

Interview with Mr. Victor Wilson, great grandson of Thomas Jefferson Jenkins who was General Albert Gallatin Jenkins' eldest brother.

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Assisted by Karen Nance

STUART McGEHEE – Pearl Harbor Day, Dec 7, 2001. I'm Stuart McGehee. We're in the Cultural Center's North Briefing Room with Victor Wilson. Our goal is to gain as much information as we can about the Greenbottom Plantation of his ancestor Albert Gallatin Jenkins. Victor Wilson, good morning.

VICTOR WILSON – Good morning. How are you this morning?

SM – I'm great. We're assisted by Karen Nance who's done a remarkable amount of research on the project and has an interest in the development and interpretation. Karen, good morning to you.

VW – Good morning.

SM – So glad you could be here. Victor Wilson, when and where were you born?

VW – I was born in Monmouth County, New Jersey, January 15th, 1949.

SM – What is your genealogical link to Albert Gallatin Jenkins?

VW – I am the great grandson of Thomas Jefferson Jenkins who was the general's eldest brother.

SM – The Jenkins family is, for anyone who listens to these tapes in the future, we have artifacts with us, copies of which can be seen in the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, also on file with the United States Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District office. Tell me your earliest memories in the family of the Greenbottom site.

VW – Well my earliest association with Greenbottom was being a grandchild with a lot of curiosity. I spent much of my childhood in my grandparents' home, and I would frequently say to them, "well, where did this, these vases come from?" "Well they came from Greenbottom." "Where did this secretary come from?" "Well, it came from Greenbottom." "Where did this couch come from, and these portraits?" "Well, they came from Greenbottom." "Well, what's Greenbottom?" And they'd say, "Well, open up that book The Annals of Cabell County and you'll see a picture right at the front of the book, and there's a picture of it over your grandfather's desk, a painting of it. And that's what Greenbottom is."

SM – We have at hand this morning Daughters of the American Revolution ancestral charts, and it may be useful for us to walk through the genealogy and the lineage of General Jenkins. There are a number of items that are relevant to the interpretation and restoration of the site that come up in this process, and I thought that it would be useful for us. Tell us the earliest forbearers of the general and how he got to be at Greenbottom.

VW – Well, the earliest forbearer that I have on this document is Captain John Grigsby, who is... was a Officer in the Revolutionary War. He was from Lexington, Virginia. He is buried in Falling Springs Church in Glasgow, Virginia, and was a very affluent Virginian and contributed financially to the Revolutionary War probably more than physically because of his age at the time of the Revolutionary War. But his son-in-law was Alexander McNutt; Rachel Grigsby was his daughter, who married Alexander McNutt, and their daughter was Jeanette McNutt who married William Jenkins who is my great, great grandfather, so General Albert Gallatin Jenkins would be the great grandson of Captain John Grigsby, who was a revolutionary officer. The family, the Jenkins family, were located in Rockbridge County, Virginia until 1825. My great grandfather William Jenkins had been out once to explore a larger piece of property. He had 1200 acres at Buffalo Gap in Rockbridge County, a plantation there. He went out to look at a 4400 acre property on the Ohio River, and didn't buy it according to a letter interview that we have of him written in the late 1850s, because he had to use a pole boat to get back up the river and being a ship's captain, having had a fleet of ships from Richmond to South America, he wasn't satisfied with using a pole boat to get back up the river. But he subsequently rode on Robert Fulton's steamboat in New York, and realized what the impact was going to be of steam power on inland rivers, so he went back and looked at it again and this time decided to purchase it from Governor Cabell, of Virginia. He purchased it at, I believe, it was \$3 an acre; I think \$15,000 was the purchase price for the 4400 acres. And in 1825 he was 46 years old. At 45 he'd married a 19 year old young lady, and they had an infant daughter named Eustatia, and they took the one year old and his twenty year old bride and went over the mountains and settled.

SM – Question: Why did he want to leave Rockbridge County and move to extreme Western Virginia on the Ohio River?

VW – Well it was the frontier and I assume, we have copies of the deed of sale for his plantation in Rockbridge County, and you know, for somewhat similar money he could go out there and have four times the size property. Also being a riverman, Rockbridge County is sort of land-bound, being a riverman I'm sure he wanted to take advantage of what the river had to offer, and knowing about steam power he could do that.

SM – What do you all know about the home they left behind in Rockbridge County?

VW – Ken Hechler has provided me with a photograph of it, and an invitation from the gentleman who owns it, and unfortunately I haven't spent enough time milling around in Rockbridge County checking out all the sites down there.

SM – What's it called? What's the plantation called there?

VW – I believe its Buffalo Gap. And he's buried, as I said, in Falling Springs Church in Glasgow, Virginia. Captain John Grigsby built seven houses on seven hills for his children around the city of Lexington, Virginia, and was quite a notable character. That's the next segment of my family exploration that I want to do, is spend more time on the other side of the mountains.

SM – I have really close friends in Lynchburg who are Pendleton's that maybe it would help you out.

VW – OK

SM – What was Cabell County like in 1825 when they got to this 4400 acre plantation site?

VW – Well, as it, the plantation itself, was already in operation, it was an absentee landlord situation. There was a house existing on it which is currently where the railroad tracks are, and there were slaves on the plantation working the site. Karen Nance could perhaps give you more information since she's done the courthouse research on it.

KN: Yes...the...in...the owner was Cary Nicholas, which had been a governor of Virginia at one time, originally in 1814, I believe is when he originally set up the plantation. In the 1820s, census of Cabell County's got 53 slaves working there. And then it went into the hands of a Governor Cabell who somehow had signed it over, Jack Dickenson's book explained how he signed it over to some people for some debt, so the deed is a little harder to trace, but then that's the property that was purchased and 100 acres was kept out for one family of the original grant. And the grant was one that Cary Nicholas had had originally there, he had started a plantation. And there's about 30 slaves in the deed sold to Jenkins and the other slaves must have stayed with, or been sold somewhere else with...

SM – That's Wilson Cary Nicholas, the, as in Nicholas County, West Virginia.

KN: Right.

SM – Ok, What are the family traditions about the arrival of Jenkins in 1820s to the site?

VW – Well, the couple of stories that come to mind were Jeanette McNutt's red hair. She was of Scottish descent, as were so many people in the Falling Springs Church. The McCormicks, Cyrus McCormick, inventor of the reaper was one of their cousins. The McNutts and the Grigsbys were all of Scottish descent. Anyhow, along with her red hair, the family story is that she had quite a temper. And we have a letter upstairs written by her in 1840 from Greenbottom, and it tells about her daughter and the fact that she was studying music at the conservatory in Steubenville, Ohio, and that they had purchased the best piano on the Ohio River for her to practice on. In the 1850s, we have a plate that my grandmother, who back in 1967 had wished to donate Greenbottom when it was available for sale to the state as a historic site, in memory of my grandfather Dr. George Robert Jenkins who was the General's youngest nephew. We have a plate that my grandmother said was on the table when the President of the United States came for dinner there at Greenbottom, and we also have a number of family heirlooms. We have a

decanter which has the general's initials on it in gold, which everyone believed to be an alcohol decanter, but my grandfather, as a staunch prohibitionist said it had to have been used for some other purpose than alcohol; his uncle couldn't have drunk it.

SM – Some elixir.

VW – Something, meant for health. And fortunately for myself, my grandfather's brother, Albert Gallatin Jenkins, the General's namesake, whose birthday was one day off from mine, his was January 14th, mine's January 15th, kept very detailed notes of the family records. He penciled in names under photographs. He kept notebooks together, and as a young child I had the terrific pleasure of going down in the basement and exploring these trunks that he had left upon his death that my grandfather had inherited. And the things that we're looking at today and that they're xeroxing came from these trunks that had belonged to Albert Gallatin Jenkins, the namesake. And also his sister, Ada Grace Jenkins did all the genealogical work, so in many ways I was simply the heir to the work done by, done two generations earlier by my grandfather's brother and sister. But what they did in their intent, they may have lost the plantation, but they kept sufficient of the artifacts and the records, that now that we have the blessing of it being in the public sector, we can very easily reconstitute it. Existing within the public record is a full inventory of the house that was necessary for the settlement of the General's estate. Existing in the public record is William Jenkins' will; it's published in Jack Dickenson's book Jenkins at Greenbottom. And so there are very substantial records, family letters, pieces of furniture, the General's silver, a silver vase that came from South America on a ship. There are so many artifacts and documents that support the life that went on there, including three books of sheet music, one of them prior to the Civil War, prior to 1856; they were definitely a family of the arts. The general's library included 350 volumes which are all listed by title in the settlement of his estate. His sister went to study music at Steubenville, his brother went and graduated from medical college at Jefferson Medical College, and he's listed in the directory of Jefferson Medical College, class of 1850. Albert himself after college went on to Harvard Law School.

SM – Where'd he go to college?

VW – He went, all three brothers, went to what was then called Washington College in Washington, Pennsylvania, which is just south of Pittsburgh. It's now called Washington and Jefferson College and Albert even though he was significantly younger than his other brothers, went along with them. They had all graduated also from Marshall Academy in Huntington, WV.

SM – Barboursville. There was no Huntington until 1873.

KN – No but it was actually in the county. It was never in the city limits until Huntington was formed.

SM – Very good, thank you Karen. That's why you're here.

VW – So then they went up to Pennsylvania and it appears from the family letters we have, that their place of commercial contact for Greenbottom was in Pittsburgh. Because one of the letters

was written from Pittsburgh by Eustatia, her father was transacting business. He apparently had a Jenkins relative in Pittsburgh, who was a grocer and quite successful in Pittsburgh in those years. And so they did, they went north for their economics, they went to Pittsburgh, they went North for their education to Washington, and Washington and Jefferson College now. Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia for medical school, Harvard Law School. So their focus was to the north educationally, although from family lore, their products were sold south. Now, my great grandmother would get a crop ready for sale after her husband's death and they would put it on the boat and take it to New Orleans, this is family lore. And then the gamblers, the sharecroppers would go down with the crop and they'd get to New Orleans and the, this is why my grandfather was against alcohol, the gamblers would get on board with cards and alcohol and by the time they got back up the Ohio to Cabell County all the money was gone. So there went a year's work.

SM – So when the family moved they lived in the pre-existing plantation house.

VW – For ten years. It took them ten years to construct the building that is there today. And we recognize as tremendous apologies has to be made for slavery, the horrible atrocity of it, how closely black and white are linked in Southern history. It's, it cannot be separated. The house was built by black hands. The bricks were made there, the wood was hewn there, the house was built I believe without too many nails.

KN – Well, yeah, it's the floor joists are [unclear]and tended into the bricks. I mean the flooring had nails in it, but its solid three wall thick brick and the supporting walls are also three wall thick brick.

VW - And what's unique about the house is each room of the, suspended rooms, each of the six suspended rooms are independently suspended which is why we still have the original suspension in place a hundred and sixty six years after the house was occupied in 1835.

SM - Tell us about the construction of the house. The site itself. What other family traditions and what else can you tell us about the ten year process of building the house itself and developing the materials onsite.

VW - Well, other than knowing that the bricks were made there and that the wood was hewn there, there really isn't a lot of lore that's associated with it. My family, my immediate family, had left Cabell County in 1896 when my grandfather moved his dental practice from Huntington, WV after graduating from the University of Cincinnati dental school in 1894. He moved to Manhattan where his sister was working, and so their third of Greenbottom was sold in 1896. So there's a gap there in our family, of about a hundred years away from Cabell County. But what we are able to reconstruct is through the letters that do exist. And we have quite a few family letters, we also have letters from other folks in Cabell County: the Gwinns, that were up at Glenwood bend. And I think there will be very adequate opportunity to put together a very exciting interpretation of the site. What's amazing to me is that in a state like Mississippi, they went a constructed a plantation called Floorwood River Plantation with all the outbuildings, just as a point of tourism near the state capital. And here we have an existent river plantation already

intact, unlike Blennerhasset in Parkersburg which is totally reconstruction, except for the bottom few bricks of the foundation, and is generating, correct me Karen, 40,000 visitors a year?

KN - I think Blennerhasset, at least that many. I think there's more than that.

VW – At least 40,000 visitors a year to see something that's a total recreation, and here we have something that is intact, that is the original, the home of the confederate general who went farthest north in the Gettysburg campaign, as documented by a recent Pennsylvania state historic marker, which I was present for its dedication in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Tourism, the Civil War, the growth industry in United States, tourism is the fastest growing aspect of the West Virginia economy, which we're all concerned about. So I think the potential here is tremendous.

SM - I think it matches also, there are a number of beautiful plantation homes in Mississippi there where they have really gone out of their way to interpret them in a way that is historically accurate and also helps develop economic development through heritage tourism. I'm in complete agreement.

VW - We know that General Jenkins wanted to attend classes; they had a tutor on site. A lot of this detail is reported in a set a series of ten articles written by Ken Hechler in 1961. I happened to be at the house at the time in 1961, and opened the door there was a knock, and here was Congressman Ken Hechler and he was, said he'd come to interview my grandfather who was the last of his generation of the General's nieces and nephews and children, and it was very exciting to me as an 11 year old that a U.S. Congressman was coming to interview my grandfather. And the two of them went through the items which we're looking at today, that were in Albert Gallatin Jenkins, the namesake, in his trunk. And then a lot of the flavor is picked up by my grandfather in those articles because my grandfather was born there and grew up at Greenbottom, and had a feel for the history.

SM - Um, do you want to look at some of the artifacts and tell us some of the family stories that go along with them? Shall I bring them over to our table? Is that what's in there?

KN – Oh no, this is,

SM – Oh, these are Karen's things. Got you.

VW – Well, among the artifacts that we have are a family photo album including pictures of the General's children when they were very little, at the time of the Civil War. And earliest we have a photograph in there taken of Susan Holderby who was the General's sister in law, taken in the 1830s, we figured out from her age. And I think this is a photograph from a tin type, which I have. And her history at Greenbottom is really a story of women's courage and bravery in war. She rode, took her carriage to a place called Charleston, Virginia, now known as Charleston, West Virginia, the capital of WV, to assist the wounded soldiers and she took her infant daughter with her in her arms, lost her carriage in the battle, and had to ride bareback with her infant daughter in her arms back after several days of nursing soldiers back to Greenbottom. Also, when union troops, this is a story passed down in the family, when union troops came to visit, she had her children and her prized possessions, I assume, up on the second floor at the main

house, because their home hadn't been built yet, and she poured buckets of water, pitchers of water on the union soldiers, and apparently it was enough to defer them, they did not get up the stairs, so. And this was documented in one of her obituaries, that she was a civil war heroine herself. She was a founder of the Daughters of the Confederacy in Huntington, the Albert Gallatin Jenkins chapter, the Daughters of the Confederacy, and when she moved to New York they made her lifetime vice president of that chapter. We have a turkey platter that came from Greenbottom, we have a coal scuttle which is currently on loan by myself, and an oriental rug and a fender, that are out at the house. There are six or seven other additional pieces of furniture, there are vases, many items that ultimately, I hope, that will return to the site when it's fully developed and when it's controlled humidity, that you need for a museum.

SM - Briefly then, continue the genealogical story that you were telling us before, when we got to the site itself and wanted to talk about the physical structures of the facility.

VW - Well, Susan Holderby Jenkins left us a manuscript, a fifty page manuscript of her life after her husband's death and living at Greenbottom. And she says in her manuscript that her children were to the purple born, that they were of blue blood. And the Jenkins, it is said, are descended from Sir Leoline Jenkins who donated the library, I believe, for Christ College, Oxford or Cambridge, I can't remember. But the name Jenkins itself is Welsh. There are many, many Jenkins in the Appalachian areas because as the coal mines failed in Wales they immigrated because they could use their mining skills here in WV. I belong to a Welsh society in Washington, and have been a member of the Welsh society, and I believe the name Jenkins in Gaelic means son of John, so it's not terribly complicated. But the last genuinely Welsh Prince of Wales prior to the British inclusion of Wales in the British Empire, was Prince Luellen, and his family name was Jenkins. So, there's the origin of the Jenkins. But there are many, as I said, many, many Jenkins. My father used to tell me, he said, if you went to Wales you'd see thousands of your grandfather running around: short men, bushy eyebrows with white hair. Now my grandfather was only about 5'6" and he claimed that coal mining was the cause of his short height. His mother would have him go out into the hill behind their house, because they had six fireplaces in their house on the river, and she would make him dig out some coal that was available right on the surface, put it in the coal scuttle and bring it in, and he says that carrying those heavy buckets stunted his growth; otherwise he would have been taller, like the rest of his family.

SM – Useful for coal miners to be short. I've been in low coal myself, and I'm told...

VW – He was never in a coal mine, but he said it was the weight of carrying those coal buckets that stunted his growth.

SM – The reason that we're talking this morning is to get as much family information to assist the Culture and History as they continue to develop the site as an interpretive Civil War museum for WV. Anything you can help tell us this morning that comes from the family traditions and the history of your family that can help us. That's why we're here.

KN – What about him from the time he was Congressman?

VW – Well, General Jenkins career itself was really quite astonishing. He graduated from Marshall I guess at something like 14 and went on to college with his brothers, and then on to Harvard Law School. And he was among the early members of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity which was founded that very year that they graduated in 1848 at Washington College in PA. Their headquarters were over in Kentucky. And while they weren't one of the ten members, they were like the 12th, 13th, and 14th members of Phi Gamma Delta and Phi Gamma Delta's president, John Templeton McCartney, came and visited Albert Gallatin Jenkins and writes of that in the memoirs of Phi Gamma Delta having visited Albert Gallatin Jenkins and convinced him to go into politics and pursue law. And subsequently, Albert Gallatin Jenkins went on to Harvard Law School and then came back, practiced law in Charleston, had an office at Greenbottom, and then in 1856 was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. We believe it was then that he met President Buchanan who also received his nomination at that time to be president. And both men, both were Presbyterian, both supported what we term the southern solution versus the northern solution for the South's circumstance economically. And went to Washington the same year together in 1857, so it is presumed that it was Buchanan who came to dinner at Greenbottom.

SM – But he was from Philadelphia. So the Pennsylvania connection might....

VW – The family was already heavily vested in Pennsylvania economically, doing their business in PG, education up there, medical school in Philadelphia, et cetera. So there would have been every reason to have him as a friend and he did support the southern situation.

SM - Was Congress the first political office that he sought?

VW - It was, and he was barely old enough to get into the U.S. Congress. He was in his twenties?

KN – Right. He had just turned 26 in Nov. His birthday was Nov 15th

VW - He turned 26 and then was able to get into Congress when it sat in the beginning of the next year.

SM – Are there any family traditions about his congressional career?

VW - Well, he was a Southern Democrat. In a different description of the Democratic Party from today's description. Later it was called, they were called Dixiecrats, I think. But it was a more conservative Democratic party, and I'm not saying whether that's good or bad, but he... when he went to Washington he stayed at a place called Brown's Hotel, which I brought a picture of today. He didn't invest in a home up there, he stayed at a hotel. When he was married in 1857, he married the niece of a judge in St. Louis, another northern city, and Judge Bolan, former Ambassador Bolan of St. Louis, and they summered in 1857 in White Sulphur Springs, Virginia at what we refer to as the Greenbrier today. This was the place to be socially and they spent the entire summer there subsequent their marriage.

SM – You know, President Buchanan visited the Old White as well. There’s a presidential museum there at the Greenbrier, so here we go.

VW – So here’s another connection with Buchanan. I believe there’s still a fireplace mantle at the Greenbrier that dates back to that original hotel. So he might have had his arm resting on that mantelpiece. Who knows, right? But he went off to Congress, and in his political career in Congress he strongly supported the Monroe Doctrine, and keeping Europe out of the Americas in terms of influence. And there was some discussion of, he had made a trip to South America, his father had done business with the South Americans because he was a grain merchant, and this was how he’d made his fortune. And I, in fact, met a woman in North Carolina in 1984 and she was wearing a little gold ship, she was a jeweler, and I’d mentioned that my great grandfather William Alexander Jenkins had had a shipping fleet from Richmond to South America. And she said “Oh, I know he did. These were the names of his ships, and he sold them in 1820 and those are your cousins that live across on the beach there in that big house.” And I said to my wife, can we go over and knock on their door and she said “my hair doesn’t look right.” So I’ve never been back and this is 17 years later. But in any case, and the jeweler has since died, so I don’t know the names of the ships but I was so astonished that she just said “oh yeah I know” and gave me the names of the ships and the year it was sold and everything and it was just incredible. And he had started out with boats just on the James River going from Lynchburg down to Richmond and then moved on to having a shipping fleet. But as was the process back then, socially you were more, you were at a higher echelon if you were a land owner, so he moved from being a business person, a merchant and having a shipping fleet, then going to Rockbridge County and marrying the daughter and granddaughter of large landholders and then becoming a large landholder himself. He was establishing himself socially and

SM - What about his legal practice in Cabell County. What do we know about that? What kind of law did he practice, what sort of ...?

VW - Actually I haven’t done courthouse research to see what kind of cases he was involved in. I do know that Greenbottom itself, which he inherited in 1859 when his father died at 82 years of age, and his father died breaking up cattle in a snowstorm, that’s another family story. He was out breaking up cattle, because cattle when it’s cold tend to clump together and they’ll stand there and they’ll freeze to death, so you have to ride out and keep them moving so they don’t stand there and freeze to death. They’re not the brightest animals. And also, a week or so before the captain died, his 92 year old slave had died, who must have been with him for years and years. And to me that speaks, the fact that a slave would live to be 92, the fact that the general when he went off to war left his good sword with his best slave to protect the house. The fact that in 1913 one of the former slaves, it’s written in the newspaper clipping we have here, wanted to be buried back at Greenbottom in the slave cemetery. There was a strong connection for the black community.

SM – Where was the slave cemetery?

VW - Slave cemetery was across the road, it was up on the hill. The family cemetery was up on the hill and then the slave cemetery was down the hill.

KN – From what Clara Knight and them say, that were there as children and knew where it was at, when they did Route 2 it was on the hillside and they put fill dirt in and probably covered up, as best they could guess most of the graves with the fill dirt.

SM – That’s been my understanding as well.

VW - And I was consulted at the time and I didn’t realize, I was consulted by the WV Highway Administration at the time but I didn’t realize that their construction of that road would also involve fill dirt. But I had told them that the cemetery was not directly where they were going to build the road.

SM – Oh I see. And it wasn’t, but the fill dirt was.

VW – The fill dirt was. But Albert Gallatin Jenkins did not, to the very end, want to see the southern succession happen. He wrote a very strong speech which is read every year at Civil War Days in Huntington, you know, wanting to keep the union together, and it was a tough call for him as it was for many southerners, which direction to go. One thing of note, I went to the U.S. Archives with Ken Hechler and because of his connections having been a Congressman, we were actually able to handle the original documents. One of them was a surrender by Jenkins, not a surrender, he wanted to resign his commission because his wife was going blind at the time and it was sent to Jeb Stewart, it was approved by Jeb Stewart, it was sent on to Robert E. Lee and Robert E. Lee wrote, he said, “I have tremendous compassion for the General’s personal, for his family situation, but I have no one of his competency to replace him with. I will not accept his resignation.” Signed: R. Lee. And I’m holding this in my hand. And also there was a document there which the general had to sign when he was captured that actually had his blood on the document, which was amazing to me.

SM –Fascinating.

VW – And he was wounded at Gettysburg and then he was mortally wounded at battle of Cloyd’s Mountain because they had to amputate his arm. He survived the amputation but a week later the foreman took the stitches out and it hemorrhaged and he died of the hemorrhaging. But that release, there are so many, there are records there in the archives when he boarded his troops in Winchester, how much he paid to board them to board his horses. And...

SM – He had no prior military training whatsoever?

VW - No, he was, uh, there was apparently a little book that people read on how to be a soldier. And I’ve forgotten the name of the book but he was a very learned. When you look at the breadth and depth of his library collection, these 350 volumes, you realize the...the magnitude of his intellect.

KN - I’d like to interject he had another thousand books. In...his father in law was the executor of his state. And when his father in law died in 1870, in his will, he leaves thousand books to his grandson which was Albert Boyd that he said that he wanted him to have when he got out of the influence of the Browns that he had purchased from the estate before anything was done. He

purchased them up front. Plus, he had five hundred books he was leaving to him, so this child of Jenkins would have had a fifteen hundred book library.

SM- Probably one of the larger libraries west of the Allegany Mountains.

VW – And that would have been thirteen hundred and fifty books then that would have belonged to Albert Gallatin Jenkins. In fact, they found one in the New York Public Library with his book plate in it. And many letters have been found all over the state of Virginia written by Albert Gallatin Jenkins. One at the Virginia Military Institute where he was working to get somebody in. Ricky? Rucky?

KN – The, uh, no, Coony Rickets.

VW – Coony Rickets, he was trying to get him in. Coony Rickets was a young man who accompanied them on their campaigns. And one point that I thought really showed the general's compassion when he was in Mechanicsburg a woman came up to him and started beating and kicking on him and his horse, and this is from a history up there. And he said, "Why are you doing this to me ma'am?" and he was mounted on his horse and she said, "Because your men killed my husband yesterday." Well he dismounted, spoke to the woman and then went to a church that was near by, took her in, the two of them and knelt in prayer for her late husband. And I thought that showed the compassion of him. And you know, he...he was a Presbyterian. His mother writes about the fact that they had a Methodist minister come in, cause there were few Presbyterian out here at the time. But religious upbringing was important. In fact, William Jenkins left in his will \$5000 to build a church at Green Bottom which stood until it was subsequently purchased by the church the church down at Cox's Landing and moved down there somewhere, in 1920's or whatever.

KN- The building doesn't exist anymore.

VW – The building would no longer exists but, he said in his will he said, "As any parent I'm concerned about the spiritual welfare of my children therefore I want a church built and a pastor hired." And this is his instructions to his...his sons.

KN – And the school.

VW – And the school. And he let, the Captain let, in one of the letters he says that "If the people want my Atlas, my... globe, they can have it." They...they educated, I believe they educated the black children.

KN – Well, that's debatable.

VW – Okay.

SM – It was against the law in Virginia to educate slaves.

KN – Well, the only thing-

SM- but a lot of people did.

KN – we have reading literature, in the fact that before Jeanette died in 1843, she read from her prayer book to the slaves. And there is documentation at the Green Bottom church records that some of them could write. So there's a feeling that they knew how to read and write, but I am of the opinion that it wasn't formally taught by the Jenkins family, but maybe passed down amongst the slaves and they turned a blind eye. It's more...but Dr. Gould thinks that, Dr. Allen Gould at Marshall, that possibly they were taught.

SM – The same way with Jefferson at Monticello. He needed some slaves who could read and write, yet it was illegal in Virginia...as a matter of fact you could be publicly whipped for teaching slaves to read and write in Virginia law before the Civil War.

VW – I believe there were also some manifests that were used at the warehouse that was on the River. I've been shown navigation documents from the 1850's showing a warehouse on the River at Green bottom. There were two river entrances. The gentlemen that lived on the farm next door came [and] spoke to me one day and he said there were two rows of poplar trees that went from the front of the house down to the passenger landing, and we know from the tax records in Richmond that Captain Jenkins in 1850 had a coach and four, which is like what you see in Williamsburg, the big coach and four horses, so that road down to the passenger landing would have had to been wide enough to go down, for one to go down and one to come back and a turn around large enough at both ends to accommodate it. And you certainly wouldn't have had the president of the United State or Cyrus McCormick walking up to the house from the passenger landing. And also I've been told that Abraham Lincoln, in his diary, mentions stopping at Jenkins Landing when he was going North on the Ohio River. So it was a place of culture, it was a place of education. And because Jenkins had a law office, we know he had a law office there because and probably built a separate building because his father had to have his own office to run the plantation which was adjacent to the house, built his own law office farther downriver from the house. People would come there with their legal matters, and that was part of where Jenkins practiced his legal practice. We do have a hand written deed by Albert Gallatin Jenkins. It's four pages long where he was selling some land at Greenbottom to my great grandfather, his brother. So that was some of the business he was doing. And it has the Congressional Seal on it. It has the U.S. capitol imprint on the top of the paper and it says "Greenbottom Virginia, 1859." That's one example of what he was doing.

SM – We're especially concerned in the future with using the site to interpret antebellum Virginia as much as we possibly can. What can you tell us about the workings of the plantation itself that the family knows? What sort of products do they produce and just what does the family remember about how the plantation operated?

VW – Well my grandfather's experience and his brother's experience...they had hogs that would run wild up in the hills and once a year they would go up there with sticks and they would round up the hogs and they would graze I guess on, on the, whatever fell in the woods.

SM – It's called mast.

VW – Mast?

SM – Yeah, mast. Yes.

VW- Whatever fell in the woods they would graze on and when they got fat they'd go up there with poles and round them up and take them down to the ship lands. And there were actually a total of four ships landings at Green Bottom cause there was one for each of the other two houses plus the two up at the main house. And those other two can still be seen in the area cut out in the ground going down to the river, can still be seen there. That was one product. Sweet corn was another product. In fact, my grandfather was born April 9, 1873, eight years to the day after Robert E. Lee had surrendered. And it was called Sweet Corn day in the family because she had raised a crop of sweet corn and it was the first crop, cash crop, she'd had following her husband's death in 1872. And my grandfather was born eight years after, eight months after his father's death. And her friend, she writes, in her manuscript had encouraged her to abort him, but she hadn't and she said she was so glad she hadn't, that he really gave his heart to God and he was the sentience of her old age. And as it was of her six children he's the only one that had children. So none of us would be here today telling this story, so personally I am very glad, if I am making a message here you're hearing it. I'm very glad that he was allowed to live and that we're allowed, that we're blessed with being able to be here and tell the story today.

SM – Hogs and corn and what else?

VW – Well from what I've read from the tax records, Karen can give me more information but I believe there was tobacco...

KN – Well no tobacco.

VW – No tobacco.

KN – They started taking the census, the agricultural census in 1850 and it has like forty one, forty two columns, so I mean...and tobacco of course is one of the columns but in 1850 and 1860 they, of course Captain William Jenkins had the whole plantation in 1850 there was no tobacco. And in 1860 none of the, you know, the three boys, none of them grew tobacco. So if there was tobacco it would have been sometime in between the census, so it doesn't appear though, that they were tobacco farmers. Cabell Country grew very little tobacco at that time but wheat is a big crop, oats off and on. But they had a lot of horses, a lot of cattle. And unlike... they really didn't have, I think they might have a few sheep, but as you go up the river a lot more sheep are raised in that time. So they were significant in that in 1850 which is the best records I think that we can get census records...and the most significant thing I found was that there is forty thousand bushels of corn come off that property in 1850 that's reported in the census. So to me, you know, that's a very large operation.

VW – And I think in part because they were cousins of Cyrus McCormick who had visited, stayed at the farm, at the plantation, and had they had purchased his reapers from him. Probably because of these McCormick reapers they were able to get a higher level of production out of this land than the average farm and only because they were financially in a position to buy modern equipment could they get these higher production levels.

SM – Plantations strive to be self sufficient. What sorts of out buildings, what sorts of other plantations operations might have been there that we can look for evidence for?

VW – Well the typically plantation would have the planters mansion which is what we see today at the Jenkins homestead. There was an outdoor cook house, there is evidence of the foundation there. A church, school, which we know existed because there are photograph of it and local stories about it. A planter's office out on the plantation. A carriage house, because there had to be someplace to put the coach and four. Room for the tutor to live. We know he had a tutor because they would take Jenkins when he was little on a cushion and carry him up to hear the tutor give his lessons. Bathrooms, a privy, and probably your wealth was indicated by the number of seats that you had in the privy so they would have had, probably at least a double privy. A laundry house, domestic servants quarters, we have a photograph of the outbuildings at the plantation with the barn structures with the slave quarters, the domestic slave quarters right behind the house and the outdoor kitchen. We have a photograph including all of that. The barn complex was actually a series of about three or four buildings. It was quite a large complex. There is only one remnant, I've been told, left and it's one rusted pipe. You'd have a commissary, a blacksmith shop, a wagon shed, a grist mill, saw mill, gin building, live [the tape switches sides here and he is cut off. It picks up with:] As I'd said, a communal kitchen, pottery shop, driver's house, double house, two, you know, slave families would live in this dwelling. We actually have a photograph of one of these slave cabins, which was owned by one of the folks still living in the area there. He did tear it down a number of years ago to put a house up for himself. But at least we have a photograph of what one of them looked like. And Jack Dickenson has indicated to me that he knows where the foundations of another couple of slave quarters are up on the hill. So anything of this size and in this instance the Jenkins family numbers wise, were a relatively small group of people compared to some Southern plantations, so much more of the labor would have gone into supporting the operation of the plantation in terms of it agricultural production and less into sustaining the family. I mean, by today's terms its rather a modest house. When you look at it in terms of 1825 it was a virtual mansion. I mean, huge house. I mean, it's only one room deep but its six rooms. And from a photograph that I have of the house, there were formal plantings out in front of the house, on either side and then behind it you see all this vegetation. And then when you look up on the walls of the house on either side you see ivy growing up in a perfect square and it stops. And it stops at the same height at either side. And my conjecture, supported by the openings that exist from the basement rooms, which I think we'll find stairs there, is that there was a passage way out from the basement rooms to these dependencies and that there was some kind of cover like you see at Mount Vernon, a wooden structure, and when these outside dependencies washed away in the flood the wooden covering probably fell down against the house and subsequently the ivy grew up over that because it matches identically on either side. And what you'll see in the one photograph is that there is formal planting out in front of the house. Now in British construction of their estate they frequently had the dependencies to the front of the house so that when you came in in a carriage you felt as if you were in a court. You had the main house sitting in the back and the dependencies somewhat to the front. And I think when you dig down at the foundations where the current addition is, and when you dig down on the foundation where the patio is I think you'll find real foundations there. And Captain Jenkins didn't play around when he built something. One of the stories is that when Albert had built his law office, Captain

Jenkins came back from a trip to South America and General Jenkins, Albert Gallatin, at the time had not built it to his specifications, the walls were not thick enough with enough brick and he made him have it torn down and rebuilt to his father's specifications. So he wasn't somebody that played with construction and I think that's why its still standing after all these years.

SM – We're particularly concerned with the antebellum history of the community because future interpretive efforts center around the significance of the general as well. But briefly tell us the subsequent history, the postbellum history of Greenbottom Plantation itself. Tell us.

VW – Well upon the Captain's death in 1859 the land was divided into three sections. The best agricultural section of it, I believe, was the center section which was what my great grandfather, Thomas Jefferson Jenkins inherited. And then the lower third went to William Jenkins, the younger, who was a physician. He practiced both in St. Louis and here at Greenbottom. And in fact his name is listed in the very first American Medical Association directory which exists in the history of medicine reading room at the National Library of Medicine, where I worked from 1975 to 80. Anyhow, that directory exists and it says, "William Jenkins, Greenbottom, West Virginia 1877." He died the next year. But he was practicing medicine here and in St. Louis, because his wife, also was from St. Louis. My great grandfather was the only one not to go on to graduate school, the other two brothers had gone on to graduate school. And the sister Eustacia, after graduating from Steubenville went on to the University of Cincinnati Conservatory. So she went on to graduate school. But my great grandfather, being the eldest brother, I believe assumed the responsibilities with his aging father of overseeing the plantation and hence didn't go on. But as his wife writes in her manuscript, she says "He was the kind of man if he saw somebody sick by the road, he'd say, go call the doctor and send the bill to me." That he was magnanimous in his relationships and he ultimately saved the family subsequent to the Civil War because all the land at Greenbottom had been given away on bogus title by the Northern Army when it came through. The family did not have use of the land for eight years following the Civil War. They could live in the houses but could not farm or make an income off of the land. And he took the case all the way to the Supreme Court. We have a copy of the Supreme Court judgment in 1872 where he was awarded his land and secured the 4400 acres back to the family. So subsequent to the war the doctor lived until 1878 and his wife lived on the property until close to 1900. My cousin Amy Butler told me she recalls visiting there at that house which still stands, its on Lunsford Lane. It was built in 1858, beautiful house, bigger than the original house. She remembers summering with her grandmother there and the house had oriental rugs and a grand piano in it. And my great grandmother stayed on twenty four years as a widow. Their house was under construction when her husband died and she had just sold a farm, one of the Holderby farms to pay for construction of this house after they got their land back from the Supreme Court decision. And her husband died of a heart attack out, they called it Neuralgia of the heart, out in the field and here was this half built house. She didn't know whether to sell it and just go on or whether to finish the house. And she decided to finish the house in memory of her husband, and she got it finished in time for my great grandfather to be born there eight months later. But my grandfather grew up in the surroundings of affluence in this beautiful new home but they were struggling financially. He said there was never any money in the tea pot, they kept their money in a tea pot, and there was never any change in it. And every time she had to raise funds to educate her kids, send them off to a convent. She sent her daughters to Staunton to what is now Mary Baldwin College, but at that time was called the Virginia Female Institute. In fact I found

the diplomas, I found the diplomas in my grandmother's dresser and they're currently on loan at the Jenkins Plantation Museum. And it says Virginia Female Institute and I looked at this and I said to Grandma "Were some of the family in jail? Why does it say Female Institute?" and she said, "No that's what they called Mary Baldwin College back then."

SM – The Union Army sweeps through in 1861 in the first campaigns down the Ohio Valley. What happens to the slaves? What happens to the black community at Greenbottom?

VW – Apparently they weren't quick to flee. General Jenkins at one point is back visiting and leaves one of his good swords with his top slave to protect the house from the marauders coming in there. And that sword reappeared here in Huntington in the sixties. A black gentlemen had written Ken Heckler about the sword and the fact that it was General Jenkin's, it had been given to his father by the General. Would he like it? By the time Ken Heckler got back to the man, the man had died, his widow had sold it for fifty cents in a yard sell out front. The General's good sword is up in Vermont, which must have come down through... Alberta had two sons who were up in New York in New England and it must have come down. Ken Heckler knows who has that and Jack Dickenson does. And then the General's pistol is in Florida, some people came through and I think they must be descendants of Eustacia, because he would have had his revolver with him when he died, and she was over in Lynchburg so it's probably her heirs that have that pistol, the wand. But...

SM – Keep telling us the history of Greenbottom subsequent to after the Civil War.

VW – Well, the General's two daughters were Alberta and Margaret and there was a son, Bolland. Bolland we had talked about earlier in terms of inheriting this library provided by his grandfather on his mother's side. Now, Judge Bolland came in and took custody of Albert and Margaret subsequent to the Civil War because the mother, much to her father's chagrin went off and married a Northern reporter and went to live in the North. And he thought this was an abuse to her former husband's memory and took custody of the two girls and he already had the lease from... Albert Gallatin Jenkins leased his farm to his father in law during the Civil War and in fact that lease exists. Mrs. Knight has that lease. And so, Alberta did not have quite in my opinion the feel for the property that Margaret Jenkins had. Alberta wanted to have a theatrical career and we have a photograph of her in costume as Alberta Gallatin. She wouldn't use Jenkins up North because she thought it would be used against her. She sold her share of the land, much to my grandfather's dismay to produce theatrical productions. And my grandfather thought this was sacrilege to give up land for theater. He couldn't understand that. And even though both of them lived in New York City my grandfather really had nothing to do with Alberta, that much, because he couldn't understand her giving up land for theater. Now, other people have other opinions about that. Margaret is the one who stayed on the property. I mean, she went to New York and worked in the public libraries in New York, but when she retired she came back to Greenbottom. She did have it rented out for a number of years. Finally her parcel of land was down to 150 acres when the Knights bought the house in 1967. The lower third of the property, the Gwinn family from Huntington had married one of William Jenkins daughters and they were probably the people in charge when that property was subsequently disposed of. But, I mean, they continued their agricultural pursuits. I think its remarkable that my great grandmother stayed out there for twenty four years as a widow with six kids, she said following her husband's

death, "The sons of the men who weeped loudest at his funeral came back and poked the eyes out of her best horses and sunk her skiff in the river." And when men were up on the chimney, fixing the chimney, the one man said to the other "How much should we charge her?" and the other man said "Double the normal price." And the other man said, "Well how come." And he said, "Because she's a widow we'll charge her double." And he said, "Why?" And he said, "Because that's what they're going to do to my widow when I die." So...

SM – How about the agricultural labor on the farm after the Civil War? What do you do when the slaves are emancipated and you need farm labor?

VW – Well there were...they became sharecroppers. The slave cabins continued to exist on the property. In fact, there is a story my aunt has about a table that's in her house that Aunt Grace found had been misappropriated out to one of the former slave quarters and she went and retrieved back into the house. And that was the working arrangement. And I think, that the fact that as much as the black community that remained here. There was Mary who had been a former slave, who we have a photograph of. She remained with the family as a nanny for my grandfather's brothers and sisters. And I think there was a sense of kinship among some of them, I'm certain not all about them. Its all not as bad as it sounds and a lot of its worse than it sounds.

SM – We're not here to appraise Caesar, we're here to learn as much about him as we can. So continue the story of the ownership of the property, you know, take the lineage all the way...

VW – Well Susan Jenkins, the middle third, which was our family's third, she kept selling off sections of it to pay for various educations. And my grandfather's was the last big chunk and that was for the University of Cincinnati Dental School. And she went to the graduation and said to his teachers and said, "How will he do?" and the man said, "Ma'am your son will do well at whatever he does." And he learned his dentistry, he would go down to the Ohio River and there would be a lot of drunks down along the river and he would pull out their decayed teeth that were hurting them and it was good practice for a young dentist. He also worked for a preceptor in Cincinnati. And opened a dental office here for a year. His brother had become sheriff of Cabell County, Dudley Jefferson Jenkins. And Dudley was named about another sheriff who's first name was Dudley who was the best friend of my great grandfather. Hence, he was Dudley Jefferson instead of Thomas Jefferson, as the eldest son he was named after his best friend.

SM – So the land was parceled out to pay for education. That's better than theatrical presentations.

VW – I'm gonna take the fifth amendment on that, for any of you that are involved in theater. But in any case, my grandfather went to visit his sister Julia who had gone to work in New York City for the CSX railroad, she was working for an attorney with the railroad called Emerson McMillian in New York and my grandfather went up to visit her, and went up on the train and when he saw New York city in 1895, he said "This is the place to be." So he closed his dental office in Huntington and he moved to New York and opened a dental office and practiced dentistry there till 1948. Two years later, one year later, 1896, Susan Holderby Jenkins sold the final share, and the house, of the middle third at Greenbottom. But she couldn't sell it until her son was no longer Sheriff because it was pledged for him to Sheriff. And I think its remarkable

that a man could get elected as Sheriff of Cabell County, who's father had been a Confederate Officer, Major Thomas Jefferson Jenkins, only twenty, third years older. It seems a remarkable transition to me. The other thing that happened that was interesting was there was a debt against the estate for \$50,000 owed to the sister in the will of Captain William Alexander Jenkins. The brother had signed a note to her for that amount with the clouds of war on the horizon, and kept the money because they felt they would need it to operate the place. Anyhow they paid some on the note to her and finally after the war her heirs came up to collect, and these were the Wagh and when she got her part of the money together in the mid 1870s or early 1870s Susan Holderby Jenkins went to the Western Union office in Huntington to send the money by wire to Lynchburg, Virginia, and she was prevented from doing it. She was told, "Mrs. Jenkins you cannot send that large amount of money into a former Confederate, it's illegal." So those heirs then had to move to Huntington to collect their inheritance. And when my grandfather was a little boy the family owed two debts, they had to pay their taxes to the North cause they'd paid their taxes to the South all through the Civil War. So they had to repay the taxes to the North, those were the war debts, or the "waa" debts if you were Southerner. And then they owed the Wagh family heirs, so my grandfather would run around the house as a little baby and he'd say, "the Wagh debt, the Waa debt, we have to pay the war debt." And it was the two debts, that both sounded the same. But she managed to stay on the property and to continue eek out a living from it and I think Margaret's solution was the rent her property out and she went to work in New York in a library and Alberta was on the stage. I believe Alberta, I have a copy of her obituary. She appeared in a play with John Wilks Booth's brother, one of the Booths...and William Jenkin's family, essentially I think only one of them had children and that was Harry Gwinn married into that family and those are the Christians in this city. "Christian Brothers Meat Packing", they're grocers here in Huntington, and it used to be "Woods and Christian" and Penbrooke Woods was the grandson of Estacia Wagh, who had to come back up here to get their inheritance. Penbrook Wood's son used to lecture on Albert Gallatin Jenkins up in Charleston, so I don't know where he is today. But anyhow...subsequently, it went out, the last of the property went out of the family, as I think I said earlier, it was offered to my grandfather, the house and the hundred and fifty acres in the bottom of the depression. And he had been back for a dinner after his mother died in 1926 and my grandmother loved it because he loved it and it broke his heart when he figured out that he just couldn't afford to take it on in the bottom of the depression and that's why she wanted later, when it was available for sale to the state in his memory. So part of what I'm down here today for is to lend the images of those things which I have in memory of my grandparents, Dr. George Robert Jenkins and Gladys Palmer Jenkins to Culture and History in the hopes that some of it can go on a website with the notation that this is done in their memory, because that's really a large part of why I've worked on this project for thirty years.

SM – And we're so glad that you came down. Are there any other family stories, basically you and I had this conversation on the phone the other day, and I'm delighted that the conversation, that everything is sort of the same. What else can you tell us, what other stories about Greenbottom can help us in the future interpret it in the future as an antebellum site of Southern Virginia at that time. You've been extremely, extremely conversant so far, what else can you...in the recesses of your family memories, how else can you help us with that site.

VW – Well I know my grandfather went out and used to go out and weed the garden for his mother and he said that was enough farming for him. And hence he decided to go into dentistry.

When the railroad came through the property his mother had him carry water buckets up to the men when they were building the railroad, and she sold off some of her land for that. And also, I think that those railroad, if we can ever put our hands on those railroad maps, when that was built it should give us...might provide us with some indication of where the outbuildings were.

SM – The C&O archives are in Clifton Forge, Virginia.

NM – The Corp had a copy. You know, whenever they passed a law in the early part of this past century, 1900, around 1916 and 17 when the railroad started having to do their land schedule map, and report where everything came from. There was a series of maps done for what was then the B&O track that had started that had started out as the Ohio River Valley Railroad. The Corp was given those personally by me, because I had personally got them off of C&O and now they were in the Huntington Office, they've moved them somewhere else since. But if they haven't thrown them out they have to stretch to Greenbottom. I didn't make copies, they were so huge, and keep them myself, but I gave those to them. If not, I know a lady who works for the CSX, who could probably manage to get us some more copies. We'd have to pay for them but...

VW – They'd be useful. A point of interest to me. I'm a railroad buff and in my early career I worked in the courthouse in Washington, D.C. and I used to take the train from Kensington Station in Maryland down to Union Station and then walk up to the courthouse. Well one day I was standing in the Kensington Train Station and there was this notice by the CSX of discontinuance of service on a line. It was a line on the Ohio river and one of the stations was Greenbottom, West Virginia. And I said to the stationmaster, "When this expires can I have it?" and he said, "Sure" so I went back and got it. Cause I thought, you know, this is pretty neat, my grandfather was involved in the infancy of this railroad, carrying the water buckets for the builders and here I am finding the sign when they discontinued the service and kind of it had come full circle.

SM – Where'd the name Greenbottom come from?

VW – Well Greenbottom was already the name of the Plantation prior to my family's purchase of it. But we've always referred to things...the family possession as coming from Greenbottom. Of course today its known as the Jenkins Plantation Museum, but in our family we call it Greenbottom, it's from Greenbottom.

SM – No reason why the prior owners called it Greenbottom?

VW – Probably its just a derisive because its bottomland and it was green and I'll tell ya. When the Knights owned the property and before that area was converted to wetlands directly in front of the house, which out of a thousand acres I believe in the total Greenbottom Wetlands Wildlife Management Area, I'm not quite clear why the four, five acres, directly in front of the house when the communication was with the River and not with the road which was normally washed out behind it, the access to the house was to the river, why those four or five acres directly in front of it had to be flooded when the initial plan that was issued did not show any flooding. Why those acres couldn't be mitigated and moved somewhere else, is when it was in private ownership you could walk right from the front of the house down to the river and the Nights kept

it in like bluegrass or alfalfa and it was beautiful. In fact we don't have a picture on this book but I have up at the house the Jenkins of Greenbottom book that shows the view down to the river. And if we can restore that passenger way with the poplars on either side, wide enough that the two carriages could pass with the turnaround at either end. That would be the appropriate way. People who own ships like the Delta Queen which make yearly trips up to Pittsburgh, or bi-yearly trips have said, the captains of those ships have said that they would like to stop at the house as one of their stops. I talked to a gentlemen in Huntington who keeps a ship at the River-

KN – No, he's out of business now.

VW – Okay, well, in the past people who have had ships at the Riverfront park have said that they would be interested in running people up by ship to the house. There is an existing dock there now which the Corps of Engineers built which is perfect. Bring people up, let them go through the house. Huntington House has four open air trolleys which are not in use right now that could be used to bring people back and then bring another group up by open air trolley to the house and let that group come back on a boat to the River Front Park. It would be a tremendous development for tourism.

SM – That's the way they do Blennerhasset, you know, there's just a launch that you take from the point out to the island.

VW – Right. And you know, as people drive into the state of West Virginia from Ohio if there were a historic site sign just as you got the exit there on Fifth Avenue saying Jenkins Plantation Museum and people would then drive through and see what a lovely city Huntington is and what it has to offer on their way up the river to the house, it could be a tremendous draw and it could really help, I think, with Huntington's economic development if people got off the interstate and saw what Huntington really has to offer. That's why one interstate sign should be down close to the river.

SM – I really appreciate your taking the tie. I'll make copies of the tape for culture and history, for Karen, or the Army Corps of Engineers and for your self as well. And it's been a pleasure.

VW – Thank you so much.

SM – I enjoyed the day.



WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF
CULTURE AND HISTORY

INTERVIEW RELEASE

I hereby agree and consent to make available to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History the interview and its contents for the purposes of research, promotion and interpretation of the Jenkins Plantation Museum. I agree that the interview and its contents may be distributed and published without limitation through any means and that I shall not receive any compensation.

I agree that this interview confers upon me no rights of use, ownership or copyright.

Signature

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Date: December 7, 2001