, both visited Gay Mont during the Civil War?

FR Yes.

RB Were there any family stories about that?

FR There's a music box that apparently J.E.B. Stuart liked very much, and he would come in and start the music box before he was even greeted by the family. And so the music box became just a sort of sacred symbol to everyone. The music box, unfortunately, was stolen before the house burned, but my uncle said, "It certainly is a good

thing that music box was stolen because we would all have killed each other for it.” (laughs) So he thought that probably it was the best solution.

RB Do you know what music it played?

FR It played *Sonambula* and *The Harvesters Chorus*; I don't remember any other names, but there were several dance tunes – a polka, a mazurka and a schottische.

RB Is there anything else you would like to say about Gay Mont?

FR My aunts were very hospitable, although they didn't have much money to entertain with, but my aunts would cook, it seems to me, all day long, helped by a wonderful cook named Julia who would send up marvelous food on the dumb-waiter from the basement kitchen. One of my aunts would go out and wring a chicken's neck every day; we always had fried chicken. And, then, my father would go fishing and my uncles would go hunting, so there was a lot of game and fish served. The meals were legendary. Altogether a great place to visit – but no electricity, no telephone and very limited running water!

RB Now we're going to go into your recollections of the town of Williamsburg. Can you talk a bit about the town that you knew as a child, when you were growing up?

FR My mother told the story: a little boy who lived in the neighborhood came for dinner one night, and when she said the blessing, he asked her, "Why did you say that?" And she said, "Because the Lord made you; we're giving thanks to Him. He made you and your family and all the town, the entire world was made by the Lord." And he said, "Well, Mr. Rockefeller paid for it." I guess that's the way a lot of people felt. But the coming of Rockefeller did prevent the real bad effects of the Depression, I think. And we were not conscious of being poor because we lived very graciously, as did most people, I believe. Richmond was our shopping center. If you needed your teeth straightened, or you needed a medical specialist, you went to Richmond.

RB Yes, I noticed that Dr. Goodwin, in his letters, talked about going to Richmond to see his doctors.

FR Exactly. But, there were two groceries in Merchants Square where most housewives went and picked their things up and socialized, too, because it was a gathering place where you saw everybody you knew. Milk, of course, was delivered; I may have mentioned this before. It was a very friendly town. There were a number of maids who worked in the various houses, and they worked very hard. Eastern State was a

big fixture in our lives, and certain inmates then were allowed to have freedom to wander around. And most of them were harmless, and sometimes very amiable. There was a 6:00 whistle that summoned them back to grounds. And the superintendent lived there, right across from the hospital. My father had lived in the house of the superintendent when he was a student here, in the '90's.

RB That house is gone now, I assume. Was that on Francis Street?

FR The Travis House is where Daddy lived, and it still stands on Francis Street.

END OF TAPE 2 SIDE A

TAPE 2 SIDE B

RB What would the Eastern State inmates do when they were free to wander around? Were they working?

FR Some of them may have been working, I don't know. But some of them would just wander around and look at the tourists, sit on the benches and talk, and they were perfectly harmless. A lot of them, I suspect, were simply old people who had nowhere else to go.

RB Did that continue, all through the years, that inmates could wander around, or did that stop at some point?

FR The hospital was moved out to Dunbar I think around the time of the war, and that pretty well put a stop to it.

RB So they were not in Eastern State, not in that building, after the war started?

FR I don't remember the exact date; I guess it was after the war they moved.

RB To where they are now?

FR Yes, to Dunbar, right.

RB That's called Dunbar?

FR Dunbar.

RB Is that the name of an old road?

FR I think there's probably a farm called Dunbar.

RB How about during the Restoration? What recollections do you have? Do you remember houses being moved around, and that sort of thing?

FR To some extent.

RB You were still pretty young then.

FR I was too young to really be aware of what really wonderful things were going on.

RB Did your parents talk about the Restoration very much?

FR I'm sure they did, but I didn't really take it in.

RB I know how kids are!

FR We didn't live in the restored area, you see. If we had lived there, it would have made a big difference, I'm sure.

RB So you were out in Chandler Court, which you said was considered a suburb at that point. But people were affected by the Restoration. Could you say something about that? What effects did you see? I mean, for example, that women who might not previously have worked, started working for the Restoration.

FR Women started working as hostesses, yes. It was a wonderful venue for them. Also, these families began to move in, these architects' families, and the families of other Colonial Williamsburg workers like John D. Green who came as the head of the Inn. Their children all went to Matthew Whaley, and really added a great deal.

RB Do you know whether any of those children remained around here?

FR Well, yes, Mr. Kendrew's daughter, Nancy, is still here. She lives in Walnut Hills. She's Nancy Bell. And Mr. Green's daughter, Joan Apter, is still here. I believe she's done a recollection for you.

RB And you, yourself, worked at C. W. for several different periods. Could you talk about that--how did you get started, what did you do?

FR The first time I worked for C. W. was in the summer of '45, handing out towels and Cokes and things at the Inn pool. I had a Red Cross lifesaver certificate, but I didn't use it very much. There was a regular lifeguard; I would relieve him occasionally, but for very short periods.

RB So you weren't the lifeguard?

FR No, I was not the lifeguard, much to my regret.

RB Was the lifeguard a man?

FR Yes, he was a college student, I believe.

RB Were there other assistants like you, or were you the only one?

FR No, there were others.

RB What kind of pay did they give for that, in those days?

FR I don't remember; it was probably around 50 cents an hour, maybe slightly more.

RB Then you left, and later came back to C. W. again?

FR Then, I went to school that year at Sweet Briar, then I came back and was hired by Rutherford Goodwin to be a hostess. Now at that time, the training was very casual. You would go through the buildings with the other hostesses who were there. They had books for you to study, listing the history and the pieces of furniture, and so forth. You would do that for a while, and then Mrs. Taylor, who was head of the

hostesses, would say, would you like to take me through? And so, you would take her through, and if you passed, then you started showing that building.

RB You passed by answering her questions?

FR Answering her questions.

RB Was there a costume department then?

FR Yes, there was.

RB Were the costumes similar to what the women wear now or were they different?

FR They were different. The farthingale, which was used as a hoop, comes out much farther than the present hoops they're using. The costume department was run by a Miss Lucille Foster when I came, and I don't think she was given very much of a budget. But she was succeeded by a Mrs. Walsh, who was a white Russian refugee, and she was very spirited and managed to get a lot for the costume department. I thought she did really well. She had a good sense of color, and everybody looked splendid, I thought.

RB Was a lot of attention paid to accuracy then, or was attractiveness more important?

FR Yes, there was a lot of attention paid to accuracy. There were some things that were not gone into very much. For instance, the slavery question was really not addressed. If I had had to really define it at all to groups, I couldn't have done it. But it didn't come up.

RB What was it like to wear the farthingale?

FR Oh, I liked the hoop; it's adjustable. You can bring it up to your side. And it had deep pockets. You could have a Coca-Cola bottle in there and nobody would know the difference. Very deep pockets.

RB Did you tie it around your waist? How did it fasten around you?

FR You had an underskirt.

RB So it was part of the underskirt?

FR No, the pocket was part of the overskirt. It was two pieces that you wore.

RB Did you tie the pocket on, or was that part of the skirt?

FR No, it was built into the skirt.

RB What kind of shoes did you wear?

FR They were kind of ugly. And we had to wear white stockings and a little cap. But the total effect was very attractive, and so, tourists would take your picture a lot, and that was all very flattering. And

they would sometimes send you the picture. I also had my picture in Parade magazine.

RB When was that?

FR I guess it was in the early '50's, yes. There was a little German boy visiting, and they were really writing the story about him. And the little boy is just kind of standing there. They did me the compliment of identifying me as Mrs. J. Randolph Ruffin.

RB Oh, interesting! How did they get that so wrong?

FR I have no idea.

RB Starts with an "R," I guess.

FR Anyhow, it was a compliment. She was a very nice person.

RB Was your photo on the inside or on the cover of Parade?

FR It was on the inside.

RB That's the Parade magazine that's in the Post now, as well as the Daily Press now? Well, that must have been very exciting!

FR Yes, it was.

RB Was there actually a lot of photography going on here as now?

FR Oh, yes. All over town. In the fall of 1948 I was asked to help with Colonial Williamsburg's own print collection, working under Jane Segnitz at the Goodwin Building. This was the first large office I'd

ever worked in, and I was charmed by our third floor neighbors, Jack Upshur, Harold Sparks and Dr. Thomas Wertenbaker of Princeton, who was doing historical research here. In the Library we catalogued the many fine photographs being taken then by Thomas L. Williams (Tom) and his assistant, Jack Turner. Later I worked in the basement photo lab helping Jack develop the prints until September 1949. But there were many, many other photographers, amateur and professional, around at that time.

RB I used to work in one of the stores, and you could hardly walk down the street without someone stopping you to take your picture.

FR Exactly. It was part of the job, really.

RB Did you memorize a script, or did you just use your general knowledge as you gave a tour?

FR I tried to vary it each time a little bit, but, of course, there are basic things you have to get across. And so it depends, really, on how much time you have. But spontaneity was encouraged.

RB Did you move from house to house?

FR Yes. This was deliberate, to avoid staleness.

RB So you would take a group of people on a tour and move down DOG Street?

FR As costumed guides we moved day by day. But also I did escort groups, and then you would do the whole circle – wearing street clothes.

RB Did you take a lot of school groups around?

FR Some. And I took some Army groups from Ft. Eustis. Occasionally we had private groups. You could hire a private escort at that time, but I don't think this could be done now with the volume of visitors today.

RB You mean if you were here with a conference or group of people?

FR For instance, I had some tourists from South America, this one family, and they just wanted a private tour, so they took me along, and I took them to each building.

RB What did you like most about working here as an interpreter?

FR I loved it. I really enjoyed it, and I learned a lot about history. I didn't know nearly as much as some of those very inspiring hostesses like Mrs. Holmes, Mrs. Low and Mrs. Callis, but I knew enough to get by on. And I was very flattered when the major domo over at the Palace, Fleming Brown, once said, "You really do a nice job." And then, of course, my greatest thrill was when President Truman came, and I was sent in at the last moment to be a hostess at the Palace. I

was stationed at the stairs, and he had to go right by me. As he went by, he said, "Don't you look pretty." So, I was thrilled, of course. So that was the pinnacle of my hostessing. But I really enjoyed all the groups. Of course, you had occasional people who were kind of bored and restless children, or people who were deaf and couldn't hear you. But by and large people were very appreciative and very interested.

RB When President Truman was here, did he have his wife or daughter with him?

FR I don't know whether Mrs. Truman was in town. Margaret was. She came too.

RB Oh, that's exciting.

FR Yes, it was. But there were always prominent visitors; there were so many at that time. Let's see, I saw Crown Prince Akihito; the king and queen of Greece; Joan Fontaine; Salvador Dali; Lady Astor; and General Eisenhower among others.

RB Well, I think Lady Astor came here more than once. I've seen her mentioned in the Virginia Gazette as visiting.

FR She probably liked it here. I mean, it would appeal to her I would think.

RB She was from Virginia.

- FR Yes, she was from near Charlottesville.
- RB Did you see Cary Grant when he was here, filming the “Howards of Virginia?” That was in the late ‘30s or early ‘40s.
- FR Yes. Cary Grant came to Bruton Parish Church the day I was confirmed, and the church was just packed. And at that time, people were allowed to sit in the aisles; they no longer are. But he was sitting in the aisle right next to the pew where I was sitting so that when I went up to the altar to be confirmed, I had to pass him and say, “Excuse me.” So that, of course, was very exciting.
- RB Was he really handsome?
- FR He was really gorgeous. He was simply gorgeous.
- RB Did people follow him as he walked through the town?
- FR There were lots of requests for autographs.
- RB He was charming, too?
- FR I think he was very nice.
- RB You also had a little visit with Shirley Temple. Do you want to talk about that?
- FR Oh, yes. That was lovely. That was due to Dr. Goodwin. He saw me out in the crowd at the Palace when he was taking Shirley through, and he said, “Would you like to go through the gardens with us?” So,

I went through the gardens and the kitchen, with Shirley and her entourage. She was very cute, just precious; a real personality. And she told us a little joke. She said, do you know the story of the two holes in the ground? And I said, no, and she said, "Well, well." I still have her calling card which she dispensed to all the people around.

RB What year was that?

FR It was about '38, or '39.

RB Was she about your age?

FR Yes, approximately.

RB Was she friendly?

FR Oh, yes, very, she was extremely attractive, just the way she is in the films.

RB And so Goodwin gave her ...

FR He gave her a personal tour.

RB Must have been fun for him too.

FR I'm sure it was.

RB Was there anyone else that you might want to mention whom you have seen over the years here? Did you ever see Queen Elizabeth?

FR Oh, yes, yes I did, Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip, and, at a different time, her mother.

RB And Prince Charles, I know, was here a time or two.

FR Yes.

RB Well, that's the fun of living in a place like this.

FR It is. But, you know then you could get very close to those people which you can't now. They're so well protected you really don't see them as well.

RB You had mentioned in your interview in the Interpreter the story behind the portrait of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., that children collected money for. How was that done? Do you know who originated that idea and how the money was collected?

FR I don't know, I'm sorry.

RB It may have been Mac White who was talking about that.

FR It was Mac, but it was wrongly attributed to me.

RB How about any recollections you can share of Dr. Goodwin and his family, and which of his family members did you know? I know you were somewhat close in age to Jack, his youngest child. Did you know Jack very well? Did you see Dr. Goodwin very frequently? Please tell us about that.

FR I would, of course, see Dr. Goodwin at Sunday School and at church, and Jack was the only son I really knew. He was closer to me in age,

and he always called me “cousin.” His mother had been a Miss Howard, and my mother was a Miss Howard, but I don’t think there was any connection actually. But anyhow, it was fun.

RB Rutherford Goodwin hired you? Do you remember him?

FR Yes.

RB What was he like?

FR He was marvelously humorous, and just a very erudite person, very attractive. He wrote very well. He did that first history, I believe.

RB Yes, he did. Did you know Mrs. Goodwin very well, Ethel Goodwin?

FR No.

RB Did you ever see her at church?

FR Oh, yes. My mother knew her.

RB And, Howard, he was probably about 10 years or more older than you, so you probably don’t remember him very much?

FR I don’t remember him, I remember seeing the son who was a pilot and who was killed. I remember seeing him just before he went overseas at a church supper, but I don’t remember anything specifically about him.

RB When he died, was there great sorrow in the town? A lot of people knew him I would suppose?

FR Yes. I think they called him "Squinch." Everybody liked him.

RB He wasn't originally William Archer Rutherford Goodwin, Jr., but he took his father's name in the '30's. Miss Hayes wrote a little story about that.

FR That's right. She loved those boys and photographed them a lot.

RB Yes, she took a really excellent photograph of Howard and Billy.

Could you tell us more about Reverend Goodwin? You'd see him at church. Did he teach Sunday School or was he just there at the service on Sunday?

FR I don't remember specifically. He would say a few things, at least, when we were all together in that back room at the Parish House, and then we would have separate classes.

RB Was that when the parish house was in Wythe House?

FR Yes, in a room that no longer exists at the back of the house.

RB Where is the parish house now? Is that by the shop, the Bruton Parish Shop?

FR Yes, that's part of it. The Bruton shop is in the parish house. It's all the same building.

RB When you were a child you drew a picture of Dr. Goodwin once?

FR Yes. Well, I was apparently not paying strict attention, so I was given some paper and crayons to draw while the church service was going on so that I would be quiet, and I drew this picture of Dr. Goodwin and after the service my parents showed it to him and he autographed it. He also wrote on it, "I did not know I was so good looking." Kind of nice; that was the kind of person he was.

RB So he was very approachable?

FR Oh, yes.

RB Was he talkative? Joked a lot? He was very warm?

FR Very warm. Very persuasive. Oh, he could persuade people!

RB Did he smoke his pipe a lot?

FR I think so. His voice was very deep and rich. You may catch it on that video they have.

END OF TAPE 2 SIDE B

This is an interview with Frances Robb by Rosanne Butler in Williamsburg, Virginia. Today is November 1, 2001.

TAPE 3 SIDE A

RB Frances, this should be our final session. Let's pick up where we left off last time. Do you have any recollections of Dr. Goodwin's death and funeral?

FR No, I really don't.

RB Anything in the newspapers, or what your parents might have said about it?

FR I really don't remember.

RB I know you were especially close to Miss Elizabeth Hayes who was Goodwin's secretary and assistant from 1921 to his death in '39, and I understand that she roomed in your parents' house both when they lived in the Paradise House as well as part of the time they lived in Chandler Court. Could you tell us what you remember of Miss Hayes and any of her friends?

FR Oh, yes. I knew her very well. She was wonderful to me when I was a child. She would take me on little expeditions. She had a little coupe, I think you called it, at that time. And there was a road out in the country, which had a stream and was not bridged, so we would splash through the stream. I thought that was just the best thing in the

world. And she went with us on a lot of family expeditions, like going for the Christmas tree in the woods, that sort of thing. She gave me lovely presents like a pair of Indian moccasins she brought me from Alaska. And she was just always very much there for me. She took lots of pictures, and she invited my little friends to go with us on trips to Jamestown and other places around here.

RB You said “when you went to get the family Christmas tree.” Where did you get that?

FR Where the Coves development now is, opposite the cemetery. There was a lady there who owned a farm. And my father knew her. He used to hunt out there as well as get Christmas trees. Mrs. Cole was her name.

RB Oh, Mrs. Cole. I’ve heard that name.

FR It’s not the same Mrs. Cole that lived opposite Bruton Parish. It’s another one.

RB And the cemetery, is that Cedar Grove?

FR Yes.

RB On Henry Street?

FR Yes.

RB So your father hunted out there and that was woods? When you said Miss Hayes took you out to the country, where would that have been at that time?

FR Mostly James City County roads which were very rural at that time.

RB Do you remember any of her friends, such as Maclin Bocock?

FR Oh yes, I remember Maclin very well. Maclin was a lovely girl whose father was the coach at William and Mary. Her mother was a darling person, a southern lady from Georgia, who was a hostess at C. W.

RB Didn't you tell me that she went off to college in New England?

FR Maclin went to Radcliffe, and there she was a student of Albert Guerard and he fell in love with her and they were married in Maclin's house here. I believe they were married there. At least, they had the reception there.

RB Did she continue to live in Williamsburg after her marriage or did she and her husband live in New England?

FR They were at Harvard for a few years and then her husband became a professor at Stanford, and they lived there.

RB Is she still alive?

FR Yes, but she has Parkinson's.

RB So she still lives in California?

FR Yes, Diane Goddard sees her a lot. Diane is her goddaughter.

RB And Diane Goddard is ...

FR Is Diane Bergh.

RB And Diane is Miss Hayes' daughter; Elizabeth Hayes and George Goddard's daughter.

FR Exactly.

RB And she lives in Los Altos, California, and is an artist.

FR Right.

RB She sees Maclin? Oh, that is really interesting. Was Maclin a lot younger than Miss Hayes?

FR Oh, yes.

RB Do you know how they became friends?

FR Because Elizabeth took her meals with Maclin's family at Mackie Lane's house. There was a little club there - Dorothy Geiger, Jim Cogar, Elizabeth Hayes; I think there may have been one or two others. Mackie Lane had a wonderful cook named Margaret. Margaret would prepare these delicious meals for this group, and she would also drive Mackie's car and pick her up from her hostessing duties at the Palace or wherever.

RB And this was small eating club? And was it open to others?

FR No.

RB Miss Hayes boarded there? Did she also sleep and room there? Or did she just board there?

FR I think she just took her meals there.

RB Was that when she was living with your parents at Chandler Court?

FR Yes.

RB How long did she live with you all at Chandler Court, do you remember?

FR I can't remember the exact dates.

RB Is the room she lived in still there?

FR Oh, yes.

RB Do you still take roomers?

FR Yes.

RB Do they tend to be college students?

FR Yes. Right now in Miss Hayes' room, there's a Chinese student, a graduate student in computer science.

RB You kept in touch with Miss Hayes throughout her life, even after she married and moved away? Did you see her when you lived in D. C., as was she in Chevy Chase at that point?

FR Yes, I saw a lot of her.

RB What was she doing? I know she was keeping a home for her husband. Was she active in any church activities, or anything for her daughter?

FR She did a lot of things with Diane. I don't know exactly what they did.

RB I know Diane said she was "very involved with being a mother," which I thought was a charming statement; she must have been a wonderful mother. Do you remember the time when Miss Hayes had a car accident when she lived here? According to some of the letters in the Goodwin Papers, Miss Hayes wasn't driving, someone else was driving, and it was a minor accident. She was praised by the other people in the car for the calm way she handled the whole incident, how she kept her head.

FR Yes, she would be that way.

RB There are often references in the Goodwin letters to how charming Miss Hayes was, how kind, and how sweet.

FR Yes. And she knew the people who really got the Restoration underway. She knew them all very well. And she knew Mr. Rockefeller. Mr. Rockefeller used to pick up his mail at the parish

office before he bought Bassett Hall, and began to really come to Williamsburg often. She said he was very thrifty. Sometimes he would get packages, and you know at that time, packages would be tied up with string. And she said he would very carefully unwind the string, and he would hand it to her and he would say, "Miss Hayes, you should save this because you never know when you'll need a little piece of string."

RB Did she save it, as a memento of Rockefeller?

FR I don't know whether she did or not, but it's a wonderful story about him.

RB It certainly is, and little known. A biography of him that I saw recently described how even as a child he kept ledgers for his personal money. He must have learned his thrifty habits as a child. Do you remember any of the people Miss Hayes may have met? Do you recall any of the famous folks that she dealt with in her capacity as Goodwin's secretary?

FR She met everybody who came, but who and when, I can't really remember.

RB Was she involved in any social group other than the eating club?

FR Oh, yes. She knew a lot of the C. W. people; a lot of the architects and historians.

RB Is there anything else you want to say about Miss Hayes, because you're probably the one person who knew her better than most?

FR I knew her very well, there's no doubt about that.

RB Oh, you share a birthday, or you're one day apart.

FR One day apart. So we would always celebrate our birthdays, yes.

RB Did you ever meet her husband?

FR Oh, yes, because I used to go out to Chevy Chase to see them a great deal. He was a very friendly, laid-back person. You couldn't really imagine his being this tough general, but I'm sure he was because he had to be. And he just doted on Diane--she was the apple of his eye—and they just got along famously.

RB You can see that in the way he writes about her in his autobiography. About meeting her for the first time; the picture of her ....

FR Oh, yes, the picture of him with her on his shoulder.

RB Yes, he just looks so happy. And she does too. She looks delighted to be with him.

FR Yes. I have loads of pictures of Diane as a child that Elizabeth sent me.

RB Does she look a lot like Miss Hayes?

FR Somewhat.

RB Was Miss Hayes very attractive? What did she look like?

FR Yes. She was much darker than Diane. Diane is more blond. And Elizabeth had big brown eyes as I recall.

RB Well, she must have been a wonderful person to know.

FR She was, oh, absolutely. I hated it when they went to Florida, but it was the right thing for her.

RB I know. Her daughter said her mother had been ill. They were there for about 14 years, and apparently her health improved during that time.

FR That's right. They had a good time down there. He used to go fishing out in the ocean.

RB Well, I'm so glad she had a second--you know, her life seemed to be in two parts. The years here in Williamsburg working for Dr. Goodwin, and then a whole other 40 years as a wife and mother.

FR Absolutely. And I'm glad she has finally received some recognition for all she did here because she was just a great help with Dr. Goodwin.

RB Yes, and I think Kenneth Chorley acknowledged that, too. Certainly, she got along well with him. I'd like to turn now to another question: as you were growing up in Williamsburg, what did children do for amusement here, especially during the summer when school was out?

FR Well, they just played around and had a good time, I guess the way children do now. There were occasional summer schools from the churches, and, as I recall, at Matthew Whaley, there was also a brief summer school. We went to Yorktown usually to swim, or Jamestown. Yorktown was preferable until the stinging nettles came.

RB Oh, really, when was that?

FR That would be about July 1.

RB So, every July they would come. Did you go to that part of Yorktown that's still a little beach?

FR Right.

RB Oh, so that was a beach even then?

FR Yes.

RB Was it less built-up then? There seem now to be many buildings around, a motel ....

FR It was a little more vacant, yes. Wasn't quite so built up. And then, of course, there was the ferry; there was no bridge across to

Gloucester. We took the ferry. And that was great sport, to ride back and forth on the ferry.

RB When was that bridge built, do you recall? The bridge named for George Coleman ....

FR Must have been around the mid-'50's.

RB Did you ever go to Yorktown Day, in October?

FR I went to the Sesquicentennial in 1931.

RB Oh, did you? You were a little child!

FR Yes. And all I remember is the traffic jam; it was my first traffic jam, and probably one of the first in the peninsula. But my mother remembers it distinctly, because I apparently misbehaved very badly. I was given a toy sword, which I promptly dropped down through the bleachers, and so, I announced that I had to have another one. So my parents went to the stand where they were selling them, and they didn't have any more swords, so they got me a gun, which I threw on the ground.

RB So that's what you remember of that day. Do you remember Goodwin at the event that day?

FR I don't remember anything about specific people.

RB You were too young to understand what it was all about. Did you go to any of the other Yorktown Days that were held over the years?

FR I guess they didn't want to take me after that.

RB You also went to Jamestown. I've seen a picture of you in a boat there when you were a child. Was that something your family frequently did in the summer, to go over there?

FR Yes. And they used to have church picnics there. Also, there was an artesian well at Jamestown. People used to go out and get artesian water.

RB Oh, really. Did that taste better than the usual water?

FR Well, they seemed to think so. We never did, but I used to go around with my friends who thought it was wonderful.

RB Was that considered more healthful water?

FR I think it was.

RB What were the roads like? How did you get there? Did you go down Jamestown Road from Williamsburg?

FR Yes. There was another approach to Jamestown Island then. You came straight off Jamestown Road across to what is now the parking lot.

RB Was the road really muddy out there? I know Goodwin complained about that in several letters; he was trying to get the road paved.

FR Well, Elizabeth complained when she first got to town, it was the muddiest place she had ever seen.

RB Did you have that impression, too, as you were growing up?

FR Not particularly. I don't think I paid any attention to that. Probably liked mud pies and that sort of thing.

RB What did teenagers do in the town, when you got to be a teenager?

FR We went to the movies, frequently.

RB You went to the Williamsburg Theater on Duke of Gloucester Street?

FR Right.

RB What sort of movies did they show?

FR They had first run.

RB Oh, they did. Because of Rockefeller they would get the best movies and get them earlier than other theaters?

FR I think so. And the big movie of the week was Monday, Tuesday and there was another movie every other day – but of course no Sunday movies! We had the Blue Laws.

RB Oh, yes! I remember when my family moved to Virginia from New York in 1959, we were surprised by the Blue Laws, which we didn't have in New York.

FR Then, for Halloween, we would go around and do little tricks. I don't remember collecting great gobs of candy the way kids do now. We would bob for apples, and we had other games, and, of course, we would dress up in costumes with masks. But candy was not a big part of it, as I recall.

RB Were there any games that you played as a kid?

FR Oh, yes. We played "kick the can," "hide and seek." I guess everywhere kids do that.

RB Were there any games that the little boys played that were different from what you did? Any special games?

FR They pretty much let us play with them. If we had snowball fights, of course, the girls would really get it. They would give us a fit. We also used to go sled riding a lot, and ice skating on Matoaka Lake.

RB Where did you go for sled riding?

FR Actually, we went in Pollard Park. There was a wonderful hill there which is now the site of a house.

RB Where is Pollard Park?

FR It's right below Chandler Court.

RB Away from Jamestown Road?

FR Right. We went ice-skating on what was called "Ice House Cove" of Lake Matoaka. Unfortunately it's all silted over now. And we've had warmer winters anyhow.

RB When did that warming start here? Can you remember that might have begun?

FR I don't know. When I was in college, we still were using the Cove. Then I went away and I don't really know after that how it went.

RB I remember, even when I was growing up in Fairfax, we had lots of snow every winter it seemed, but the last 20 years or so, we haven't had much at all.

FR No, it's changed.

RB Maybe it's global warming!

FR Maybe that's it.

RB During World War II, you were still here, right?

FR Yes.

RB How was the town affected by the war?

FR It was very much affected, because we were close to so many of the installations where the military were stationed. A lot of people came

into town. The Seabee Base was enormous at Camp Peary. Families would come into town and look for places to stay. It was just very difficult. My minister, Mr. Craighill, had to look after all the Episcopalians who came in town. He also had a lot to do with the chaplain school at William and Mary. So it was a great burden on many people in the community, and a lot of people opened their homes and took in service people who had nowhere else to go.

RB Did your family do that?

FR No. They rented to college students.

RB Right. And the chaplain's school at William and Mary, was that just for the duration of the war?

FR Right.

RB And, there was a USO here?

FR Yes.

RB Where was it?

FR Where Binns' store now is.

RB The entire store was the USO?

FR Oh, yes.

RB Was the USO a thriving place, a busy place?

FR Oh, yes.

RB Did you know anybody who enlisted, or was drafted?

FR Yes, I did. Quite a few.

RB Were there many casualties among people from Williamsburg, that you recall?

FR I have seen the figure; something like 24.

RB That's really a lot for a little town. Of course, Goodwin's son was one of them.

FR Oh, yes, that was such a great shame. And Junior Ayers, and Dewey Renick, they were very nice guys.

RB They both died?

FR They both died.

RB Did the town have rubber drives, and aluminum foil drives, and things like that?

FR I think we did. And then we watched for airplanes in the Methodist Church.

RB You did? Did you see any?

FR I'm sure I reported some birds flying by. (laughter) It's funny the things you remember. I remember our code was "Roland 42." We would call up and say, "This is Roland 42 reporting a bi-motor plane at 5 miles distant." And we had no real idea how far 5 miles was.

RB Whom were you reporting that to?

FR I guess it was Langley Field.

RB Did they say thank you very much?

FR Yes, they did.

RB Was that the adults or the kids who were doing this?

FR High school kids. I think college students and adults did too, because at night, I think they had adults. But in the daytime, we did it.

RB Were there air raid wardens, and drills, or anything like that?

FR Yes.

RB Did you have to use the blackout curtains?

FR I don't remember that. We may have. One time a German prisoner escaped from Ft. Eustis.

RB Do you know what year that was?

FR It was toward the end of the war.

RB What happened?

FR They caught him.

RB Had he gone far?

FR No, I think he was in the restored area, actually.

RB Oh, that must have caused some panic!

FR They had a posse out to get him, and they found him someplace. I guess he didn't speak English.

RB I understand that servicemen were taken to the Historic Area to be taught about American colonial history.

FR Exactly.

RB Do you know anything about how servicemen were brought to the Historic Area?

FR It was just like other bus groups; same pattern.

RB Then in the '50's, and '60's, and '70's--you left in the '50's, was that when you left? And then you were away for about 20 years?

FR Right.

RB Did you come back during that period?

FR Yes, I came back a lot on weekends.

RB How did you see the town changing then? Was there a civil rights movement here; were there war protests in the '60's and '70's?

FR Yes, but none of them was violent.

RB Were there any hippies here?

FR Probably there were.

RB But not in great evidence. Regarding the black population here, did blacks tend to live in a particular part of town?

FR Yes, they did.

RB Where would that have been?

FR Well, there was Braxton Court up near the College, and across the railroad track, there was a great settlement there.

END OF TAPE 3 SIDE A

TAPE 3 SIDE B

FR I had an interesting experience in the '70's. I went to Howard University to a banquet of Phi Beta Kappa members, and I sat by a man who had been a faculty member at Virginia Union, which I believe is in Petersburg. And he told me, "You just don't know what it meant to us there, the fact that the Williamsburg facilities were not segregated, the Inn and the Lodge, and that we could come over and dine there." He said it meant a great deal before other places in Virginia were open that blacks could come to Williamsburg and be served in Colonial Williamsburg's eateries.

RB Whose policy was that, not to have segregated facilities?

FR Mr. Rockefeller. I think he did say, I believe he said there was to be no discrimination against Jews or blacks or any group.

RB I know you visited Carter's Grove in the past. Do you have any recollections of that, what it was like when you visited?

FR Oh, I just remember how beautiful it was. We weren't given a formal tour. Mrs. McCrea just conducted us through the rooms to the room on the end, which I remember was very lovely. We all sat around that horseshoe shaped table there. She sat in the middle and talked to her various guests. She was extremely gracious.

RB The house was furnished the way it is now?

FR Yes.

RB You're talking about the room that has a large fireplace?

FR Yes.

RB And lots of chintz? Yes, that's a pretty room. Were you ever there before the McCreas bought it, or would you have been too young?

FR Yes, but my father knew the Booths.

RB He was a doctor, Dr. Booth?

FR Yes and my father went to school with one of Dr. Booth's sons at William and Mary. Dr. Booth let him come and hunt. Daddy wrote his mother in October 1891, "that he and his son are very fond of hunting and that he keeps hounds, setters, horses, boats and guns."

RB I understand that one of Dr. Goodwin's children died at Carter's Grove.

FR Oh, really, I didn't know that.

RB This was about 1905; the child died at Carter's Grove, and I always wondered why the family would have been at Carter's Grove. Now I assume that they had taken the child to see the doctor there. Do you know when Dr. Booth left Carter's Grove?

FR No.

RB Didn't a Mr. Harwood own it before the McCreas?

FR Oh, that's right.

RB Did your parents ever mention Harwood at all?

FR No. But I'm sure you're right about that.

RB Did your parents know the McCreas very well?

FR No.

RB On what occasion would you all have gone out there to be greeted by Mrs. McCrea and given a tour?

FR I forget exactly how it happened, but Mrs. McCrea was a friend of my uncle's. I believe that he was along, and he was probably the one who had the invitation.

RB And there was an uncle on your father's side or your mother's side?

FR Yes, my father's side.

RB And, talking about social life in Williamsburg, the Virginia Gazette in the distant past had a lengthy social column. Could you tell us your recollection of how they would gather information for that?

FR Well, there was a list of people who were called every week by the Gazette and the Daily Press. And these ladies, I think they were all ladies, reported what was happening, and there would be items like, "Mr. and Mrs. Smith are spending a week in Virginia Beach." Things you would never dare report today for fear of burglars. And then there were these little items, too, like "Miss Jones from Richmond spent the day visiting old friends." (laughter) Very vague. I know this because I was an employee of the Daily Press my senior year in high school and often wrote the column.

RB Do you remember when they stopped doing that column?

FR I think it just gradually disappeared. I think they stopped saying who was away and then they stopped probably saying somebody paid a call on so and so on Sunday afternoon. It just gradually got shorter until the wedding announcements and the big parties were the only things that were included.

RB Do you think that's because the town got larger?

FR Yes, I think so.

RB Were there any clubs or organizations your parents belonged to? What would they be?

FR My mother was secretary of the Williamsburg Garden Club for a number of years, and she was secretary of the DAR chapter for 27 years. My father proudly belonged to the Fort Magruder Fishing Club.

RB Where did the DAR chapter meet, and the Garden Club?

FR Both usually met at different people's houses. If there was a hostess who didn't have a house large enough, then I think sometimes they would meet at the Parish House at one of the churches.

RB Do you know anything about the Pulaski Club? An informal gathering of men of the town? Was that still going on when you were growing up?

FR Yes.

RB Do you know whether that's still going on?

FR Yes.

RB You've been a member of the Bruton Parish congregation since childhood. Are there any special church activities or events you can describe?

FR Well, I was in the children's choir run by Mrs. Iona Jones who was an excellent choir director. She was a true musician, beautifully trained.

RB What kind of music would the choir have performed then?

FR Wonderful carols, those you don't often hear, and she was just a superb director.

RB Was Mrs. Jones also the organist?

FR Yes.

RB And what part did you sing? Alto? Soprano?

FR I guess soprano.

RB Did you ever hear the name Flo Hope Norris in connection with the choir?

FR No.

RB She had been a soloist at Bruton, but I'm sure well before your time. I wondered whether anyone remembered her or ever mentioned her. She wrote to Goodwin in the '20's, and he encouraged her work as a singer. Are there any other things you care to mention about the church over the years?

FR Well, we had our mite boxes. The children always put in their pennies for the mite boxes. We had nice Sunday School teachers; some of them were college students who assisted.

RB Is the church fairly active among college students still?

FR I believe so.

RB Did Miss Hayes ever teach Sunday School?

FR I don't believe so.

RB She had some involvement with students, I think, but not the little kids.

FR Yes, with college students she was very active.

RB I understand you're working now as a volunteer processing Bruton church records.

FR Yes.

RB What are you doing?

FR Sorting through these correspondence files, and also the records of the marriages, burials, confirmations.

RB How far back do the records go that you are working on?

FR They are mostly of this century. Very little before that; one or two items. A great deal of correspondence from Dr. Goodwin's era, and that largely concerns the restoration of the church.

RB Both the 1907 and the later one? The one that was going on when he died?

FR Yes.

RB What are you doing with the records?

FR Sorting them. I guess eventually we'll do a very detailed thing where each letter is catalogued as to subjects. People mention it; but right now we're just basically sorting it.

RB How much material is there so far?

FR There are about 50 big boxes plus some oversize books that don't fit in the boxes.

RB Are they ledgers?

FR Yes. They're vestry minutes, account books, and guest registers.

RB They should be really fascinating for local historians.

FR It has been really interesting.

RB Do you have any idea how long the project is going to take?

FR I don't know when we'll have money to do the really detailed work.

RB You mean, like computerizing information from the records?

FR Yes, keying in, exactly; every line, line by line.

RB The final product will be so valuable when it is done. How many people are working on this right now?

FR Just me at the moment.

RB How much time do you devote to this work?

FR About one afternoon a week. I'm trying to do more. But I've been working on it for some years. So it's in fair shape.

RB Are the records at the parish?

FR Yes, they're part of the Williamsburg Historic Records Association collection at Swem.

RB So you're going out to Toano to do this? The Swem Archives out there is a very nice place to do research.

FR It is, isn't it.

RB The staff is very helpful and knowledgeable. Miss Cook is great.

FR Oh, Margaret is wonderful.

RB She knows everything!

FR She does. She can just pull it right out.

RB You worked for the Phi Beta Kappa Society in Washington, D. C., for many years. Could you tell us something about what you did and what they do.

FR Yes. I started off doing secretarial work and then the opportunity came to develop the visiting scholar program which sent college lecturers, professors and so forth, to various campuses for visits of two or three days rather than a single lecture. So, I worked with that from '58 to '91.

RB And so this was where PBK would fund a visit of a scholar to schools all over the country?

FR To schools with Phi Beta Kappa chapters. There were about a hundred, well, it varied because we took in some new chapters. But it went from about 150 to 200.

RB Would that include scholars from various disciplines?

FR Yes. All disciplines. Some fascinating people.

RB Did you get to meet all the scholars?

FR Not all of them. In the early days I met all of them but as the program developed not so much. We did it more by mail and by telephone.

RB Did scholars come to William & Mary through this program too?

FR Oh, yes.

RB Anybody in particular?

FR Katherine Drinker Bowen; well, she didn't come to William & Mary under our auspices, but she did lecture for us. The astronomer, Dr. Harlow Shapley, was a visiting scholar, also Randall Jarrell, the poet.

RB How were these individuals chosen?

FR There was a committee representing various disciplines, and they picked them.

RB Is this program still going on?

FR Right.

RB So then you left in '91 and came back here. Do you find Williamsburg very much changed? Is it quite different from what it was before you left?

FR It's a little different. So many of the groceries and the various places you use, the doctor's offices and so forth, are now out from the center of town.

RB What do you think of the whole "New Town" concept on Ironbound, off Monticello? That must be quite a different sort of thing, too, from what Williamsburg has known.

FR It's really incredible. It's just mind-boggling the things they plan to do.

RB These changes have happened just within the few years that I've been here.

FR Yes. New post office, new shopping center. That Marketplace is enormous.

RB Yeah, it's huge; and all the building that's going on, all the homes being built out on Route 5, are just amazing.

FR It is that.

RB So, what is this place going to look like in 10 years, do you think? Just like Fairfax. Let's hope not--we don't want to see that! Frances, any final comments, anything at all you would like to say, about your life here, about people you have known?

FR It certainly has been an interesting era to live in from many standpoints, and to live here has been extremely interesting. You know, sometimes if you ride around over on the south side of the James in those little towns and you think, well, Williamsburg could have suffered the same fate they did.

RB You're absolutely right, and do you think it's because of C.W.'s existence and the College's existence that Williamsburg has not suffered that fate?

FR Yes. Right. Colonial Williamsburg transformed the town and the College has just done wonderfully. It's more than doubled in size since I was there, and its reputation has become so international really. It's very inspiring. The law school was practically out of business at one time! It's amazing that it survived.

RB I understand that former William and Mary president Davis Paschall recently died. Was he not responsible for getting the law school on its feet?

FR Yes, I believe that's right.

RB Are there any other comments you would like to make?

FR Can't think of anything.

RB Well, it's been a pleasure talking to you.

FR Oh, it's been wonderful talking to you. It has brought up a lot of memories I had forgotten about.

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