



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



Project Name: *Alexandria Legacies*

Title: *Interview with Edmonia Smith McKnight*

Date of Interview: *June 2, 1994*

Location of Interview: *Edmonia McKnight's house, Alexandria, Virginia*

Interviewer: *Patricia Knock*

Transcriber: *Wendy Miervaldis*

Abstract: Edmonia McKnight was born in Fort Ward (Fairfax) in 1921 and has lived in Alexandria, Virginia, her entire life. During the interview she discusses life on Fort Ward during the Great Depression, as well as the families who made their homes there. Mrs. McKnight gives us a rich and vivid description of her family's garden, animals, and food preservation methods. She recalls her primer, *Baby Ray*. She also speaks from her heart about slavery and integration in Alexandria.

Table of Contents/Index**Tape: *Tape 1*****Side: *Side 1***

Minute	Counter	Page	Topic
0	0	3	Introductions
1	14	3	Work Experience
2	22	4	Sunday School at St. Cyprian's on Fort Ward and the Neighborhood Families
9	98	7	Family Members and Homes on Fort Ward
15	180	11	Laundry Techniques
16	190	11	More Neighborhood Discussion
23	278	15	Slavery and Integration
26	325	16	School
30	400	18	Shopping, Food Preparation and Storage
36	504	22	Country Living
38	542	23	Families Living on Fort Ward
41	588	24	Menokin and Slavery
45	705	27	Good Shepherd Colored Church

Tape: *Tape 1***Side: *Side 2***

Minute	Counter	Page	Topic
0	0	28	Good Shepherd Colored Church continued
3	32	29	Message for the Future
3	39	29	Jackson and Fort Ward Cemeteries

Introductions	
Patricia Knock:	Alexandria Archaeology audiotape for the development of African-American neighborhood on Fort Ward Park, post Civil War. I'm speaking with Mrs. Smith McKnight from 1021 Quaker Lane. You were telling me your birthplace is?
Edmonia McKnight:	Back then it was called Fairfax.
P.K.:	In Fairfax. Was that at Fort Ward? What did you call it then?
Edmonia McKnight:	Fort Ward was called Fairfax also.
P.K.:	Uh huh. You were a Smith?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	Now, I have a map here of the Fort families that the lady that I talked to last time, who was an Ashby, made me.
Edmonia McKnight:	What Ashby?
P.K.:	[Opens map.] That was where Charles's family lived. They bought that house. I guess they bought it from his father. Do you know Ashbys?
Edmonia McKnight:	It depends on what Ashby. I knew the Ashbys.
P.K.:	Let me show you a picture of them, okay? [Tape is stopped and restarted. Part of interview lost.]
Work Experience	
P.K.:	...that's interesting. So you worked out in Lincolnia as a private duty nurse?
Edmonia McKnight:	A private family.
P.K.:	Uh huh. I guess they were rich!
Edmonia McKnight:	They were! You may have heard of the Lynches.
P.K.:	Was it Lynches?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah.
P.K.:	No. L-Y-N-C-H?
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh...but they're deceased, by God. They're deceased years ago.
P.K.:	So that was where you were employed then?
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.

Sunday School at St. Cyprian's on Fort Ward and the Neighborhood Families	
P.K.:	Community participation in Alexandria: churches and clubs and things like that?
Edmonia McKnight:	Honey, I went to an Episcopal church all my life and I never belonged to any clubs.
P.K.:	Did you go to St. Cyprian's when it was on the Fort?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes. Yes.
P.K.:	[Pause] Could you tell me about that? What St. Cyprian's looked like?
Edmonia McKnight:	Honey, that's been so long. That was an old school house.
P.K.:	Did you know it was a schoolhouse when you were a kid?
Edmonia McKnight:	No. Because when I was five or six years old, honey, I was going there to Sunday school. Our Sunday school teacher, his name was Mr. Warner...he was a German man but he was just so nice to all of us kids. All the kids. He was dynamic, really, he was. And, of course, I think he was a student at the Seminary up here...there was quite a few students after he left There was quite a few came down and taught us kids. Then, finally, we got a...
P.K.:	How many kids do you think would you say were going there? And who were they if you remember?
Edmonia McKnight:	Why, of course, because it was a big settlement. There was the Peters, McKnights, the Cravens, the Randalls, the Smiths...
P.K.:	Where were the Randalls? [Opening up map.] Go ahead...the Randalls, the Smiths...where were the Smiths?
Edmonia McKnight:	Now, what are you trying to show me?
P.K.:	This is a map another lady drew for me. [Shows map to Mrs. McKnight.] She has Ruffners here...
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah.
P.K.:	Hogan's...
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	Clara Adams and then McKnights...
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
P.K.:	Claiborns, Youngs, Jacksons, Casey...where did Smiths live?
Edmonia McKnight:	Huh?
P.K.:	Here's Peters up here. [Pointing at map.]
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah.

P.K.:	Okay. And this would be Ashbys' where the museum is now.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, we lived down below, it was a little house right by the cemetery, not too far from the cemetery.
P.K.:	Okay.
Edmonia McKnight:	But I don't know where the cemetery...
P.K.:	Here's the school. The cemetery, she's got right here. [Pointing at map.]
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh. Where was the school?
P.K.:	Right there. In back of the school is the cemetery? Is that right?
Edmonia McKnight:	We lived right down the hill from this church where we used to go.
P.K.:	Right down the hill. Where the road is now?
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
P.K.:	Covered by where the road is now?
Edmonia McKnight:	You don't know how you go up in the cemetery up there, do you?
P.K.:	Where the old road used to be?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah.
P.K.:	I don't. I know where the road is now.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, anyway, we lived down below the church.
P.K.:	Okay. So if we walked up there, you could show me?
Edmonia McKnight:	Honey, I can't walk up there today because that's too far! I've got too much...
P.K.:	No. No. But I mean, if we went there, you would know?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, of course!
P.K.:	Okay. Because I don't know where the roads are. I need to put the roads in.
Edmonia McKnight:	Honey, I can visualize every building that was up there at that time. If my sister wanted to know anything she would always call me and ask, because I knew it. Exactly. Where the museum is now, my husband's home, it was more closer to the highway and then the Jackson place, it was back more this direction. [Pointing at map.]
P.K.:	Right, here it is. Jackson. [Pointing at map.] And there was a road between your husband's place and the Jackson place?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.

P.K.:	Okay. She's got that road. So, that looks good to you?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes. Because see, that's where the Huggins used to live. What I was trying to tell you, I never knew those people, now. The only way that I got my information was from Charles's—my husband's—Aunt Adams.
P.K.:	Oh, okay. I didn't know anything about the Huggins.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, it was a old place. It was called Rachel McKnight's.
P.K.:	Oh, okay!
Edmonia McKnight:	But I never knew them. The only information that I got was by asking questions. I heard them talking about it and you know how inquisitive kids are. They want to know who is who.
P.K.:	Right. Well, I think Rachel was an older, a very much older sister of Clara.
Edmonia McKnight:	I don't think she was the sister.
P.K.:	The half-sister, I think.
Edmonia McKnight:	She was in the family. I couldn't tell you about that.
P.K.:	Did you ever meet Harriet? Harriet McKnight?
Edmonia McKnight:	No. The only thing I ever heard of her says she was the prettiest woman ever walked in Alexandria, lived in Alexandria.
P.K.:	Is that right?
Edmonia McKnight:	I saw a picture of her and she was beauty! They were very pretty people.
P.K.:	Was she tall?
Edmonia McKnight:	[Pause] I don't know, she's taller than I was. She grew up to be a pretty lady.
P.K.:	So, like 5 feet 7 inches?
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, I'm 5 feet 4 inches as I'm getting older and that, I'm shrinking!
P.K.:	Are you? Was she slight like you are? Sort of slim?
Edmonia McKnight:	No. She was a little heavy. But that's in the older days, see?
P.K.:	Right. Where they would be more heavy. Tend to be. [Pause] So your place where you grew up was on the east side of the creek? Like on the right side of the creek and down from the school? Did the creek go under the road?
Edmonia McKnight:	I don't remember no creek that was up there. A creek...
P.K.:	It wasn't a creek?

Edmonia McKnight:	No, I don't know. Well, there was just the land. That's because when it would rain sometimes, water would just run through, and run straight on down.
P.K.:	Yeah, that's what I'm talking about, like where the water is now.
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah, but we was still up on the little knoll a little further up. But it wouldn't come up to the house, of course.
P.K.:	And down in that area, down in there. [Points to map.] Okay.
Family Members and Homes on Fort Ward	
P.K.:	How many people were in your family?
Edmonia McKnight:	At the time, there was Mary...
P.K.:	Is that your sister?
Edmonia McKnight:	My sister, and Christine, Wallace, Nathaniel, Rogers, Anna, and myself, at that time.
P.K.:	What was your Mom and Dad's name?
Edmonia McKnight:	His name was Wallace Smith and her name was Cynthia. Uh huh. She was from Haymarket. You ever heard of Haymarket?
P.K.:	Sure.
Edmonia McKnight:	My daddy, he was from...I'll tell you in a minute...[Pause] TB, Maryland. You heard of TB? Well, Clinton, but they always called it TB, Maryland.
P.K.:	TB, Maryland. Clinton, I've heard of. I'm not too good on Maryland.
Edmonia McKnight:	My daddy was from Maryland.
P.K.:	When did they move onto the Fort?
Edmonia McKnight:	I guess before I was born, honey. I guess.
P.K.:	Were all your sisters and brothers born there?
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh...yes. They lived there, but my sister Mary was born in Washington Hospital in Washington, but I wasn't.
P.K.:	Were you born at home?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	Who gave you life?
Edmonia McKnight:	It was a lady by the name of Ms. Irene Terrell.
P.K.:	Oh, okay.
Edmonia McKnight:	What was this doctor's name? I can't think of the doctor's name. It was a white doctor because it was life or death. They had to get

	him. I can't think of his name...
P.K.:	Well, your mom had a problem when she was delivering you?
Edmonia McKnight:	Evidently, she did, because I wound up being a little knot. Didn't nobody know she was pregnant. Just like a little apple in her stomach.
P.K.:	No kiddin'! Did she know she was pregnant?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	She did, though.
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
P.K.:	And then when you were born you were real tiny and you had problems?
Edmonia McKnight:	Had to carry me on a pillow. I didn't walk until I was around but 21 months.
P.K.:	No kidding. I wonder how much you weighed. Do you know?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh...they had to put me in a little shoe box!
P.K.:	Oh, my goodness!
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
P.K.:	Do you have pictures of you little like that?
Edmonia McKnight:	No. No, indeed!
P.K.:	So you didn't go into the hospital, though...
Edmonia McKnight:	No, I didn't.
P.K.:	...but the doctor did come.
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	But normally Terrell would...
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, if I could think about that man!
P.K.:	What's that lady's name? Terrell...
Edmonia McKnight:	Terrell. Irene Terrell.
P.K.:	Irene Terrell?
Edmonia McKnight:	She was a midwife.
P.K.:	Well, I've heard of Jenny Wanzer being a midwife. Molly Nelson...
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, I've used Ms. Nelson, too.
P.K.:	Uh huh.

Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, I wish I could think of that.
P.K.:	Of the doctor's name?..Was it a K, started with a K? 'Cause there was some doctor that lived up near the Fort that had a last name started with a K. Oh, gosh, what was his name?
Edmonia McKnight:	No. This doctor lived down here on Braddock Road, but I can't think of his name!
P.K.:	Well, if you think of it later, let me know. But somebody went up to his house and got him then? Is that how...
Edmonia McKnight:	I think my uncle went and got him.
P.K.:	That was horse and buggy days or did they have cars?
Edmonia McKnight:	Honey! Well, ever since I've been big enough to know, my daddy had a car. Old Model A. Model T.
P.K.:	Well, my dad said Model T, he had. Yeah, that was like the first real...everybody...
Edmonia McKnight:	Ever since I've known myself, my dad had a Model T.
P.K.:	So, the house that you were in, how big was it? How many bedrooms did it have?
Edmonia McKnight:	Was nothing but three little rooms. Way back there then, you know how people were. Way back there then. But after we got older, there actually was another old house by the Millers used to live. We moved over in back of us, some of the time. Back and forth, back and forth...
P.K.:	And you lived in the Millers' house at some point in time?
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
P.K.:	So, was that like a rental situation where you would rent?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, yes! You rent, but I don't know what, how much you had to pay.
P.K.:	You don't know what you had to pay?
Edmonia McKnight:	I know the doctor's name...Dr. Slaughter! [Said in a relieved tone.]
P.K.:	Dr. Slaughter. Okay. Well, that's good! So Dr. Slaughter would come down and help, I guess that's a plus! [Laughs]
Edmonia McKnight:	He brought me into the world, to bring me into the world, and if he did, I don't know!
P.K.:	I don't expect you to remember back that far, that's not required! [Laughs]
Edmonia McKnight:	That's what my mother told me, you know, naturally because she

	said she had such a terrible time.
P.K.:	Yeah. We were talking about the little house. I'm real interested in little houses because one of the professors at the Seminary, the teachers over there, has an account that he wrote and he says, "I had a little house moved up onto Fort Ward," like a small house that he had that would have been small enough to be able to be moved. Your little house, did it have a chimney?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, yes.
P.K.:	An inside chimney and fireplace?
Edmonia McKnight:	It had a chimney, but not a fireplace.
P.K.:	It didn't have a fireplace?
Edmonia McKnight:	I don't ever remember them movin' that little house up there.
P.K.:	Well, this would have been in 1890 that the house would have been moved up in there.
Edmonia McKnight:	I don't know.
P.K.:	What did it look like inside? You went in, the front door was the living...
Edmonia McKnight:	Front door, uh huh.
P.K.:	And then was the front door the whole side of the house or how did that go?
Edmonia McKnight:	We had a long...
P.K.:	Was it a square house?
Edmonia McKnight:	Was a long porch.
P.K.:	Uh huh, in the front.
Edmonia McKnight:	The front room and then there was a bedroom off from it. And then, by the bedroom, there was a kitchen and my daddy built another little room onto it.
P.K.:	Uh huh. And what was that room? Like a laundry room?
Edmonia McKnight:	No, honey!
P.K.:	Also a room?
Edmonia McKnight:	Another room. We washed in the kitchen! Back there then, they didn't have no laundry rooms. Poor people didn't have no laundry rooms!
P.K.:	Somebody was telling me, oh, I guess it was Ashby, that out on the porch is where they would put the tub.
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.

P.K.:	And have on Saturday night to take a bath out...[Pause]
Edmonia McKnight:	Show me the Ashbys' picture!
P.K.:	I'm gonna see if I can get it out here. [Tape stopped and restarted.]
Laundry Techniques	
P.K.:	You're telling me about washing clothes. A zinc tub. Go ahead.
Edmonia McKnight:	And you put the little washboard down it and you just scrub a dub dub!
P.K.:	You scrub it.
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	And it gets clean, too.
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, definitely so.
P.K.:	Gets whiter, doesn't it?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes. My husband's mother, she used to boil her clothes.
P.K.:	I know about that! Did you put salt in the water when you boiled it? Nothin'?
Edmonia McKnight:	No.
P.K.:	Just plain water or soapy water?
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, honey, she did it, but my mother didn't. See, she was from North Carolina and the people down there used to boil their clothes.
P.K.:	But that would make them super clean, too, and white.
Edmonia McKnight:	You better believe it!
More Neighborhood Discussion	
P.K.:	I'm looking for the picture of a house. Here. [Shows picture.]
Edmonia McKnight:	Now whose house is this?
P.K.:	I don't know.
Edmonia McKnight:	Then I don't know!
P.K.:	[Laughs] Well, that's two of us. [Pause] Can you see where you are here? I think that's Clara's here. That's going back in. Any of those look familiar?
Edmonia McKnight:	This looks like the Huggins. The Huggins, where they used to live, but that doesn't look like Clara's home.
P.K.:	How about this? [Pause] That's right on West Braddock. [Pause] I know it's hard to tell from that angle.

Edmonia McKnight:	Honey, I can't tell you but none of these. I would say none of them!
P.K.:	That's okay.
Edmonia McKnight:	That's sad.
P.K.:	Well, no it's not because...
Edmonia McKnight:	But it is sad, honey. [Spoken softly]
P.K.:	It's too hard to tell from lookin' on the top of it. Here! This is Clara, yeah? That's your picture!
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes! Oh, bless her!
P.K.:	And there's the other one, Mr. McKnight here.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, I'll be darned! Now you talk about a handsome man!
P.K.:	Yeah, he was, wasn't he?
Edmonia McKnight:	[Whistles softly]
P.K.:	[Laughs]
Edmonia McKnight:	This doesn't do nothing for him!
P.K.:	Well, he's older there, too, right?
Edmonia McKnight:	Um...there was a handsome man! Um, um. Handsome man and a sweet gentleman with it. He was a lovely person.
P.K.:	Now this is the Ashbys'.
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah, this is Ashbys' old home.
P.K.:	Is that the Ashbys'?
Edmonia McKnight:	That is correct!
P.K.:	They were telling me...
Edmonia McKnight:	Who give you this?
P.K.:	Um...the Ashbys...Stephanie Gordon's mother. She lives in North Carolina now. She came up for a visit. Gordon is her last name. She was a Wanzer. Her grandfather, that was her grandfather.
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh! Her name was Barbara? [Mrs. McKnight seems pleasantly surprised.]
P.K.:	Yeah, Barbara.
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes!
P.K.:	And that's the house before it was remodeled, before they put the bathroom in. This came from an old picture, that one. This is her!
Edmonia McKnight:	I don't remember that either.

P.K.:	That's her and her grandfather. That's Barbara!
Edmonia McKnight:	That look likes Linton.
P.K.:	Linton? Yeah, that was his name.
Edmonia McKnight:	Who is this?
P.K.:	That's the Grandma.
Edmonia McKnight:	Her name is Ginny, isn't it?
P.K.:	Yeah.
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	This is them together.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, bless his heart! He was a nice guy, I liked him so much!
P.K.:	Was he?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	Well, that's nice.
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
P.K.:	He was helpful to the neighbors, too. The cousin was there and she said that he was always...
Edmonia McKnight:	Now, who are these little rascals?!
P.K.:	I don't know. Oh, I do know, I've got it written down. It's their brothers. Her little brothers. They used to spend summers there.
Edmonia McKnight:	I never knew that there were brothers but I remember this old well here.
P.K.:	Did you have a well on your property?
Edmonia McKnight:	No. We had the spring.
P.K.:	You had a spring?
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, everybody needs a spring but we went right down between this house here [Pointing at map] and then right down between here, was the lane. This is the highway, looks like this is highway, and between here there was the lane. And we went down a little street, I guess you could call it a road. It was dirt. We went on down in there and we lived and played down in there.
P.K.:	This is the Ashbys' house. So this right down here, her well was there but the spring was further down the road?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh yes. It was down in back of us, back of the Stewarts' old home. You have any place you call the Stewarts'?
P.K.:	On the maps I do, but she didn't put it on this map. Was the

	Stewarts the house that was the furthest back?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes, it was.
P.K.:	That was the furthest back of all the properties?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes. And there was a Javens. You hear anything about the Javens?
P.K.:	Uh huh. Well, I saw the names on the maps.
Edmonia McKnight:	The strangest thing of it all, now she was a McKnight, but I never saw her to my knowledge. My husband's mother always say, "You mean to tell me you never saw Aunt Florence?" And I said, "No, I never saw her!"
P.K.:	What, she just stayed in all the time?
Edmonia McKnight:	She was a invalid. I think she had a stroke or couldn't walk or something was wrong but I never saw her. But they all were pretty people, that's the only thing I can think of. They were beautiful people.
P.K.:	Tell me about Clara. She was a pretty active woman, wasn't she?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	They said that she started up Oakland Baptist Church. She was one of the people that helped start that up.
Edmonia McKnight:	She was a founder of Oakland Baptist, that's all I can tell you about her. She was a founder. 'Course I knew her well. She was really, I would call, a "sophisticated lady."
P.K.:	Uh huh.
Edmonia McKnight:	She liked to entertain. [Pause] She was a founder of Oakland Baptist Church. That's about all I can say about her. Which I knew her well, but you know back there then, I asked her questions about different things, just like my husband's father. [Pause] I wanted to know where did his wife, where was she from? 'Cause I had to go the hospital with his father once and he was very ill. And you know how you go to Alexandria Hospital, they ask you all these questions. I say, well, good thing I did do a little talking! I asked where she was from, and what was her name.
P.K.:	And she was from...
Edmonia McKnight:	Tennessee.
P.K.:	Tennessee.
Edmonia McKnight:	Now, what did he say, Knoxville? I think he said Knoxville, Tennessee.
P.K.:	The McKnights were from Virginia, though. Did you hear? Did you know about that, their being from Virginia? Is that what you

	heard?
Edmonia McKnight:	As far as I know they were from Virginia. All I knew but they were very fascinating people. Very mannerly. Very pretty, pretty people.
Slavery and Integration	
P.K.:	Did any of them talk about being part of the neighborhood like working as slaves for some of the people that owned property in this neighborhood?
Edmonia McKnight:	No. Never heard nothing like that.
P.K.:	That they perhaps came from another part, like from down by where Washington's farm is? You never heard anything about that?
Edmonia McKnight:	I never heard anything about that, no.
P.K.:	Uh huh. [Spoken softly.]
Edmonia McKnight:	Couldn't tell ya. [Spoken softly.]
P.K.:	So, what was the feeling of the people? They didn't talk about slavery when you were growing up.
Edmonia McKnight:	[Pause] No.
P.K.:	Because that was bad time?
Edmonia McKnight:	I couldn't tell you! People back there were different. [Animated.]
P.K.:	Uh huh.
Edmonia McKnight:	Really! Now, I say, when we were kids, before they integrated things, we got along just fine. We didn't know nothin' like that. [Pause] You didn't hear that. [Pause] You didn't talk that.
P.K.:	Uh huh.
Edmonia McKnight:	The whites, the blacks, everybody was very congenial together. Got along nice!
P.K.:	Well, that's what I've been hearing about this neighborhood, anyhow.
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh. Got along nice.
P.K.:	That's not what the history books say, though.
Edmonia McKnight:	Got along very nice. [Said in a more serious tone than before.] What went along way back then, I don't know.
P.K.:	Yeah. Because it gets hard to find out. It's hard to trace it.
Edmonia McKnight:	But after they started having integration, it was bad. You had problems on the bus. You had to go back and you was sit here, and

	someone white was there, standing up, you had to get up and give them a seat. But I never would do that. I stood up!
P.K.:	[Laughs.]
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh uh. Because I wasn't going to get up, I just stood up. I felt sorry for 'em. That's the truth. I really felt sorry for people when they act like that.
P.K.:	Really!
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah, I feel sorry for 'em!
P.K.:	I agree!
Edmonia McKnight:	I feel sorry. I didn't get angry, I just felt sorry for them because, I figure, they didn't know any better.
P.K.:	Yeah, no manners.
Edmonia McKnight:	No, I think it's the class of people.
P.K.:	Uh huh.
Edmonia McKnight:	That's the way I figure, it's the class.
P.K.:	Yeah. That's right. So really you were much better class than they were.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, honey, I tell you the truth. If you got class, I'll tell you this. There is the middle class, the first class, and the low class and that's in each race. There are the low-class black, and there are the low-class white. That's the way it is. It's the way a person carry themself.
P.K.:	Yeah. I think you have something there.
Edmonia McKnight:	You can tell what kind a family a person came from.
P.K.:	Uh huh.
School	
P.K.:	So, to get back to you, when you were a little girl, you only knew the school at Fort Ward as being Episcopal, St. Cyprian's, so where did you go to school then?
Edmonia McKnight:	Over here where T.C. Williams is now. It was a four-room school.
P.K.:	And do you remember the name of your teacher or teachers?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes, lord!
P.K.:	Do you? What were their names?
Edmonia McKnight:	My first teacher was named, when I first started school in first grade...a primer. That was the primer when I first started school. They called it a primer. They didn't say first grade.

P.K.:	So, like kindergarten, was it? How old were you?
Edmonia McKnight:	Six years old.
P.K.:	Six. So you went to primer.
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah. They called it primer because I remember my little book. It was called <i>Baby Ray</i> !
P.K.:	[Laughs.]
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh. I'll never forget that!
P.K.:	What'd <i>Baby Ray</i> do?
Edmonia McKnight:	It was just a little book and that's the name of the book. <i>Baby Ray</i> went to sleep, <i>Baby Ray</i> did this, and <i>Baby Ray</i> got up, and <i>Baby Ray</i> went to get some water and all that.
P.K.:	Uh huh! Boy, I wish you still had it. Love to see it!
Edmonia McKnight:	I wished I did have that little book. [Pause.] I wished I did have that little book! [Said wistfully.]
P.K.:	When I'm looking in my old bookstores, I'll look for <i>Baby Ray</i> for you.
Edmonia McKnight:	It was a primer. They called it a primer. My teacher was named, when I first started, was Ms. Campbell, but I don't know what happened to her, she left
P.K.:	Ms. Campbell, okay.
Edmonia McKnight:	Then there was Ms. Costner.
P.K.:	Costner? Like Steve Costner?
Edmonia McKnight:	C-O-S-T-N-E-R. Costner. And then was Ms. Ross, the late Reverend Ross's two big daughters and they used to live in Alexandria. He was the minister of the Third Baptist Church on North Alfred Street, big cross. Before they come from that church, Reed Memorial. And Mrs. Geraldine Stevenson...
P.K.:	Now, I've heard that name before. That's one of the names I've heard. Well, that's good. The children attended that school until eighth grade, was it? Or to what grade?
Edmonia McKnight:	No, it went to the seventh grade. You used to go to Parker Gray to Alexandria.
P.K.:	Or go into the District [Washington, D.C.]?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh. Either you went up to Manassas. I started up there for a little bit but I guess I didn't want to go to school. So I stopped!
P.K.:	You went to work then?

Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
P.K.:	Well, that was a long ride! I can see why...
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh, but my husband, he continued.
P.K.:	Yeah, finished up. So, what age did you start working then? Were you...?
Edmonia McKnight:	Sixteen.
P.K.:	Just sixteen?
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
P.K.:	Just sixteen.
Edmonia McKnight:	Sixteen.
P.K.:	And you worked for how many years?
Edmonia McKnight:	All my life...50 [years]!
P.K.:	My goodness! Wow! Well, I've heard that you go out. Sometimes when I've been going to come, you were going out to take care of somebody or to help with somebody. So, I guess you got good to helping with people.
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, yes, I have a dear old friend. She and this lady, they were dear friends and she used to be so nice to me when she would come down to visit this other lady. And every time she would come, a holiday, she would give me a piece of money. And she got sick and finally, her daughter called. And I rejected her, at first! I told her I didn't see how it was possible. Then, after I chatted with her, I hung up. And then I decided. I said, "I can't do that!" Because that lady was so nice to me. Every time she used to see me, would come visit, she'd come down to see this lady, she would always inquire, "Where's Edmonia?"
P.K.:	Uh huh.
Edmonia McKnight:	And every holiday she would give me a piece of money.
P.K.:	Uh huh.
Edmonia McKnight:	And I said, "Oh, oh! I can't do that!" I said, "I have to turn the same back to her. She was nice to me and I can't let her be any nicer to me than I can be to her!" So that's where I go on Saturdays. I still go down look at this old lady.
P.K.:	Yeah. [Said kindly. Pause.]
Shopping, Food Preparation and Storage	
P.K.:	Ah, let me see. Can you tell me about shopping? Where you went shopping?

Edmonia McKnight:	We went to Alexandria.
P.K.:	Into Alexandria. Would you go in there for food shopping when you were a child?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, my daddy did. There used to be a store called Mellison's, Medlison's, or whatever [possibly Donaldson's; see interview with Elizabeth Douglas]. They were Jews. Right 'round the corner here, where all these flowers are, I knew you'd been 'round the corner and seen all those flowers there.
P.K.:	Yeah, that's pretty.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, that used to be a store and practically everybody used to get groceries from there or either go to Bailey's Crossroads.
P.K.:	So you would go to Bailey's Crossroads?
Edmonia McKnight:	My daddy would, but I wouldn't. My daddy would go and buy all the groceries. He did all the groceries.
P.K.:	Did you have a garden or fruit trees or can or do anything like that?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh my! I didn't do any canning, but we had a garden. My daddy always had a cow, hogs, chickens.
P.K.:	Somebody told me that the chickens didn't have a pen, that the chickens just knew to stay in each person's property.
Edmonia McKnight:	They'd stay in their own yard!
P.K.:	I didn't think chickens were that smart! [Laughs]
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, they were!
P.K.:	They were?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah! They didn't go in other people's yard!
P.K.:	When I was at my aunt's and I fed the chickens, I thought they were just dumb because they were in a pen and want to get out and you'd have to go looking for it.
Edmonia McKnight:	A lot of people would have pens to put their chickens in. And sometime they would get out, but they just pick around the yard.
P.K.:	And stay right in their own. They know that they belong there.
Edmonia McKnight:	I guess I'm sure!
P.K.:	So you had chickens and a couple hogs, or one hog?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, we had four or five hogs that my daddy killed every year.
P.K.:	Four or five?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes, lord!

P.K.:	Did you butcher yours up at Ashbys', up in the garage?
Edmonia McKnight:	No, he butchered his own!
P.K.:	At your place?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes. Yes, sweetheart.
P.K.:	When would they butcher? In the Fall?
Edmonia McKnight:	Around about November.
P.K.:	When it's cool?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah.
P.K.:	Then how did you keep the meat?
Edmonia McKnight:	Had an old smokehouse.
P.K.:	On the property?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah. Uh huh.
P.K.:	And you would smoke it yourself?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes, because of curing the meat. It was good, too. That was some good eating back there then, honey!
P.K.:	How did you fix that? Did you have to soak it? How do you do that?
Edmonia McKnight:	Now, honey, indeed I couldn't tell you. I couldn't tell you nothin'. But I know that my Daddy used to put the smoke and then smoke it. Put the little barrel and smoke it. How he did it, I don't know.
P.K.:	But that was what he did every year? And that would be your meat supply?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	And the chickens?
Edmonia McKnight:	The chickens. And we had a cock, honey.
P.K.:	And you had a cow?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	So, would you milk it for milk? That would be your milk?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, yes. My daddy [inaudible] the milk. My daddy used to work. He would work here and he would work there. Because, a lot of times, my Daddy used to be one of those cooks at the Theological Seminary back there then.
P.K.:	Oh, okay!
Edmonia McKnight:	Then, when he would get tired of working there for a while, then

	he would go near Washington called the block factory where they made cement blocks.
P.K.:	Okay. I think I have a picture of him at the block factory.
Edmonia McKnight:	My Daddy?
P.K.:	I think I maybe do. Because I don't have it with me but I have him off a copy and I'll come back and show you if you can see which one is him. Because somebody brought a picture of like 60 men in front of the block factory...
Edmonia McKnight:	That was going to Washington?
P.K.:	Down on Route 1. Like going down that way...[Points.]
Edmonia McKnight:	No, going back towards Washington, D.C.
P.K.:	They call it the block factory. They said that either they mostly work at the Seminary or work at the block factory. Did Jacksons work with him?
Edmonia McKnight:	I don't remember them working at the time with my Daddy.
P.K.:	I'll have to bring those pictures back so you can see them. Because you might be able to pick him out. So, you could take care of a lot of your food needs yourself if you had the garden and you had the hogs and the chickens and the cow.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, I'm going to say it like this...
P.K.:	But then you still had to buy flour and all that kind of stuff.
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh sure. Back there then, people would have these big cans. Of course, like my mother, she used to cut up the meat, like the middlens and all that stuff, cut up all the fat and stew it up and make lard.
P.K.:	Oh, yeah!
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh hum. And you've heard of cracklin bread. Have you ever heard of cracklin bread?
P.K.:	Oh, I love that!
Edmonia McKnight:	I do, too!
P.K.:	[Laughs.]
Edmonia McKnight:	So, she used to make cracklin bread when she cook up the meat.
P.K.:	You mean like the fat part that they deep fry? They call it pork rinds now, but it's not really good. It's not the same.
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, honey, things are not like they used to be! Uh uh. They don't know how to do it anymore.

P.K.:	Well, I learned to eat that in Mexico. It's called chicharrones. I tasted it and somebody told me it's the same thing as cracklin. Can you make it? You have to have the skin of the hog, right?
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
P.K.:	And then you fry it in oil? Or you bake it?
Edmonia McKnight:	She would put it in the stove and bake it, you know, and all the grease'd come out and she would put the grease in one of these big tall cans.
P.K.:	So there you'd have your lard.
Edmonia McKnight:	We had our milk. We had our butter.
P.K.:	Did you make butter, too? She churned butter?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah, but I churned. I wished I had a quarter as I churned butter!
P.K.:	[Laughs.]
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah!
Country Living	
P.K.:	Well, it's hard for people to believe that this was the country. But this was the country, was it?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, it was and this was one-little-horse street, runnin' up here, bumpity bump. There were a lot of houses up here...
P.K.:	You mean Quaker Lane was the one-little-horse street?
Edmonia McKnight:	That's right!
P.K.:	And Braddock also, Braddock Road?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes.
P.K.:	Was either of 'em paved?
Edmonia McKnight:	Braddock Road. Just had a little tar, I guess you call it, with the gravels in it.
P.K.:	Yeah! They put tar and then put gravel on top?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah. Uh huh. That's what it was.
P.K.:	Yeah, tarred road.
Edmonia McKnight:	But those were the best days, honey, it wasn't like it is now. Nobody was afraid, you could go anywhere you wanted. Walk anywhere you wanted. Leave, go away and stay a week, leave your doors open. Wasn't nobody bothered nothing! [Spoken softly and with emphasis.]
P.K.:	Go in your neighbor's, borrow a cup of sugar. Could you do that?

Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, yes, but we never borrowed. People always probably just had everything there. We used to have this great big five-gallons can, and sometimes it used to be a crock, and they put the sugar and the flour and the meal and stuff in it, see? Oh, they'd go back in the little closet and get it out when you want some.
P.K.:	So, was the closet like underneath the ground where it was cool?
Edmonia McKnight:	No, the closet right back in your house.
P.K.:	In your closet.
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah.
P.K.:	Did you have a place dug into the ground to keep things?
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh, uh. No. No. We always had a little icebox. You know, you had a good-sized wooden ice box. And, you know, it had this little pipe running down through and you put a pan under to catch the water.
P.K.:	Uh huh. And then the man would come bring you new ice?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah.
P.K.:	When would he come, every day?
Edmonia McKnight:	No. It was about every two or three days.
P.K.:	The ice man would come.
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
Families Living on Fort Ward	
P.K.:	When you were living there, when did you tell me you were born, in [19]21? Say, when you were five or six, how many families would you say was on the Fort back then?
Edmonia McKnight:	I'm trying to tell you about them. The Peters, the Ashbys, the Randalls, the Cravens, the Smiths, and there was some Thompsons lived around on Howard Street.
P.K.:	Lived around on what street?
Edmonia McKnight:	Howard Street.
P.K.:	Howard Street. Okay.
Edmonia McKnight:	And that was it!
P.K.:	So, not too many. There was a combination of people that rented and people that owned the house.
Edmonia McKnight:	I don't know who! A lot of the people owned their own homes back then.
P.K.:	A lot of people owned their own homes?

Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah. Finally, this little house where we were living, Daddy finally bought that little old place. But when he got tired, he finally sold it and we moved up to...
P.K.:	What was his first name?
Edmonia McKnight:	My father? Wallace.
P.K.:	Wallace?
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh. [Pause] But back during the time, all the time you heard your parents say, and I didn't understand myself. 'Course when you're young like that, you don't understand what's goin' on. It was hard times. [Said with meaning.]
P.K.:	Yeah.
Edmonia McKnight:	Depression.
P.K.:	That's right! You lived through the Depression, didn't you?
Edmonia McKnight:	But, honey, I never missed a meal!
P.K.:	You didn't know. Never missed a meal.
Edmonia McKnight:	Never missed a meal! People used to come to the house. "Miss Cynthia, will you please...", "Momma say, will you please give us some of this?" Or "Momma say, will..." But she never would turn 'em down!
P.K.:	So times were hard times when people shared things?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes, yes, yes. And we had a garden and she would put up everything that she could get her hands on for wintertime, see? But we ate! We never went hungry a day in our lives. [Said with emphasis.]
Menokin and Slavery	
P.K.:	Next to the Fort property was that big house; it was called Menokin in the old maps. It was where Cassius F. Lee...do you know anything about that?
Edmonia McKnight:	I can't tell you nothin' ...Menokin, that's where the Brookings used to live.
P.K.:	Yes. That's where the Brookings used to live.
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh. And up there where Lawyer Rufflins live, it was some people there before Rufflins were there because, see, I know what I'm talkin' about. The people there, their name was Harveys, Harveys, a white family and they finally moved away. You know how little kids are, I don't know how old I was [laughs], but my sister and my brother and I, I was older than they were, guess I must have been about seven years old, we'd go lookin' in the

	house until we could find something. You know how kids are, lookin' around!
P.K.:	Peekin' around?
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh!
P.K.:	Yeah. [Laughs]
Edmonia McKnight:	Just running through the house lookin'. Then finally Lawyer Rufflin bought that place and he built this beautiful home over there. He built.
P.K.:	Uh huh.
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
P.K.:	Did you ever go up to that Menokin, up that way?
Edmonia McKnight:	When I was coming from school, we used to pass there because there were two little houses. Because there was the Menokins' old house, big house. There's a little red house.
P.K.:	Yeah, the little red house! That's the one I want to know about!
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, I couldn't tell you about the little red house, only thing I know is the little red house.
P.K.:	Did anybody live in it when you were there? In your time, when you were living there?
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, honey! Matter of fact, we didn't go back in there.
P.K.:	You didn't?
Edmonia McKnight:	No! You know, children, you weren't allowed to go back on other people's property there now.
P.K.:	Does this look like the little red house?
Edmonia McKnight:	[Pause] Now, whose house is this?
P.K.:	This is Menokin. That's a Xerox of it. And that's a little house.
Edmonia McKnight:	Right by? Whose house is this one? 'Cause this one kind a looks familiar.
P.K.:	That's Menokin.
Edmonia McKnight:	It is?
P.K.:	Uh huh. The lady that was a child of Brookings, I've talked to her, she lives in Chicago and she sent me this.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, I'll be darned. Yes!
P.K.:	But, she was telling me about the little red house and she thought that it might have been...

Edmonia McKnight:	Who is this Miss Belk? Who is she?
P.K.:	She's Maydell Belk, she lives...?
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh, I know her well. But, honey, but that child don't know too much about it. I've know her since she was a baby.
P.K.:	Yeah. She's younger than you.
Edmonia McKnight:	Very much so.
P.K.:	This is more of the house. But, when she told me about that little red house, she said that...
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, I guess this is it!
P.K.:	...that some people that helped them lived there also. You know, like house servants, I guess and stuff.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, I don't know who they were.
P.K.:	No. Well, and the other question that I have about that is this...
Edmonia McKnight:	There was another house used to be up here on the left, and I can't think about that house, it burned down!
P.K.:	It burned down. Yeah!
Edmonia McKnight:	What was the name of those people?
P.K.:	I forget. I've heard tell of that, too. Back in 1870 on the Census reports, you know that they send out, Charles's great aunt Clara, she was five years old and she was livin' at this Menokin with her mother and with her brothers and sisters and with her father and that's why I am asking you about the slave part, because I am just taking guesses that maybe they worked for the Lees. The Cassius Lees.
Edmonia McKnight:	Cassius who?
P.K.:	Cassius F. Lee. He was a cousin of Robert E. Lee and that was his country house. He had a house in town.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, sweetie, I couldn't tell you nothing about it.
P.K.:	[Laughs]
Edmonia McKnight:	But, I'll tell you one thing! I do know Charles had a cousin, he could have been named that. His name was Cassius McKnight.
P.K.:	Yeah, I know!
Edmonia McKnight:	See?
P.K.:	I know! What could that mean?
Edmonia McKnight:	I don't know! Because, see, I am going to be frank with you. That's why everybody should be as one. Because there's a lot of

	people that I heard that lived down in Gum Spring[s], is really kin to George Washington. You ever heard that?
P.K.:	Yes, ma'am.
Edmonia McKnight:	Because he was a rascal cutting out!
P.K.:	Yeah. And also, that Thomas Jefferson has some family...
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh. I rest my case! Yes. So, people can't say nothin'. This should just be on the quiet side. [Pause] Go back in these closets and tell me what you can bring out of there!
P.K.:	[Laughs loudly.] Yeah, we all got something in those closets, I guess.
Edmonia McKnight:	That's right!
P.K.:	Yeah. [Pause]
Good Shepherd Colored Church	
P.K.:	When you were a child, do you remember the church that they had on the Seminary for the neighborhood? It was called Good Shepherd Colored Church.
Edmonia McKnight:	On Seminary Road?
P.K.:	It was on the Seminary property. It was near the Post Office.
Edmonia McKnight:	Hm! And you better believe me! That's when I had my first recitation at that little church.
P.K.:	Did you? Did you?!
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes. And I can remember today just as good as now what I said. "Peace on Earth, good will toward man." I was three years old!
P.K.:	Were you?!
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes! And my mother had to make me say it!
P.K.:	And you did it?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes, because I was pickin' at the Christmas doll and the ornaments on the Christmas tree.
P.K.:	Uh huh! You were pickin' at the ornaments, playin' with them?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yeah, I thought they were so pretty. You know how kids are, a child three years old!
P.K.:	They are pretty, sparkly and shiny!
Edmonia McKnight:	I remember my sister, Mary [inaudible. Tape 1, side 1 ends. Part of interview lost.] "...manger bed." I don't know what...
P.K.:	"Lo, your manger bed"?

Edmonia McKnight:	“While stars shone overhead, angels sang on Christmas morning. Christ is born.”
P.K.:	Well, you’ve got quite a memory!
Edmonia McKnight:	And I was three years old. I’ll never forget that. And I remember when my sister was born! She was born up to the Fort. And the same lady that delivered her, I won’t say what I said. I can’t imagine why I said something like that! I got mad because I was the baby! [Spoken softly.]
P.K.:	Oh, you were jealous?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes! I didn’t want her to be the baby. I didn’t want to see that old ugly baby! [Spoken softly.]
P.K.:	[Laughs.]
Edmonia McKnight:	Why I said that I’ll never know! [Spoken softly and humorously.]
P.K.:	Are you the oldest girl?
Edmonia McKnight:	No!
P.K.:	But you just didn’t want another baby. You wanted to be the baby.
Edmonia McKnight:	I don’t know why I said that! I don’t know!
P.K.:	Well, that’s the feelings a child has.
Edmonia McKnight:	I was three years old!
P.K.:	You remember, huh?
Edmonia McKnight:	Uh huh.
P.K.:	Can you remember what Good Shepherd Chapel looked like inside?
Edmonia McKnight:	No, I can’t. I can’t. I really can’t.
P.K.:	I have a picture of the outside of it, but I don’t think I have it with me.
Edmonia McKnight:	I was telling my husband about that. I said, “Charles, you do know because you used to work for Ms. Cleveland up there on Seminary ground.” That church was there then. Now what was it called?
P.K.:	Good Shepherd Chapel.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, I’ll be darned!
P.K.:	Like you were telling me how the Seminary students went out. They also were the preachers at the chapel.
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes. Uh huh!
P.K.:	I don’t think I have it with me. I want to bring back those other

	pictures and show you and I'll bring it back and show you then. And I'll be reminded because I'll listen to this tape. I know I don't have it with me. No. Well, you are the only person that I have talked to that remembers being in the chapel! So I am so happy you talked to me today!
Edmonia McKnight:	My first recitation I had there.
P.K.:	Somebody remembered something about a Christmas tree being there with presents on it. Was that your husband? [See interview with Elizabeth Douglas.] But, I don't remember anybody ever...or outside or something about that.
Edmonia McKnight:	Well, I went there because my mother took Mary and I there and we had to recite a piece for Christmas. And I will never forget. "Peace on Earth, good will toward men."
P.K.:	It's a good thing to be the first thing to remember, isn't it?
Edmonia McKnight:	And that wasn't yesterday!
P.K.:	[Laughs softly.]
Message for the Future	
P.K.:	Well, is there anything you'd like to leave on this tape as a kind of message for people in the future, because someday this tape is goin' to be playin' and you and me are going to be somewhere else. [Laughs.]
Edmonia McKnight:	I know that! The only thing that I can say is, "God Bless you all." That's the only thing I can say. God Bless you all. Maybe somebody else can add a little more, maybe.
P.K.:	Well, I really appreciate you talking to me today and I think that's the best way to end the tape I can think of. [Tape is stopped. Conversation picks up again.]
Jackson and Fort Ward Cemeteries	
Edmonia McKnight:	Only thing I tell you they called it the old Jackson Cemetery. But when they started to building Fort Ward, they exhumed...
P.K.:	They took the bodies out...
Edmonia McKnight:	All the bodies out.
P.K.:	And moved them?
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes. I don't know where. Because I'm, you know, still inquisitive. I just got to know everything! I say, "Now how do you know, I know there were bodies up there." They were buried up there because I do remember Junior Bradley's sister was buried up there. And I don't know, my mother, I don't know how old I was, she took me, I can't tell you today how old I was. But I didn't

	know what they were doing by putting somebody in the ground.
P.K.:	Uh huh.
Edmonia McKnight:	I don't remember the casket or nothing. I know somebody was buried up there. And I asked my mother. She said, "Do you remember that?" I said, "Yes, Momma, I remember that." Her name was Kate.
P.K.:	Kate Stewart?
Edmonia McKnight:	Kate Adams.
P.K.:	Kate Adams.
Edmonia McKnight:	I think that was Junior's sister. I vaguely can remember it.
P.K.:	Uh huh. Well, I heard people tell me about that cemetery but then there never were any stones, didn't see anything up there.
Edmonia McKnight:	No, there weren't any stones over there. And I had a little cousin that was buried over there, too. His name was...hm! [Pause.] He was a Anderson but I can't think of the little boy's first name. You know what I mean. But the last name was Anderson.
P.K.:	Last name Anderson. Did you know any people that were buried outside of the cemetery up at Fort Ward? You know there's that part that's the Baptist Cemetery, but outside of the gate, do you know anybody that's buried up in there?
Edmonia McKnight:	I never knew it but there was a lot of Charles's family buried up there like the...I guess they're still up there right now. The Blackburn...
P.K.:	Uh huh. In the cemetery or outside of the gate?
Edmonia McKnight:	What do you mean by outside of the gate?
P.K.:	Well, there are some graves that are outside of where the cemetery is now. There's a gate around the gravestones and then there's about three or four grave stones that are outside of the place that's fenced in.
Edmonia McKnight:	I'd have to go up there to see. I haven't been up there in a long time.
P.K.:	Because I'm trying to mark all of the graves.
Edmonia McKnight:	Anyway, there's a lady by the name of Ann Mandy Clark. Mandy Clark. She had a son by the name of Clarence Gray. See she married a Clark. She was a Gray before...I don't know. I can't mess up because I don't know—
P.K.:	No, you're right. She was a Clark and she married a Gray.
Edmonia McKnight:	I don't know how anymore but she was a McKnight.

P.K.:	But she was. That's right.
Edmonia McKnight:	Yes. There was Aunt Clara. She was buried right behind the church because somebody told Charles not long ago that they have a pit around her grave. And I think her husband's back in there somewhere.
P.K.:	Yeah. I heard that he was buried beside her and there's no marker.
Edmonia McKnight:	No, you wouldn't know where it is.
P.K.:	Well, I do, I think! Because when I went up to see it this spring, there is like a sink in the ground right next to where she's buried.
Edmonia McKnight:	Is that right?
P.K.:	So I figure that's probably him, like right beside of her. They keep that grave nice. They have shrubs in front of it and flowers planted in front of it, too. But it's in the gardener's plot up at Fort Ward.
Edmonia McKnight:	Oh. I haven't been there in so long. [Spoken very softly.]
P.K.:	Yeah. Well, maybe we could take a walk up sometime and you can show me exactly where the roads were and where your house was.
Edmonia McKnight:	Okay.
P.K.:	You got lots of energy?
Edmonia McKnight:	Call me and let me know, though!
P.K.:	I know.
Edmonia McKnight:	I'm going to have me those grandchildren and those grandchildren, they don't like to walk!
P.K.:	No. I'll call you after I get the photographs back of those people, then maybe we can make it a double date. I'll show you the photographs and we'll also go up and look on the Fort. Okay?
Edmonia McKnight:	Okay.
P.K.:	All right. [End]