



City of Alexandria  
Office of Historic Alexandria  
*Alexandria Legacies*  
**Oral History Program**



**Project Name:** *Alexandria Legacies*

**Title:** *Interview with Margery Fawcett*

**Date of Interview:** *March 12, 1999*

**Location of Interview:** *Goodwin House, Alexandria, Va.*

**Interviewer:** *Mitch Weinshank*

**Transcriber:** *Jennifer Ternes*

**Abstract:** Margery Fawcett has lived in Alexandria since 1921. She describes the stores that ran along King Street, with stories relating to some of the stores. She also talks of the events that happened during her time in Alexandria and how the citizens of Alexandria handled the events.

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<b>Introductions</b>	
Mitch Weinshank:	Today's date is March 12, 1999...this interview will be conducted with Margery Fawcett at her residence at 408 Fillmore Avenue in Alexandria, Virginia, which is the Goodwin House. My name is Mitch Weinshank and I am an intern at the Lyceum here in Alexandria. You moved in the city in 1921, is that correct?
Margery Fawcett:	In May 1921. We didn't actually move until October because the rectory [of St. Paul's Episcopal Church] was in disrepair. But my father was officially here from May. May—
M.W.:	May 15th I believe it was.
Margery Fawcett:	Yeah. 1921.
<b>Roads of Alexandria</b>	
M.W.:	Right. And you were saying about the roads? The roads, you say they were still—
Margery Fawcett:	The streets of old Alexandria up to Washington Street were still all paved with cobbles. And about two years later, they covered them hard surface like you see them now. They left two blocks—one on Front Street and one on, I think it's, ah [pause], Princess Street between Washington and St. Asaph.
M.W.:	Right.
Margery Fawcett:	Cobbles to show what they were like. Those cobbles were put there by the Hessian prisoners from the Battle of Saratoga. They didn't know what to do with the prisoners and they were cheap labor, so they (the British) had these paid troops from Germany—Hessa, Hessians [she pronounced it Hessies]—and they sent them down here, put them to work laying the streets of Alexandria.
M.W.:	Now, did they pave those over because of the increase in traffic? Or what? Why?
Margery Fawcett:	[Overlapping with Weinshank] Yes, these're rough. A cobble comes in two, three different sizes but not very much different. And a pebble is small and a rock is bigger and they have to be round and smooth and they're only found in certain streams but they're a lot of them around Four Mile Run. And Hunting Creek and so on. And that's why they got the stone, was native here. Some people say they were sent over as ballast, but they weren't sent over as ballast from England. [Interrupted]
M.W.:	They would be too small, wouldn't they? For ballast?
Margery Fawcett:	Yes. They, they were native here.

<b>Memories of King Street</b>	
M.W.:	As far as some of your memories of King Street here, do you want to go through some of those?
Margery Fawcett:	Can I start down by the river?
M.W.:	Okay, sure.
Margery Fawcett:	Down by the river, when I came in 1921, I'm beginning now. This is King Street were mostly warehouses and they been there a hundred years or more. And during either the war of 1812 or 1860, the troops came up the river and landed at the foot of King Street. And there was an owner of a warehouse and he knew they were coming. They had upstairs rooms with a hoist and they stored things on the second floor. So this man threw out a barrel of flour and it burst onto the street and when the troops came in, they said, "There's no use looting this because they've already been here." So, they passed it over.
M.W.:	Oh, okay.
Margery Fawcett:	So, we only lost one barrel of flour. [laughter in background]
M.W.:	Very good, very smart of him wasn't it.
Margery Fawcett:	Aren't he smart. [Hard to hear] Now on the other side of King Street, at that point was a Seaport Inn, which is still there. The restaurant looks over the river is still there. Well, on the north side, near one of these warehouses in my day, was ah, office of Hubert Grant and Son Fertilizer and they sold plants as well as fertilizer, but mostly wholesale fertilizer.
M.W.:	Did you say appliances? Or, what else besides fertilizer did they sell?
Margery Fawcett:	Plants.
M.W.:	Oh plants.
Margery Fawcett:	And seed.
M.W.:	Seed.
Margery Fawcett:	And then you go further up various places now that are restaurants and shops, I couldn't tell what was in them in my day, especially when you come to the Ramsay House. And in my day to begin with it was still a tavern. And it was in bad repair and after we—I—had been here some little time they tore it practically, entirely down and rebuilt it according to the way it had been, but it's, it's not original. I guess the original stones for the basement and all but it's been redone. Now my husband's house on Prince Street, 517 Prince, was built in 1774 soon after St. Asaph Street was laid out and it was ready to dock to dick at one time. My husband's family owned it from 1817. It's known at the Margery Fawcett Brown House, 517 Prince. It looks like a little framed farmhouse. And by the time it was built in the 1770s, it was [pause] it

	was just outside the city limits. Pitt Street was the city limit.
M.W.:	Pitt Street, uh huh.
Margery Fawcett:	So it was in the country. But that family, I think, they still own it but it's about to be sold. It was bought by his mother's family, the Huff family, in 1817 and it's been altered a little but not much.
Unidentified speaker (female, possibly friend):	Did you skip the boat club?
Margery Fawcett:	[overlap a little with other woman] Oh, I'm going back.
Unidentified speaker:	Oh, I thought you were coming...[coughing from Margery Fawcett shadows rest of sentence].
Margery Fawcett:	Did you know when the boat club was built?
Unidentified speaker:	I have known, but it's the oldest boat club in the United States.
Margery Fawcett:	Was it—[coughing interruption]. Excuse me.
M.W.:	You okay?
Margery Fawcett:	The boat club [Old Dominion Boat Club] was known as the Alexandria Boat Club isn't it? Or is it the Potomac?
Unidentified speaker:	Alexandria, I think.
Margery Fawcett:	It wouldn't allow any girls and I didn't like it when I came because I liked to [inaudible] a boat. But, girls weren't allowed so I was never a member of the boat club. [inaudible] Her husband was a member of the boat club. I've gotten up to the street which is [pause] on its way to the <i>Gazette</i> , Ramsay House, and across the street on the middle of the next block was the <i>Alexandria Gazette</i> office. And also, Worthho Fish and Sons Hardware. And then you come to the corner and you get to the Alexandria National Bank. Behind those where right now the plaza is now was a country market, some of it had shade on the top and some didn't and various people came in on weekdays and Saturdays especially. They sold rabbits and guinea pigs, which you never see again, and guinea hens as well as chickens. But there was wild game too: ducks occasionally. And there was a fish market too there.
M.W.:	And where did they get a lot of that game and stuff from? Did that come—
Margery Fawcett:	That came from round here. [overlaps Weinshank]
M.W.:	Was it local?
Margery Fawcett:	This was all farmland around here down to Goodwin House.
Unidentified	I remember that.

speaker:	
Margery Fawcett:	On that corner on Royal was the Alexandria National Bank, and across from it on Royal and northwest corner was Craton's Drug Store. And behind that was Ramald's hotel on Royal Street before you get to Gadsby's. And, also, was a clock, a jewelers and clock repair shop along there. And then there was a closed in part opposite to Gadsby's that was really part of the City Hall property but people had market things there. There was Chancy's meat market and Bender's vegetable market. He had a farm but he brought the things in and sold them there. We use to deal with them regularly. And then back in was the Fishman's place too. I don't know whether if he fished or bought it from other fishermen but there was a lot fishing along the river.
Unidentified speaker:	Well, the flowers there too, plants and cut flowers.
M.W.:	Is that right?
Unidentified speaker:	A lot of farmers raised flowers.
Margery Fawcett:	At the corner of Royal and King over the top during World War II was a restaurant known as Four-oh-Three that was very popular. People that worked on King Street ate there a great deal and there was one lady, Miss Maggie Gill, who used to make all the rolls and the cake and so on had very good food there. Then there was coming up King was Rosenberg's clothing store and Bedhime's menswear and Swan's department store where ladies—
M.W.:	This all three were all in a row?
Margery Fawcett:	Coming up King Street to the west. Later, on the corner of Pitt and King was Hayman's, which was a dress store. They sold ladies' wear, fur coats and dresses and so on. And across from that at the corner of Pitt and, and King was Warfield's Drug Store. Next to that was the First National Bank and between that and the Citizen's Bank on the corner of St. Asaph was a little squeezed-in narrow place that was a First A&P around here—Atlantic Pacific—and Mr. Wayfred was in charge of it. This was about during about the time of World War II. On the corner of St. Asaph and King was the Virginia Gas Company's offices. And also at one time was a furniture store. Then we come between St. Asaph and up west. Knights is in the middle of that block, and their motto was, "We sell something of most of everything," but it was largely a hardware paint store. And at King and Washington was Allen's drug store, which became Timberman's.
M.W.:	Oh, okay.
Margery Fawcett:	And it was right on the corner and later they sold that corner and Timberman's moved back towards Gray's Church. On that block was a flower shop—Shaeffer's—and then you get up at the northeast corner

	<p>of King and Columbus and there's a People's drug store. And further up at the next block was the Carousel Antiques where the merry-go-round horse in the window and then further up still several blocks was the Casablanca, which was sort of a beer joint. And occasionally they threw somebody out throughout the year. I believe it's across the street somewhere now but I think it's still there. And there was a Temple Baptist Church. And at World War II, at King Street on the north side I guess that's—yes, that's on the north side up near Commonwealth—there was a little mall during World War II. There was a Citizen National Bank and a cemetery grocery store and a pharmacy and a clock repair shop. Up near Commonwealth near the station, near the railroad track, that's on the north side. Then the south side, I said there was the old customs house and then along the south side of King not far from Union and Chechoir [spelling unknown] house, it's still there bookshop. And the Ideal [she pronounces it Idal] Hour movie theater used to be above that and Ideal Hour movie theater became the headquarters for the Salvation Army for quite a while. Then they sold it and bought up in Del Ray. And there was a war papers store that I think later it was run by the Brim Brothers, and Burke and Herbert Bank, and across the street at Fairfax and King the southwest corner was and still there the Leadbeater Apothecary Shop.</p>
<p><b>Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop</b></p>	
<p>M.W.:</p>	<p>Would you like to expand on that? How about that? That's really a landmark. Can you give us some stories about when you visited that as a child or growing up?</p>
<p>Margery Fawcett:</p>	<p>Well, this side was going to the Leadbeater Apothecary shop. My husband had a story that an insurance man came through and wanted Mr. Leadbeater or Mr. Stabler to buy some insurance. And he didn't think that he would. He was kinda leery about it. But he had a dream. This is what my husband told me. He had a dream that there was a fire and he decided he'd better do something. So, that Leadbeater shop has windows on the west side and he had solid shutters on that side so that it could be closed. And sure enough, the Green Furniture factory up the block had a terrible fire that the smoke it was written in the <i>Gazette</i> recently and the Leadbeater store wasn't hurt because of this dream he had of this.</p>
<p>M.W.:</p>	<p>Premonition.</p>
<p><b>King Street Memories Continued</b></p>	
<p>Margery Fawcett:</p>	<p>Yes, premonition. Then we run up King Street, we come to Royal and there was the Fruit Man Constantinople, who was Greek. And his son-in-law, Tony, worked for him. They were very well connected in Athens. They knew the royal family and so on. And I went over there Europe in 1926 and Mr. Tony wanted to send a gift to the Queen of Greece. So we wrote to her and said that I was coming over and would</p>

	she admit me. Well I got the measles and I didn't go.
M.W.:	Oh my.
Margery Fawcett:	And the people that were with me—
M.W.:	Oh, what a shame.
Margery Fawcett:	—knew about it but they didn't go, so when I got back she said, "What happened to the young ladies?" Said, "I told them to be admitted and they didn't show up."
M.W.:	What a shame, what a shame. A chance of a lifetime.
Margery Fawcett:	Missing the Queen of Greece in Florence.
M.W.:	My goodness.
Margery Fawcett:	But I mean they had good connections, and the Greeks were a great minority in Alexandria in those days. They couldn't afford their own church so when they had a baptism they brought their own Arab wooden fonts, which looked like an old-fashioned English egg cup [laughter by all]. And they had a funeral, they had the funeral in St. Paul's Church on Pitt and Duke Streets. And I went to one of the baptisms. They took off all the clothes off the baby and put the baby down in the cup. Poor child would scream.
Unidentified speaker:	That probably was cold water.
Margery Fawcett:	Anyhow, they finally got enough people to have their own church. But St. Sabazzampolis [word is misspelled, she could barely pronounce it] which became American Samos. He had two boys and I think some of them might still be living around in Alexandria. They have been good citizens for years. Then there was the millinery shop that was run by Miss Lou Watchasin on that same block of King Street between Pitt and Royal. And Miss Watchasin had two little nieces who were six and eight years old, and on Saturdays they liked to come up and she would put them on the window and they would try on all the hats. You can imagine the attracted people to see them. There was another shop that I omitted on North King Street and I can't remember, but it was really mostly before my day where they had ladies' clothing.
Unidentified speaker:	Higgins.
Margery Fawcett:	And the people would go to New York and buy them and then come back and call Miss Jones and Miss Smiths, "I have just the dress so you come in and see it." That's the way businesses were done in those days. Then next, dear Mrs. Bradleys was Tyson's Stationary Store, and Loeb L-O-E-B was a Russian Jew had a photography place there. He did passport pictures and regularly portraits and photographs of regular people for years. At the corner of Pitt and King on the southeast corner

	was the old opera house. It wasn't—it was still there when we came in 1921 but I don't ever remember attending any operas or anything there. But, they used to give all sorts of operas, not just Gilbert and Sullivan, but there were quite good masterpieces they did. We—the organizations and the different people in Alexandria—had musical things there. And then they had a group of people known as the Sharps and Flats that took part in these operas. They were the Alexandria ladies and gentlemen that lived around Old Town. And then there was a store for lamp fixtures, which I cannot remember the man's name on that block.
<b>Shuman's Bakery/Queen Elizabeth's Visit Story</b>	
Margery Fawcett:	And Shuman's Bakery, and Shuman's Bakery was quite famous. It was like a lunchroom too and there was a group of men that always went there for their lunches—kind of a club. And Shuman's made a jelly cake that all Alexandrians for special occasions would have Shuman's jelly cake.
Unidentified speaker:	I would send them jelly cakes as Christmas presents instead of fruit cakes.
M.W.:	That right?
Unidentified speaker:	Very good.
Margery Fawcett:	[talking over the two] Yes, they would make ones on different occasions as presents. My husband used to send them up to New Hampshire when I remember. And when the Queen Elizabeth came over on one of her visits, she was entertained at tea and they had Shuman's jelly cake and she thought it was so delicious that she ordered one and took it back on the plane with her. So it's really quite a famous cake. And another time the Queen came over, it was I think this was her mother Queen Elizabeth gave them tea at Woodlawn, which is down at Custis's home down the river towards Mt. Vernon. "And, how will you have your tea, ma'am?" which is the way they address the King. "Milk, please." They didn't have any milk, only creams, so somebody had to run out the back door across the field to an apartment house and get some cream. As, I think it made her late—
Unidentified speaker:	I would say get a cow.
Margery Fawcett:	—which made her late for the next appointment which she was going to.
<b>Red Cross</b>	
Margery Fawcett:	Then on King and St. Asaph was a store. I'm not sure what it's called, Elliot's or Hooey's. And they sold wheelchairs and maybe oil stoves, all sorts of things. And way before my day it was Miller's, which was a

	<p>very fine china shop run by Robert Miller, used to import china. But that was long before I came to Alexandria. But in that building on St. Asaph, that little back building, was a room where, when I first came to town, the Red Cross used to meet once a month. We held the board meetings. And these used to be six to eight of us: Mercedes James came over from Washington from national headquarters, and we had a Red Cross nurse, and she would be there, and there was a treasurer and different committee heads and so on. And we would meet there. And one winter, I drove the nurse, Mrs. Brustor. She felt she couldn't drive and go to all these door-to-door places to give treatments and so on, so I would sit in the car and read or knit while she went in and gave the treatments.</p>
<p>M.W.:</p>	<p>You were her chauffeur, huh?</p>
<p>Margery Fawcett:</p>	<p>I was the chauffeur from nine to one.</p>
<p>M.W.:</p>	<p>From nine to one.</p>
<p>Margery Fawcett:</p>	<p>For a winter. For free.</p>
<p>M.W.:</p>	<p>For free.</p>
<p><b>The Great Depression/Emperor of Japan Story</b></p>	
<p>Margery Fawcett:</p>	<p>Let me see what's next. Going up King Street, still on the south side, I stopped at Shuman's. I mentioned Elliot's. Then there was Lady Lois, which was a dress shop, named for the man that ran it, his wife. And there was a Five and Ten Cents store. I think it was Woolworth's at one time, and then perhaps right one after another names like McCormy. But it was Woolworth's for most of the time. And later at the corner of Washington and King was Lerner's dress shop. And then across King Street, I mean across Washington Street on King, the southwest corner, was Howard's grocery store. During the Depression, Howard was one of the people that delivered government flour to people that were in need and so on. His wife, Mrs. Minnie Howard, is the one that school there is named for, and she started what was known as the Alexandria Catholic—what was it—Society. Anyhow, it was welfare. And they looked after poor families, got clothes for them so they could go school and food if they needed it and so on. She and Mrs. John Leadbeater [mumbles], and there was a group that—a sort of a welfare—that looked after the poor of the city. During the Depression, there was a good deal of that. Then we get up further, come to Gibson's Rex—a pharmacy at the corner of I think it was either Columbus or Alfred—and the women used to come down from out this way out King Street road Rose Martens [unclear] and there was a bus and they would have to wait for the bus, so they would go in there and sit in there and have some ice cream and so on and chat. And then there was Mickerback's furniture that was there for years. And I omitted on the north side of King Street, somewhere between St. Asaph and Alfred (I don't remember exactly where it was), but it was</p>

	Wheatley's funeral home and during the Depression.
Unidentified speaker:	Where the movie is now.
Margery Fawcett:	Hm?
Unidentified speaker:	Where the moving pictures theater is.
Margery Fawcett:	Oh, yes, there was Richmond Theater there too for a while, moving picture theater. And Wheatley's was very nice. During the Depression, I was in charge of the cotton production work for the Red Cross chapter. And we started out at where George Mason Hotel was, which is now at the corner of Washington and Prince Street. And after a week or so, they had rented the place and they said we have to move. So, the Second Presbyterian Church, which had the Westminster building torn down now at St. Asaph and Prince, the northeast corner, said we could use their basement. And people had donated eight sewing machines and other equipment, so we moved with the chain gang, walked down from Prince and Washington Street to Prince and St. Asaph Street [laughing in background] and made a new office. And we worked there for three years. We helped five hundred families with government cotton free, and they sent—and we made most of the stuff—but they sent us a few sweaters and socks and stockings, and George Washington Worker, the policeman attached to the schools, would bring out all these little boys' parents that did not work and needed clothing and we would outfit them for school. And at that corner on St. Asaph Street at that time was Mr. Richardson and a colored man by the name of Pinkard P-I-N-K-A-R-D who had a horse and wagon. And they would go out to Union Station and get these bolts of material and bring them down to the Westminster building and—but there was so much of it we couldn't keep it all at the Westminster building. So, Wheatley's offered the storage space over the garage of their—where they kept their funeral hearses.
M.W.:	Oh okay.
Margery Fawcett:	And I—we—used to kept the bolts of the material in the outside coffin cases, not the coffins themselves but the wooden cases they came in.
M.W.:	Is that right?
Margery Fawcett:	We never had anything stolen. [laughing in the background] I used to have to go up there and get down so many bolts of material.
M.W.:	Was it scary to you to—
Margery Fawcett:	No, I got very used to it.
M.W.:	Did you?
Margery Fawcett:	[laughing] It was a good piece of work that we did. We helped them

	for three years. Mr. Robert Reed.
M.W.:	Now was this early on in the Depression or towards—?
Margery Fawcett:	This was during the Depression of 1929, 1930, 1931, along in there for three years. I had all helpers. I had an assistant and then we had people in charge of the sewing and so on, and then we kept a record. We had regular card index of the families and what they got, so one wouldn't get too much and somebody else not get something else. And the little bitsy raggedy pieces that were left, cut-over scraps, the Andley [probably misspelled] Home Ladies took and made quilts out of. So, we didn't. That was all done by volunteer labor and the material was volunteer and the only money we spent was 100 dollars for sewing cotton and thread. They gave buttons and zippers and what not.
M.W.:	Now were you still accountable to the federal government as far as what your production was or did they [interrupted by Fawcett] I mean, you know how the government?
Margery Fawcett:	Red Cross, American Red Cross.
M.W.:	Now did they—
Margery Fawcett:	I had to give a report every month.
M.W.:	Every month.
Margery Fawcett:	To national headquarters of American Red Cross.
M.W.:	Production and cost and things, what was used, materials. [overtalked by Fawcett]
Margery Fawcett:	One of the other things I enjoyed was much, much later. The present, what do they call it, King of Japan, Ruler of Japan?
M.W.:	Emperor, I believe.
Margery Fawcett:	Hm?
M.W.:	Emperor.
Margery Fawcett:	Emperor of Japan. He and his wife were over here on some kind of a, not the present one, but the littler old man who wears some kind, of a special tour and they asked us from Alexandria to come over and stand on the stairways as a kind of a guard of honor at the headquarters, Red Cross Headquarters. And then they had a reception afterwards, so we all had a chance to meet the Emperor and his wife. She was really quiet nice, neighbor, but he was very frail when he was here. Sad lookin' little man.
<b>Meeting the Presidents</b>	
M.W.:	Is that right? Was he? I saw a photograph at the Lloyd House of President Hoover standing on the steps of the Lloyd House giving some type of speech for George Washington's birthday.

Margery Fawcett:	Oh, what I recall about the birthdays.
M.W.:	Yeah, do you recall that?
Margery Fawcett:	Alexandria has been in the habit for years, long before I came here, of having a birthday George Washington's 22nd of February parade. And usually the President of the United States would come. Mr. Taft came, and different ones along, and Mr. Coolidge came. And during Mr. Coolidge's time, they gave a reception for him afterwards, to which my dad and I were invited down next to the Carlyle House, which had been the Bank of Alexandria, has a very nice lovely powder room there. So, they had a very nice reception and after it was over Mr. Coolidge said, "I've shaken so many hands, I think I would like to wash my hands." And the city manager, I think, at that time was Mr. Wilder Rich. So, he escorted Mr. Coolidge to the men's room and there was no towel for the man. So, he fished in his vest pocket here and got out a nice, new hanky that he had bought for the occasion, handkerchief. And left Mr. Coolidge, and after Mr. Coolidge left, he went back in to see what happened and there was the handkerchief. He says, "I'm gonna keep this handkerchief and frame it for my daughter." [laughter in background]
M.W.:	That's an odd way of getting a souvenir, but—
Margery Fawcett:	Yes.
M.W.:	It's still something else.
Margery Fawcett:	And also, in celebration of these, of course, they would have birthnight balls at Gadsby's Tavern, and also the President of the United States would come to Christ Church on the Sunday nearest to the birthday. And I can remember practically every president attending the 11 o'clock service at Christ Church, on for Washington's birthday celebration.
M.W.:	Did you get close enough to see all those presidents? Or?
Margery Fawcett:	[unidentified speaker talking in background] Well, yes, I've seen them. I went to school with Anna Roosevelt.
M.W.:	Oh, did you?
Margery Fawcett:	President's daughter [Franklin Roosevelt]. My brother went to school with Quentin Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt's son. I've told the story about that. I don't, don't know whether you want that or not.
M.W.:	Sure, if you would like to tell us the story. Sure.
Margery Fawcett:	Quentin and my brother went around 1910, 1909 to an Episcopal High School out here in Seminary Hill. And my dad came to see my brother that Fall from Kingsville, and while he was talking to the master about my brother, one of them came in and said, "Quentin wants to go back to the White House for the weekend." In those days they didn't have

	any Secret Service attendants, said, “Would you see if he got home all right?” Quentin was about fifteen. So my dad says, “Certainly.” So, he went out and soon on and when he was ready to go, Quentin arrived with a small pig under his arm about the size of a Boston bull terrier somebody had given him, had a harness like a dog. [laughing] Off they started walking down Mars Lane from the Episcopal High School to Commonwealth Avenue where the trolley ran from Alexandria, from Mt. Vernon to 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue. So they got on the trolley with the pig and rode and got off at 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue and walked up to the White House. My dad left him there and then he went and came on home.
M.W.:	And he spent the weekend there?
Margery Fawcett:	Oh yes, Quentin spent the weekend.
M.W.:	Is that right?
Margery Fawcett:	Left the pig, I guess, when he came back to school.
<b>Prohibition</b>	
M.W.:	My goodness. Looking back again at the Prohibition times in Alexandria.
Margery Fawcett:	Oh, yes.
M.W.:	Can you—memories of? [overlapped by Fawcett]
Margery Fawcett:	We had a lot of ox [?] down by the river, little houseboats that popped all the way up and down the river. Men lived in them, and they would down there where that marina recently has been but they closed it up, now down below Wolfe Street all along the shore below Duke and down towards Jones Point. I guess there must have been a dozen or more up there. And during the Depression that I talked about, they had sent me samples of socks, and I wasn’t allowed to give two socks that didn’t match. I could give two pair of socks, which was all right, one to wear and one to wash, but they must match, that is the two together. So what to do with these samples? And I found eight men that had one leg, most of them were bootleggers down there in those ox. So that’s what we used to sample the socks.
Unidentified speaker:	Most, a lot of those ox were still there when I came. [talked over by Margery Fawcett] And a lot of them had bootleggers in them.
Margery Fawcett:	Oh, yes, the ox were there for a long time. They use to fit fishermen lived in them but there bootleggers too.
M.W.:	And nobody tried to do anything about that?
Margery Fawcett:	Oh no, they left them there.
M.W.:	They left them alone.
<b>Waterfront/Lindberg Story</b>	

Margery Fawcett:	They didn't make any ruckus. I saw Lindberg come up the road when he made his first flight too. They sent a battleship for him and he came up to Washington, brought him back, and he was standing on the bow.
M.W.:	That drew a big crowd I assume. All along the Waterfront there?
Unidentified speaker:	I would think so.
M.W.:	Yeah, drew a big crowd of people all along the Waterfront there?
Margery Fawcett:	Oh yes, down where the park is, what is it? Windmill Hill? Down—
M.W.:	I'm not sure.
Margery Fawcett:	Well, it's the park where below, from the tunnel down to Jones Point.
Unidentified speaker:	Yeah.
Margery Fawcett:	There's a park, park down in there and we stood up on Lee Street, looking over. You could see very well.
Unidentified speaker:	You wouldn't know that area if you went down there. Next time, we go out together.
Margery Fawcett:	Oh I've been down there.
Unidentified speaker:	Have you?
Margery Fawcett:	Oh yes, [overlaps other woman]
Unidentified speaker:	Well, they're just finishing up, but that area—
Margery Fawcett:	I've been all down and around there with my nephew.
Unidentified speaker:	They filled in all this area. They built four houses in there. [unclear with overtalking from Margery Fawcett and Weinshank]
M.W.:	Okay.
Margery Fawcett:	Month or two.
M.W.:	That's all they think about nowadays is making money.
<b>Alexandria Hospital/Goodwin House</b>	
Margery Fawcett:	It looks in time and difference. That's another thing about the Waterfront. Pipp Pop Morgan was a cousin of Mrs. Dodge. And Mrs. Dodge lived in Alexandria and he would come up the river in his yacht <i>The Corsair</i> and park, tie up, at the foot of Duke Street and walk up Duke Street. She lived in a house at one time on, I don't know, Patrick or Alfred, behind what used to be the Lee School, on Prince Street between King and Prince, her house. But later, she lived at the corner of Columbus, on the northwest corner of Columbus and Duke Streets,

	next to what was a cross street from what was our old Alexandria Hospital. And she left her home to the hospital for a nurses' home, which they used for a while 'til they moved up to Seminary Hill. Well, that's where Pipp Pop Morgan used to come to see her. They—she made a deal with the hospital. There were no places like this, Goodwin House. And so, if the hospital would take care of her as an old lady, she would leave them the property to the hospital, which she did.
Unidentified speaker:	Pay the bill.
M.W.:	Yeah, I would assume for the both of them. Now getting back—
Margery Fawcett:	Now, later, the hospital moved to—1960 something was, [19]67 something—they moved out here on Seminary Hill. And then Time-Life Books took over that building, and the corner had a restaurant at Columbus and Duke, and it was run by the nephew of Bob Hope. But it didn't function too well and they had to close, but for his 75th birthday party, they had a birthday party there for Bert Bob Hope.
<b>Prohibition/Portner's Brewery</b>	
M.W.:	Well, getting back to Prohibition, I know that Portner's Brewery was in town. But what did they do?
Margery Fawcett:	Well, I don't know remember Portner's particularly one way or another. You know that place where she lived has been known as a cotton factory and then was Portner's Brewery. And up in top is a cupola and they had a dummy up there.
Unidentified speaker:	He's still up there by the way. I check every time I go by.
M.W.:	Is that right?
Margery Fawcett:	Somebody put a dummy up in there. But I don't remember its particularly functioning in any special or unusual way.
Unidentified speaker:	That Portner's took in the next block too, the 600 block, and they had buildings over there.
Margery Fawcett:	Yeah, well, they made beer.
M.W.:	But I was wondering what happened to them during Prohibition. I mean they couldn't produce beer or anything.
Margery Fawcett:	I don't know. I think it just seems to me, just sat there.
M.W.:	They didn't try to produce soft drinks or anything?
Margery Fawcett:	No. [interrupted by other woman]
Unidentified speaker:	They made beer during Prohibition, didn't they?
M.W.:	I don't believe any alcoholic beverages, I don't believe so.

Unidentified speaker:	I'm not sure either.
M.W.:	I don't believe so. I know a lot of the bigger breweries, that's why I was asking you, I know the big, like Anheiser Busch or Budweiser—
Margery Fawcett:	Yeah, yeah, I know.
M.W.:	—they converted over to like soft drinks and stuff during that period of time.
Unidentified speaker:	And everyone started making their own drinks.
M.W.:	Yeah, that's for sure.
Margery Fawcett:	They had a Coca Cola bottling company on King Street for quite a long time, which I didn't mention. It was on the south side of King and, what is that road, Commerce Street, which goes diagonally through to Duke. That was there for a long time, but that was later.
M.W.:	I had spoke to a gentleman in one of my first interviews that I had conducted and he was telling me about his early memories of when he was a child that before there was running water in the homes that there would be like a pump or a well-pump like at the end of every street almost.
Margery Fawcett:	Well we had—
M.W.:	Do you recall that?
Margery Fawcett:	Yes, there was a pump at Gibbon and Lee and it had a stone, big gray stone pump drip. And when they wanted to get rid of that because it was something people could stumble over. In my day, the water company was started here in the 1850s, and Mr. Taylor, I think, on Prince Street was the first customer for the water company. But they still had those pumps for quite a long while. That pump was not there in my day but the drip was. And when they decided to dig it up, Mr. Done, Mr. Emmet Done who was our city engineer, he at one time was our city manager too, but at that time, I think, he was city engineer, I said, "Can I have that pump drip?" By then I was living at Rosemont and he said yes and one day it was dumped in my yard and I turned it around and made it a bird bath house. Then when I left Rosemont and came back to St. Asaph where the Generals lived during the Civil War, I took it with me, and as far as I know it's in their backyard now. But I don't know where the other pump drips are, but the curbing from those old streets they decided to—all the curbing had gotten rough and the bricks were worn and they rebricked all of Old Town and recurbed it. And that curbing was sold at two dollars a foot by the city to the National Cathedral out near Wisconsin Avenue and Massachusetts.
M.W.:	Is that right?

Margery Fawcett:	In the Bishop's garden. I don't say all of it but they bought a lot of it.
Unidentified speaker:	I never heard that.
Margery Fawcett:	A lot of it is out there.
M.W.:	Is that right? Well that's recycling in the early days before it became popular.
<b>Clubs in Alexandria</b>	
Margery Fawcett:	Yes, using the old materials. That was, since 1925, I don't remember what date. Now, clubs I haven't mentioned. I myself, mother belonged to the DARs [Daughters of the American Revolution]. I belonged to the Garden Club of Alexandria, which dates back to 1925, we started. And they have done a lot of good, rebeautification work like the Lee-Fendall House. [overtalked by Weinshank]
M.W.:	Right around the Lyceum, I believe, through the planting.
Margery Fawcett:	You know, from time to time. And they hold a sister show out here at the Goodwin House in April. It will be Tuesday after April this year and then they formed the Hunting Creek Garden Club. And it was the daughters of the original members of the Garden Club of Alexandria, which is now part of the Garden Club of America. And the DARs were started around 1900, as Daughters of the American Revolution. But the Mt. Vernon chapter, and in my day, they had so many that they branched out into the Elisha Dick chapter and the John Alexander chapter and I think two or three more chapters now. And then during the Depression, the Kiwanis Club was interested in children having shoes, which the government didn't give them. So instead of having tips for the waiters and waitresses at the George Mason Hotel, where they met weekly for lunch, we, a bunch of volunteers, took that money to buy shoes for the children that needed them. And the community health center also was run by volunteers for fifteen to twenty years by Florida Cassey. And out here now, at Alexandria Hospital, they have a clinic; I think it's the cancer building in her memory, Florida Cassey. But she ran that clinic for years with a bunch of volunteers. She was a friend of mine [spoke at the same time as the other woman] at the hospital.
<b>Family Jobs</b>	
M.W.:	Was she? Let's get back to your family, your immediate family, you have—had—what? Two brothers or three brothers and a sister?
Margery Fawcett:	I had three brothers. I'm the last one left.
M.W.:	Right, right.
Margery Fawcett:	I was the youngest. I've been the baby until now. I'm the oldest in my generation.

M.W.:	And what did they do as far as their background, their jobs, etc.?
Margery Fawcett:	Well, I had a brother who was a minister. He graduated here at the Theological Seminary the 100th year of the seminary, centennial. And another brother lived in New Jersey and he dealt with a White Company milk trucks and school buses. And my oldest brother restored side of mills and barns and turned them into houses and then later he worked in Connecticut for the new building in electric works. And then, adding to schools, you know, additions for different schools.
M.W.:	And what about your background as far as your education in Alexandria?
Margery Fawcett:	Well, I went to private school in Washington, which is debunked just for young ladies.
<b>World War II and Famous People</b>	
M.W.:	My personal interest is during World War II, period of time and I've looked into—[interrupted by Fawcett]
Margery Fawcett:	Oh.
M.W.:	—the Lloyd House and it's been neglected.
Margery Fawcett:	Shut that Off for a minute.
M.W.:	Sure. Of course.
Margery Fawcett:	St. Mary's Church, Catholic Church, is the oldest [Roman Catholic] church in Virginia. It's not the original building but they had a 200th anniversary in 1998 and they published a book; a committee got up, published a book. And through it, I found it under the Charles Walson pier and John Gadsby's Tav-Chaperman. Each painted a painting that St. Mary's Church now owns. And people in art might be interested in seeing those, I think they're in the church. I read that in the history book.
M.W.:	And do you know when those were done, what year?
Margery Fawcett:	Well, it tells about in the history of St. Mary's Church. I do not have a copy. Now during the World War II, braintrusters there was Claudius Murcheson, M-U-R-C-H-E-S-O-N, I think he was from Texas. He was a braintruster. He lived in the house in the alley behind 209 South St. Asaph Street; where the Confederate General, I mean Union Generals lived during the Civil War. It was little; it had been a stable for one of the former rectors of St. Paul's Church's family. And then on St. Asaph Street, was—in 209 South St. Asaph Street and later at the corner of St. Asaph and Duke—was Coldgate Garden rented a house, first 209 South St. Asaph, and then the one that would be 20, 600, yes, 600 Duke Street with the high porch—that's the one Lafayette made the speech to the Alexandrians in 1825. He lived in that house for a while. And then John L. Lewis lived down on Fairfax Street and in

	<p>what was the Doctor Brown House. And then he moved up to the Lee-Fendall House at the corner of Oronoco and Washington Streets. And later days, since World War II, Hodding Carter lived at 211 South St. Asaph. He sold the house just this year and moved back to Florida. He was a journalist and he worked, but he was in, while in Alexandria, he worked for the White House. And David Abshire lives on South St. Asaph Street the 300 block. He has been head of NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] at one time. He's attached to Georgetown University, but he's worked, he lived in Belgium for a while working with NATO. And then there's Fred Hitz on South St. Asaph who is on the 200 block attached to the White House. And then there was Justice Black lived down on South Lee Street, for quiet a long time, one of the Supreme Court Justices. And way back in the early days, Judge Bushrod Washington had a townhouse on 520 Duke Street, which was owned by my husband's family at the time when he rented it to Justice Washington for his townhouse 'cause it was too far to go to Mount Vernon. This was after Judge Bushrod Washington inherited Mount Vernon from his Uncle George in the 1800s, early 1800s.</p>
M.W.:	This is very good, it's part of the history that I'm not really clear on.
Margery Fawcett:	Well, I'm just talking about famous people, World War II but then I go back over them.
M.W.:	Still, very good.
Unidentified speaker:	Tell him about Juliana, Queen Juliana, Queen Juliana [unclear a bit, might be misspelled] Queen Juliana who was here?
Margery Fawcett:	Yes, Queen Juliana lived there somewhere...[cut off by woman]
Unidentified speaker:	In the Duke House and the Lee House.
Margery Fawcett:	Lee House and also, I think it was Mary Churchill, one of the Churchill's lived out here. Winston Churchill's daughter lived out here during World War II on Seminary Hill for awhile.
M.W.:	Oh, is that right? I didn't know that.
Margery Fawcett:	And then during the war, people were interested in these poor refugees. You're talking of World War II, what to do about the children. And there was a Mr. and Mrs. Hubertson on South Lee Street who took up a brother and sister from England. They came over and stayed for the duration of the war. And then at church and some other people gathered together and got a tailor from Poland and his wife and small daughter. And she attended St. Paul's nursery school while she was at the 200th block of St. Patrick Street in an apartment. But they had family who came in New York State and moved up there afterwards. Then there was a German boy named Hans who lived on North Fairfax Street above the house where Anne Pamela Cunningham lived. Anne

	Pamela Cunningham was the lady who saved Mount Vernon from the Union. She gathered money together to buy it and she lived north of where the Animey home used to be, on North Fairfax Street. That house has been all changed. It doesn't look the same to take a picture of it but that's the where she lived. Between that and the house that has two front doors that are alike and a gallery across the back with arches. I don't know what the number is.
Unidentified speaker:	It's in the middle of the block.
Margery Fawcett:	It's a shame it hasn't been better taken care of.
Margery Fawcett:	Take care of in its old form. It doesn't look the way it did original at all. Oh, then there was another family from Taiwan who came over here by the name of Faung. And they lived where the Bank of Alexandria was at one time, on Prince, 400 block of Prince Street, top-floor apartment for a winter. And he studied at George Washington and she studied and I don't know what their little dog Rice said gets [unclear]. One of our church people sort of backed them with friends. I went to the Christmas party that she had for them, a real American Christmas. You never saw such big eyes on children in your life.
M.W.:	Is that right?
Margery Fawcett:	Well, they had three more children after they came here. She got a fine job at NASA [National Aeronautics and Space Administration], and he became a good civil engineer. They bought a home, they had three more children, put all these six, three, six children through college. But the homes were over in Washington. They didn't buy them in Alexandria, but they spent the first year in Alexandria. So, those were World War II. There were other people too. The third McArnolds lived down on South Fairfax Street. I think he had, no not Arnold, wait a minute, I'm wrong on that. The third McArnolds lived in the Lafayette House at 3-301. I guess you could call it South St. Asaph. It's known as the Lafayette House because that's where he stayed. It was built by the Larason family, and Mrs. Larason loaned it to the city to entertain Lafayette. And then it was owned by the Smoot family in the later years. But the third McArnolds lived there for awhile and they're related some way to Drew Pearson, the journalist, by marriage. And then Howard Roy Smith has lived there in late years, Representative Smith's son. I don't know who lives there now. It's a nice old home, 201 South St. Asaph.
<b>Closing Thoughts on Urban Renewal</b>	
M.W.:	Is there any other memories or things you'd like to talk to you about that are dear to you?
Margery Fawcett:	Well, I think I done pretty well for you.
M.W.:	I think so too; that's a big wealth of information.

Margery Fawcett:	Would you like to ask her any more?
M.W.:	Well, we interviewed her, not unless you have come up with something before since then.
Unidentified speaker:	No, I haven't.
Margery Fawcett:	The two shops that have just gone out of business, Nancy Fleming on South Washington Street and Frankie Welsh. And Frankie Welsh sold scarves and dresses to Mrs. Reagan and to one of the later. Jackie Kennedy, I think, bought some things there. And I don't know about the Clintons but before that.
M.W.:	I know they just finished tearing down the Woodie's building that was there. You know the Woodward & Lothrop building.
Margery Fawcett:	Which one?
M.W.:	The Woodie's, Woodie's department store.
Margery Fawcett:	Yes.
M.W.:	They just tore that down.
Margery Fawcett:	Well, they tore down—[overtalked by other woman and Weinshank] the old Hoe [?] house.
Unidentified speaker:	What are they going to put there?
M.W.:	It's some townhouses or something, y'know.
Margery Fawcett:	They tore down some years—they promised when they built the George Washington Memorial Parkway to keep Washington Street as it has been historically. And they haven't kept to it all. The Hoe House was torn down, and the Hoe House was lived in by Montgomery Caust, who headed the troops from Alexandria in the 1860s.
M.W.:	Right.
Margery Fawcett:	And it was historic.
M.W.:	They just let it go, get torn down.
Margery Fawcett:	And then there was the Shadows.
Unidentified speaker:	Well, was it, was before that was a vacant lot.
Margery Fawcett:	That was on the west.
Unidentified speaker:	And they sold Christmas trees every year. Only way it was useable. [unclear due to laughing]
Margery Fawcett:	The Hoe house was on the west and so was the Shadows down South Washington Street at Franklin. The Shadows was built around I guess

	1850s, by a sea captain from New England and lived in by his descendants, but they tore it all down and put new buildings there. And they have torn others down too. It's a shame.
M.W.:	Let's leave this interview with this last thought, since we're talking about all these historic sites that are being torn down. What is your feeling about the urban renewal going over the years? Is it?
Margery Fawcett:	Well, some of it is good and some of it isn't good. The rectory that I lived in was a lovely old house. But it was impossible to use it for the needs of the parish. And it needed a great deal of shoring up the bricks. Walls were getting weak and you have to run these—
M.W.:	Steel.
Margery Fawcett:	Steel things, garters through them up and all[unclear]. And it just wasn't built for offices or a children's school and they needed that and they tore that down in the 1860 corner building and built a new building there. But the rectory next door on Duke Street was a pitiful rectory after the rectory we had. [laughing makes it hard to distinguish what she is saying; overlapping of talking makes it hard to hear] in 1830.
Unidentified speaker:	I have to run.
Margery Fawcett:	Shut it off?
M.W.:	Yep. [End]