

Michael Kline: Then going straight across to the other?

Judith Haynes: It could have been the same boat or maybe different boats. There was a lot of boat traffic then, a lot.

Carrie Kline: Test. Okay. Say that again.

JH: The question was whether the boat would have stopped here and then gone across to the island. Yes. It could have done that. It could have made two stops. There was a tremendous amount of boat traffic in those days. So, I'm sure the boats made a lot of stops on these areas and maybe made stops that today seem kind of close together. But remember then too, if it went across to Callis Wharf on the other side of the island, there was no bridge. So, you would get back and forth by boat.

CK: Say, "My name is," and say your full name.

JH: My name is Judith Haynes, H-A-Y-N-E-S. I'm at Hudgins House, H-U-D-G-I-N-S, Hudgins House in Hudgins, Virginia.

CK: Where are we right now?

JH: Right now, we're standing on the front shore of Hudgins House. We're looking over at Cricket Hill where the steamboat used to dock. This house in the early 1900s was a boarding house. It took guests who came in on the steamboat from either excursions to the beach, to the shore, or businesspeople who came to town. Fishermen would come. Whatever you would do today when you were traveling, the guests would come here. Beautiful day. So, imagine, there's no bridge there. There's a place where the steamboat would come in and it would go across the way.

CK: Where the bridge is now, you are saying?

JH: Where the bridge is now, yes. So, you could stand here and see the steamboat. A lot of hustle and bustle, a lot of activity. It would have been great. [laughter] I wish I knew more. I wish I could have been there just to describe it exactly. I can imagine the people getting off the boat, people leaving. Even a hundred years prior to that down at another landing here in the county, I know that they had a taxi. But it was a taxi with a buggy and a horse. You could hire someone to bring you into town. So, I'm assuming that they had over here a horse-drawn taxi, which would bring you to the house if you wanted to pay, or someone from the house would go over with a horse and buggy and meet you. There also was a place over here where people on the island, who lived on the island, would leave their buggies, park their buggies over here. They would come across from the island in a skiff and swim their horses alongside their boats. When they got out of the water, of course, the horses would come up dripping wet. They'd hitch them up to their buggies and take the buggies into town. Do whatever business they had to do in town. Then come back and leave the buggies parked here, swim their horses back across to the island.

CK: How long a jaunt was that?

JH: That would be a pretty good jaunt. By the time you did all that, I would imagine by the time you came across, hitched up your horse, went into town, did your shopping, came back – it's not like the quick stop stores that we have. [laughter] You'd probably feel like you did a good day's work doing all that. I want to go get this bucket.

CK: I was trying to imagine how long a swim it would be for the old horses.

JH: Well, see, I don't know how deep the water was then. Over there, it's deep. Can you see where the channel markers are and see where the water changes color? See where it's like dark blue and then it gets kind of gray coming over here? So, part of it is real deep and then other parts of it are not real deep. The horse probably could have walked part of the way. It wouldn't have been too bad for the horse. I want to go get this bucket. I'm going to be picking up from the hurricane for a long time. There are oysters here. Right out here.

CK: What is that?

JH: There are oysters out here still. I had an old dog that used to come out, and he'd dig up the oysters. He had strong enough jaws that he could crack them open with his jaws and eat the oysters right along this water.

CK: That is incredible.

JH: I know. He was great.

Dianne Jordan: We have some flotsam and jetsam.

JH: It's going to be forever. But like I said, I feel lucky because I think a lot of it went up into Queen's Creek.

DJ: You ever get a chance to go down at Gloucester Point?

JH: No. I have not. The restaurant over there got washed away by the hurricane. I keep thinking a piece of restaurant is going to wash up.

CK: I hope it will be something you can use.

JH: [laughter] Yes. Maybe a nice big cook pot, that would be good. This is all hurricane damage here.

CK: Has this house been through...

JH: I wasn't worried about the house. This house is well over a hundred years old. I knew unless something blew over and fell on it, it would be all right. Because the water doesn't come anywhere near it. Well, you can see where the hurricane came? You can see this is where the

water from the hurricane came up this far. See this line of debris here? Shouldn't get anywhere near the house. I just wish when Holder was alive I could have gotten more information from him.

DJ: It is a pretty spot.

JH: It's beautiful. Have you seen these old footstones? See the headstone?

DJ: Yes.

JH: The footstone?

DJ: Who is W. H. H.?

JH: That would be an earlier Holder Hudgins. The ancestor of the one that was my friend.

DJ: I am not familiar with the Holder family.

JH: It would be Hudgins.

CK: You knew the people who are descended from the boarding house?

JH: This man, William Holder Hudgins, is an ancestor of the Holder Hudgins that I knew, who is dead now. But this Holder, William Holder Hudgins, was born in 1826 and died in 1895. He is buried here. Mary Braxton Hudgins, born 1833, that looked like? Died September 1905. Then there's another Hudgins buried back in the woods back here who belonged to the old lighthouse service, Benjamin Hudgins. His grave is back here. There's still a lot of Hudgins' around. I'm not a Hudgins, but there are still many descendants of this family here. Well, the post office is called Hudgins Post Office. It's Hudgins, Virginia. There was a lighthouse keeper service, people that would keep the lights going in the lighthouses, and this Benjamin Hudgins belonged to that lighthouse service. He's buried here. I think he died when he was – I think it says twenty-six years old. I don't know why he's buried back here all by himself, but he is. See, Benjamin F. Hudgins died October 19, 1870, aged twenty-eight years, erected by his comrades of the USLH, as a tribute of their love. He lived and died beloved by all who knew him. I think that USLH is the lighthouse keepers.

CK: How did he die?

JH: I don't know. He was only twenty-eight.

CK: Does that mean he lived in a lighthouse?

JH: I'm not sure. I don't know whether it meant that he lived there or would go out and tend the light. Sometimes they would stay out there and tend the light and then work in rotation, come in. I wish I knew more about him. But I found this grave and other people didn't even know it was back here. So, I don't know whether there were maybe other graves back here that have lost their

markers. I just don't know.

CK: This is a longer space from the headstone to the footstone.

JH: I'm not sure where the grave is. That stone when I came here, was flat, was lying down. So, it may have been displaced from where the grave is. But you can see where the depression is in the ground. That hasn't moved. The footstone hasn't moved.

CK: Is there a lighthouse around here?

JH: Yes. We had a lot of lighthouses. It was the only thing to mark for the ships coming in to mark the shoals and mark the dangerous spots.

CK: When you say ships...

JH: Well, there were all sorts of merchant ships and cargo ships. Mathews used to export a lot of lumber. So, we have ships that would carry that out. Up in Urbana and Middlesex County, they had huge ships coming in, well, for the time, a lot of tobacco exports. Had to get there somewhere and go by ship.

CK: Tobacco?

JH: Yes.

DJ: Tobacco.

JH: They have a place up in Urbana where they have a hill where they used to roll casks of – there's a hill that goes down to the harbor.

CK: Can I get you to say that again?

JH: Up in Urbana, in Middlesex County, there's a hill where they would roll casks full of tobacco. Roll them down the hill to the ships that would pick them up and take them to England.

DJ: It is a neat place here.

CK: Talk a little bit more about tobacco around here.

JH: I'm afraid I'm the wrong person to ask about tobacco. I'm not sure whether they raised it. I'm not sure how far they brought it to, it had to go out by ship. But I'm not sure how far they brought it to this area to ship it out. I'm not sure how extensive the tobacco farming was here. Mathews was a big boat building center and lumber center. We had, of course, farms, but you had to have farms. Everybody had farms, because that was the only way to get a lot of stuff, to grow it yourself.

CK: What era are you talking about?

JH: Well, those tobacco casks up in Urbana, in Middlesex County, that goes back – I think Middlesex was established in – Urbana in the 1600s. So, it goes back a long time. I'm not a good person to ask about the agriculture. We can go on that side to here.

CK: You mentioned that your dad had been on the...

JH: Steamboat.

CK: What did he say?

JH: He just said what a great experience it – look at that big praying mantis, how big it is. Hi there. We're not going to hurt you. Just what a great experience it was, what it was like going down, seeing the Chesapeake Bay, and being on the boat. Made me wish I did it.

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